

Board of Water Commissioners

September 28, 2022

Present:

- Board of Water Commissioners: Mr. Bill 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

6:30 PM: Call to order

Mr. Fisher 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. Fisher asked if any participants were recording the meeting. No one indicated they were recording.

Select Board members participating in the meeting were himself, Ms. Liz Klein and Mr. Joe Fisher.

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated July 22, 2022. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: abstain

Agreement with Environmental Partners Group, LLC

Mr. Russ Tierney asked the Board to consider approval of the Agreement with Environmental Partners Group, LLC, for engineering services associated with the Underdrain Repairs and Upgrades Technical Assistance – Filter #2 project for the Weir River Water System. He said that they wanted to bring Environmental Partners on board for several reasons. Mr. Tierney wanted them to review the design of the underdrain. He also wants them to be onsite during the installation to make sure everything is properly installed. The first part of the project has been completed and will be paid for through the WRWS’s capital budget. The final cost for the entire project will be dependent on the final cost of the materials. Upon completion of the project they will consult with Environmental Partners to see if they want to continue with design work on additional filters. There are a total of four filters at the water treatment plant. In the original design the underdrain was not accessible to clean or inspect as it was under the tiles. The cause of the failure of the filter was attributed to broken rebar under the tiles and thermal expansion in the system. The new design would make it easier to inspect the underdrain and would allow for better removal of PFAS from the water. The work should be complete by the end of November. Mr. Tierney explained that there would be three parts to the project:

1. Removal of the tiles and determination of the cause of the failure (completed in July 2022)
2. Designing of the new underdrain
3. Construction of the new underdrain

He wanted Environmental Partners to be present for all three stages of the work. Suez and a subcontractor would also part of the work.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement with Environmental Partners Group, LLC, for engineering services associated with the Underdrain Repairs and Upgrades Technical Assistance-Filter #2 project for the Weir River Water System in an amount not to exceed \$99,635.00. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Water Superintendent Report

Mr. Tierney provided an operations update to the Select Board. Topics discussed included:

- The Water Treatment Plant – supply and pumping
 - Centrifuge repair is complete and should be up and running by the end of October.
 - The filter underdrain design is ongoing.
 - Accord Pond water levels have increased.
 - WRWS has increased withdrawal from the Pond while performing the pilot study. He has identified a new intake further out in the pond and reports that the water is pristine in this location. Veolia has offered to design the new intake, after which the construction would be put out to bid.
- Capital Improvement Projects
 - Water main work on Atlantic Ave, Gunrock Ave., Downing St. and Wompatuck Rd. have been completed.
 - Review of financials will take place in late October after all final invoices have been received and paid.
 - Capital work re-focused on the Water Treatment plant (centrifuge and filter repairs).
 - CIP focus on water meters and replacement program
 - Water main work still on track for the spring on Downer Ave. and Planter’s Field Ln.
 - Design of Manomet Ave. in Hull will be completed in FY23.
- Billing & Collections
 - Actual collected revenue is up about 400K over last year at this time, due to their collections efforts.
- Water conservation and drought update
 - Accord Pond water levels are up from last year at this time.
 - They continue to monitor water ban violators daily and fine those in non-compliance.

Mr. Tierney also noted that he has an upcoming Transition and Evaluation Committee meeting, at which he plans to discuss aligning their leveling system with the State's levels.

Mr. Fisher asked about the sustainability of the location of the new intake and the quality of the water over time. Mr. Tierney explained that they plan to test the water quality over the course of 30-45 days to see if there are any changes in quality. He added that the new location would be a bit more sustainable than the current one because it is located in a deeper area of the pond.

Mr. Fisher asked if Hingham has any program that could offer assistance to residents with regard to their utility bills. Mr. Tierney said that there may be some options available to seniors. He will look into it further.

Public Comment

"The Board of Water Commissioners 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."

Ms. Geraldine Duff, 17 Bradley Park Drive, said that she and her husband, retired Hingham Fire Chief, felt that the WRWS and the Board were doing a wonderful job.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.