

# Board of Selectmen

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August 25, 2020

Remote meeting via telephone conference call

Present:

- Board of Selectmen: Ms. Mary Power (Chair), Mr. Joseph Fisher and Mr. Bill Ramsey
- 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 if any participants were recording the meeting. Mr. Rowe of WATD News stated that he was recording the meeting.

## **Approval of Minutes**

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated July 21, 2020. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

## **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

## **Public hearing on the request of National Grid to install and maintain approximately 70 feet of 2-inch gas main in Central Street and approximately 10 feet of 2-inch gas main at the intersection of Sanborn Road**

Mary Mulroney was present to represent National Grid. She stated that National Grid would like to install and maintain approximately 670 feet of 2-inch gas main in Central Street. The gas main will originate at approximately #220 Central Street, connecting into the existing 2-inch gas main and continue westerly in Central Street, to completion at approximately #266 Central Street; and, to install and maintain approximately 10 feet of 2-inch gas main at the intersection of Sanborn Road and Central Street, extending into Sanborn Road to connect to the existing main in Sanborn Road. This gas main will replace an existing 1.25” sleeved plastic main that is approximately 36 years old.

Mr. Fisher asked about notification of abutters and how residents would be affected by the work. Mr. J.R. Frey, Town Engineer, commented that he anticipated the work would take a couple weeks. He said that full restoration of the pavement would take six to nine weeks after the initial installation. Ms. Mulroney noted that National Grid would be notifying the affected residents prior to the start of construction. Heidi Gaul of the Selectmen’s Office said that their office has already sent notices to abutters and has published a notice of the public hearing in the Hingham Journal. Mr. Frey also

commented that the noise generated by the project would be “typical underground construction” noise. He said that an excavator would be on site and there will be saw cutting of the pavement. He noted that typical construction hours would be 7am-5pm.

Mr. Ramsey asked about the timeline for the project. Mr. Frey said that six weeks would be necessary to allow for settling of the pavement. He explained that the installation of the pipe would take approximately two weeks. Then a period of six weeks would be necessary to allow for settling. After this period, final repaving would commence. Mr. Ramsey asked National Grid to be mindful that many people are working from home.

Mr. Noland Sutherland, 249 Central Street, asked if residents who would like to tie into gas service should contact National Grid. Ms. Mulroney requested Mr. Sutherland’s contact information to they could coordinate.

Mr. Jamey Tesler, 246 Central Street, requested more information. He expressed some concern about the noise that would be associated with the project, especially during remote work and school hours. Mr. Frey stated that peak noise levels would typically be between 7am-2pm. Mr. Frey said that the contractors would be working in front of each residence for approximately one day. Ms. Power acknowledged that the start of remote school could be a challenging time. She asked Mr. Frey to visit the site during the initial phases of the work for some observation.

**Voted: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of National Grid to install and maintain approximately 70 feet of 2-inch gas main in Central Street. The gas main will originate at approximately #220 Central Street, connecting into the existing 2-inch gas main and continue westerly in Central Street, to completion at approximately #266 Central Street; and, to install and maintain approximately 10 feet of 2-inch gas main at the intersection of Sanborn Road, extending into Sanborn Road to connect to the existing main in Sanborn Road. This gas main will replace an existing 1.25” sleeved plastic main that is approximately 36 years old. This approval is subject to the stipulation of the Department of Public Works as outlined in the letter dated August 7, 2020. Mr. Fisher seconded**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

**To sign the Fifth Amendment of Lease Agreement with Vista Verde Corp. for the restaurant at South Shore Country Club**

Ms. Power stated that the South Shore Country Club is owned by the Town of Hingham and that the Greenside Grill is located at the Club. She said that the Country Club Management Committee has been working hard with the lessee to come up with an arrangement that allows the restaurant to maintain its viability since their business activity is very limited at this time due to COVID-19. Ms. Monsegur stated that the main change to the lease agreement is an adjustment of the rent each month to 3.8% of gross sales in any given month, calculated on the percentage of space that the restaurant is allowed to use due to COVID-19 restrictions. She said that there would be a required minimum amount of rent each month. She also said that this adjustment is valid for six months, with a review scheduled in mid-November.

Ms. Christine Smith, 2 Park Circle, Chairman of the Country Club Management Committee, thanked the Board and noted that running a seasonal business like the Country Club during the pandemic has been very difficult. She said that the Country Club has had a very good partnership with the Town and felt that adjustment to the lease were acceptable to the Committee.

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Ramsey felt that this adjustment was fair and looked forward to the review in November. Ms. Power noted that, during a typical year, 40% of the restaurant's annual revenue is generated by banquets, which have been significantly restricted by COVID-19.

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Administrator to execute the Fifth Amendment to the lease with Vista Verde Corp. in the form of the execution draft dated August 25, 2020, for the premises located at the South Shore Country Club, subject to receipt by the Board of an original of the Fifth Amendment duly executed by the Country Club Management Committee, Tenant and Guarantor. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

**Third Amendment to the Agreement between the Town of Hingham and SUEZ Water Environmental Services, Inc. (Board of Selectmen acting as Board of Water Commissioners)**

Ms. Power stated that the Board was joined by Russell Tierney, Water Superintendent, and Jonathan Mongie of Suez Corporation. Mr. Tierney explained that this amendment calls for replacing one position with another. He said that, after discussions with Suez, he decided to replace the open Administrative position with a different position of an Operator for the Water Treatment Plant. He noted that the Water Treatment Plant is the most challenging part of the water system and having another Operator would allow them to be more flexible and would enhance operations of the plant. Ms. Power stated that the original Suez staffing plan was based on one short site visit during the RFP process, and that this shift, which would not impact the cost of the contract, adds additional resources to operations.

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion that the Board of Selectmen acting as the Board of Water Commissioners pursuant to Article 11 of the 2019 Town of Hingham Annual Town Meeting and Chapter 139 of the Acts of 1879 (as amended) and all other applicable laws do hereby vote to authorize its Chair to execute and deliver the Third Amendment to the Agreement between the Town of Hingham and Suez Environmental Services, Inc. in substantially the form attached hereto.**

**Water Ban Update**

Russell Tierney, Water Superintendent, updated the Board on the current Water Ban. He stated that the decision was made to go on a water ban because the Town had started to lose capacity in their main water source, Accord Pond. He said that, at the time the water ban was initiated, the pond was holding 96 million gallons. After two weeks on the water ban, in addition to rainfall, the pond had gained back 11 million gallons of water. Mr. Tierney explained that the Department of Environmental Protection has withdrawal limits for water systems, which he is closely monitoring. Mr. Tierney also noted that the State has gone into a drought condition as well. Ms. Power said that she has received some calls from

residents who have reported seeing irrigation systems operating. Mr. Tierney said that he personally checks each report. So far, every address he has visited has been operating on well water. He said that he takes these reports very seriously and has encouraged residents and businesses who have well water to post signs informing the public of that. Mr. Fisher thanked Mr. Tierney for being so transparent and open with the public. Mr. Ramsey thanked Mr. Tierney for his quick response to some recent inquiries from residents.

Beth Rockoff, 32 Pleasant Street, commented that she was concerned that the High School was still watering their fields during the water ban, even though they have their own well. Mr. Tierney said that he has been touch with the High School and noted that they have cut back on their watering schedule. He also said that, since the School Department has recently spent money to rehab the fields, they had concerns that more money may be needed for repairs if they stop watering all together. He added that the High School has posted signs to let residents know they are using well water. He said that he plans to check in on this situation at the end of the week. Ms. Power requested that the School Department look into changing the time of day of watering to be more efficient with any watering that takes place.

#### **Contract with Environmental Partners for Engineering Services**

Mr. Tierney said that he has been working with the DPW Superintendent, Randy Sylvester, and Town Engineer, J.R. Frey, to determine if the replacement of any water mains could be combined with the current road-paving schedule. They determined that the water main on Bulow Road, which was installed in 1950 as a 6-inch water main, is in need of replacement. He said that the 2 ¼-inch main on Bulow Place is also in need of replacement and has an extensive break history. He noted that the plan is to design new mains for both roads, which would improve the water quality.

Mr. Fisher asked what services would be provided by Environmental Partners. Mr. Fisher stated that Environmental Partners would do a survey of the streets involved, design all the water mains, oversee the construction services, and update the plans of the water mains for the water system. The cost of the contract is \$134,100. Mr. Ramsey asked about the timeframe of the project. Mr. Tierney stated that the project would begin in October. Ms. Power added that this project was part of Aquarion's FY20 Capital Plan, but was not started due to the good husbandry period taking effect after the Town Meeting vote.

Ms. Power added that in FY20, the Weir River Water System invested \$2.4 million in water main projects, 80% of which were in Hull. These were all projects which had started prior to the Town Meeting vote and the start of the good husbandry period. She said that the Town of Hingham is working to coordinate water main projects with road-building programs across the entire water system.

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion that the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Board of Water Commissioners, authorize the Chair to sign the contract with Environmental Partners Group for engineering services associated with the Bulow Road, Bulow Place, and Forget Me Not Lane water main replacement project. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

Ms. Power reported that she received her first bill from the Weir River Water System and found the billing instructions clear.

### **Traffic Calming on North Street and Station Street related to the redevelopment of 6 Station Street**

Mr. Ramsey stated that, since he is a direct abutter to 6 Station Street, he would not be participating in the discussion, nor would he cast a vote.

Mary Savage-Dunham, Director of Community Planning, gave the Board an overview of the project. She said that the Station Street development has recently requested their first certificate of occupancy. She said that, during the permitting process, there was a strong emphasis on pedestrian safety and traffic calming. She noted that there was a condition in the Planning Board's site plan review decision that requires the applicant, Matt Falconeri, prior to the first certificate of occupancy, to prepare a traffic calming plan for Station Street and North Street in an effort to maintain safe travel speeds along Station Street at, and approaching the project site driveway. She added that the traffic-calming plan would be provided to the DPW, the Police Department, the Selectmen, and the Director of Community Planning for review and comment prior to the implementation of any traffic-calming plan. Approval by the Selectmen could then be granted. The applicant then will then follow the schedule as agreed upon by the Selectmen, the DPW, and the Chief of Police. Ms. Savage also noted that the Town's Peer Review Traffic Engineer, Jeff Dirk, has conducted his own review. His comments have been reviewed by DPW Superintendent Sylvester, Sgt. Kilroy of the Traffic Committee and by the Planning Board. Mr. Falconeri has been given their comments as well.

Matthew Falconeri, 6 Station Street, introduced Steven Finland, Senior Project Manager with McMann Associates, a transportation, planning and engineering firm. Mr. Finland shared the Traffic Calming Plan with the Board. The plan included traffic calming on North and Station Streets, including several conditions suggested by the peer reviewer, including:

1. In lieu of the installation of the radar speed feedback sign on Station Street and the installation of the pedestrian crossing warning signs on North Street, purchase and deliver two (2) radar speed feedback signs to the Hingham Police Department for installation on roadways approaching Hingham Center (i.e., North Street, Station Street, South Street and/or Lincoln Street).
2. Design and install a painted island on the Station Street approach to North Street, with the island dimensions to be defined by the turning requirements of a single-unit truck (SU-30 design vehicle). The design and construction specifications shall be submitted to the DPW for review and approval prior to installation.
3. Eliminate one (1) parking space along the south side of North Street approaching Station Street in front of 1 Station Street in order to improve sight lines to the west along North Street from Station Street.
4. As detailed on the Traffic Calming Plan, install pedestrian crossing warning signs at the two (2) crosswalks across Station Street east of the Project site to include the repainting of the crosswalks to be consistent with the crosswalk markings at the North Street/Station Street intersection. The design and construction specifications for the crosswalks shall be submitted to the DPW for review and approval

prior to installation.

There was some additional discussion regarding the conditions. Sgt. Kilroy of the Police Department said that the Police are in favor of the conditions of the plan. Mr. Fisher asked who would be responsible for the upkeep of the radar signs. Sgt. Kilroy said that they would be the responsibility of the DPW or the Police Department. He also commented that they are looking into creating a “safety zone” for drivers approaching the Square. He noted that the radar signs would be a permanent feature of such a zone. It was decided that the applicant would be responsible for the design of the painted island and the Town would be responsible for the installation and upkeep. Mr. Fisher was happy with the elimination of the parking space as presented in the conditions. Ms. Power said that the Board would be prepared to take a vote on the plan at the next meeting.

### **COVID-19 Report**

Ms. Monsegur gave the following report:

#### COVID-19 Cases

“Massachusetts remains in Phase 3 Step 1 at this time. Public health indicators in Massachusetts continue to hold steady. As of today, the DEP is reporting 116,770 confirmed cases in Massachusetts, of which 8,975 are in Plymouth County. As of last Wednesday, the DEP was reporting 294 COVID-19 cases in Hingham, which is an increase of five case from last week, putting Hingham in the green category. The green category indicates lower risk on the State’s new map.

#### Early Voting

Early voting is taking place in the second floor meeting room at Town Hall this week during normal Town Hall business hours. The hours for the remainder of the week are as follows:

- Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-4:30pm
- Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-4:30pm
- Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am-1:00pm

Town Hall is open only for early voting. The Town Hall offices are closed, with staff working remotely this week. You can also vote in person on the day of the State Primary Election, which is next Tuesday, September 1. Polling places will be open on September 1 from 7:00am-8:00pm and polling places are as follows:

- Precincts 1-4 - Hingham High School, 17 Union Street
- Precincts 5 & 6 - Hingham Middle School, 1103 Main Street
- Precinct 5a - Linden Ponds, 201 Linden Ponds Way

For both early voting and for voting on September first, we are taking COVID-19 precautions with respect to social distancing and keeping polling areas clean and safe. We are asking everyone to please wear a mask when entering the voting areas. Many voters have chosen to vote by mail instead of voting in person to minimize risk of COVID-19. The Clerks’s office has already processed 5,500 mail-in applications so far and are working on many others. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is tomorrow, August 26. There is a link to that application on the Town Clerk’s website. Anyone still wishing to request a mail-in ballot can fill out that application and drop it directly in the drop box at the

end of the Town Hall driveway to make sure it gets in before tomorrow's deadline. If you put it in the mail to us, it probably is not going to arrive at the Town Clerk's office in time. In terms of returning your mail-in ballots themselves, Secretary of State, William Galvin, has encouraged voters to hand deliver the main-in ballots, if possible. If you would like to hand deliver your mail-in ballots to Town Hall, you can put it in the same drop box at the end of the Town Hall driveway. The deadline to return the mail-in ballots for the State Primary Election is Tuesday, September 1. There has been an issue where voters who have registered as "unenrolled" requested mail-in ballots but did not designate which party's ballot they wish to receive for the Primary Election and therefore they did not receive a mail-in ballot for the State Primary Election next week. If you are in this situation, you can still vote in person this week or next Tuesday or you can contact the Town Clerk's office at [townclerk@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@hingham-ma.gov) or 781-741-1410 and they will do their best to correct that with you and get you the mail-in ballot you requested. Those unenrolled voters who find themselves in this situation will still receive a mail-in ballot for the Presidential Election in November.

### **Public Comment**

The Chair read the following statement:

"The Hingham Board of Selectmen encouraged 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 on items that fall under the purview of the Board of Selectmen and are not already on tonight's agenda. If any guests wish to speak, please seek to be recognized. Once recognized, please 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 responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. 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 the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen is not adopting or endorsing any of the comments made during the public comment time."

There were no comments from the public.

### **Appointments**

**Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to appoint Beth Rouleau to the Senior Center Building Committee. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Tom Carey to the Senior Center Building Committee. Ms. Power seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

**Vote:** Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Sally O'Hare to the Senior Center Building Committee. Ms. Power seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

**Vote:** Ms. Power made a motion to appoint Lauren Galvin to the Tree Preservation Study Committee. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

**Vote:** Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Katie McBride to the Tree Preservation Study Committee. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

**Vote:** Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Priya Howell to the Tree Preservation Study Committee. Ms. Power seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Power commented that Ms. Howell did a lot of work to bring the Tree Preservation Bylaw to Town Meeting and said that the Board appreciates her willingness to serve on this committee.

**Vote:** Mr. Ramsey made a motion to appoint Heather Kaas to the Tree Preservation Study Committee. Ms. Power seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

**Ms. Power: yes**

Ms. Power reported that the composition of the Commission on Disabilities is required to be as follows:

- A majority of citizens with disabilities
- One member who has a family member with a disability
- One member who is elected or appointed by the Board of Selectmen
- One additional member

**Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to appoint Stephanie Gertz to the Commission on Disabilities for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Keith Jermyn to the Commission on Disabilities 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 appoint Diane DiNapoli to the Commission on Disabilities for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

Ms. Power thanked Ms. DiNapoli for bringing to the Board's attention that this commission was not formed and active.

**School Resource Officer Agreement**

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the School Resource Office Agreement with Notre Dame Academy effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Mr. Fisher seconded**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

**Authorization for the Chair to sign all bills, orders, and payrolls**

Ms. Power noted that the Board had previously voted to authorize past Chair, Karen Johnson, to sign all bills, orders, and payrolls. Since the Board has a new Chair, a new vote is now needed. Mr. Fisher commented that, pre COVID-19, all three Selectmen would sign these items at the Town Hall, but have decided to authorize only the Chair to do so at this time.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

**Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hingham Library Staff Association**

**Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hingham Library Staff Association, Local 888, S.E.I.U., AFL CIO effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Mr. Ramsey seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

**Special Police Officer Appointment**

**Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to appoint Matthew Puleo as a Special Officer for the Town of Hingham for a term ending April 30, 2021. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

**Warrant for the State Primary**

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to sign the Warrant for the 2020 State Primary. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

**Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to discharge the Town Hall Study Committee with thanks. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Power: yes**

**Selectmen/Town Administrator Reports**

Ms. Monsegur: Nothing to report

Mr. Fisher: Nothing to report

Mr. Ramsey thanked Ms. Monsegur for her hard work this week.

Ms. Power: Nothing to report

**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 8:45 pm.**

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