

Board of Water Commissioners

January 13, 2026

Present:

- Board of Water Commissioners: Mr. Bill Ramsey Chair, Ms. Liz Klein, and Ms. Julie Strehle
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations
- Mr. Russell Tierney, Weir River Water System Superintendent

6:00 PM: Call to order

Mr. Ramsey called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held in person and/or remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2025 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. “

No one indicated that they were recording.

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated November 4, 2025. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Consider the Agreement APEX Companies LLC, by and through its wholly owned subsidiary Environmental Partners Group LLC, for the Strawberry Hill Tank and Booster Pump Station (BPS) Final Design, Bidding and Construction Services for the Weir River Water System

David Sequeira, Procurement Officer, explained that Apex Companies LLC submitted a proposal outlining the scope of services for the project, including final design, bidding assistance, construction administration, and on-site project representation. The contract runs through December 31, 2027, is funded by the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, and will be invoiced monthly. Apex Companies has agreed to the Town's terms and conditions.

Russell Tierney, Water & Sewer Superintendent, added that the contract combines both projects, Strawberry Hill Tank and Booster Pump Station into a single agreement. Apex indicated potential cost savings if the projects are completed simultaneously by using one resident representative; however, the proposal includes funding for two representatives to ensure adequate coverage. If one representative can be used, the Town anticipates cost savings while maintaining flexibility. The projects are anticipated to be complete and running by December of 2027.

Mr. Tierney added that the schedule has been slightly delayed due to permitting; however, the Kilby Street site has received all required approvals. Final design, permitting, and approvals are planned for January–March 2026, with bidding anticipated in April 2026. The tank may be bid ahead of the booster station due to additional permitting needs. Contract approvals are expected in spring 2026, with construction targeted to begin in June 2026 at Strawberry Hill.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the Agreement with APEX Companies LLC, by and through its wholly owned subsidiary Environmental Partners Group LLC, for the Strawberry Hill Tank

and Booster Pump Station (BPS) Final Design, Bidding and Construction Services for the Weir River Water System in an amount not to exceed \$1,310,000.00. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

Consider the “Agreement for the extension of the water supply agreement and operations agreement between the Town of Cohasset, Massachusetts and the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts, in regards to Linden Ponds.

Mr. Tierney explained that the expiring water supply agreement among Hingham, Cohasset, and Linden Ponds will be extended through December 31, 2026, as recommended by Town Counsel, to maintain compliance.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement for the Extension of the Water Supply Agreement and Operations Agreement between the Town of Cohasset, Massachusetts and the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts, in regards to Linden Ponds effective through December 31, 2026. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

SBA Monarch Towers, I, LLC Update

Mr. Tierney advised that the project was put out to bid and received a single bidder. Contract review is ongoing, as Town Counsel requested revisions to the paperwork. As a result, the item will return to the Board next month for approval. In the interim, a month-to-month extension is in place with Town Counsel’s awareness.

FY27 Departmental Budget Requests

- **Article T: Water - Appropriation of PFAS Funds**

Mr. Tierney noted that the Town received approximately \$2 million through a PFAS settlement with several companies. The funds are currently held by the Town, and a warrant article is proposed to authorize the use for PFAS studies and treatment.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article T. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article U: Water – Capital Projects**

Mr. Tierney explained this is a regular, annual request for water projects. Funding will be slightly higher this year due to the expanded Route 3A project, which requires water main replacement.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article U. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Set the date for a public hearing to review the proposed FY27 Usage Rate Increase effective July 1, 2026

Mr. Tierney explained that a letter was sent to Weir River Water System customers October 31, 2025 notifying them of a 3% water rate increase and a \$65 surcharge starting July 1, 2026 for the new tank, booster station, and Turkey Hill tank rehabilitation. A public meeting will be held with a prepared presentation explaining the rate changes and project plans.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to schedule a public hearing on January 28, 2026 to review the proposed FY27 Usage Rate Increase effective July 1, 2026. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

Veolia and Water Superintendent Update

Mike Leahy, Regional Manager for Veolia, provided an update:

- Winter maintenance is underway at the plant
- Accord Pond intake work is slightly delayed due to ice
- Annual safety and sanitary inspections of Accord Pond and Turkey Hill tanks have been completed; reports are pending
- A second round of lead service letters were sent out to customers
 - Mr. Tierney explained that under the new Lead and Copper Rule, DEP and EPA require the Town to identify the service line material for every house. While most lines are documented, some residential service lines are unknown. Letters sent to residents clarify that a pipe may contain lead, but this does not indicate lead is present in the water. The Town's treatment process ensures compliance with lead and copper regulations. Copper, plastic, or poly service lines require no action. Seven suspected lead lines have been identified so far, and the Town will work with those residents for immediate replacement.
- Interior painting of the pipes at the treatment plant started
- The Strawberry Hill communications building work is complete and awaiting generator installation
- Rehabilitation of all wells is scheduled to start at the end of the month, including pump maintenance, chemical treatment, and disinfection

Mr. Tierney provided an update:

- The PFAS study is underway with a report and recommendation expected by the end of April 2026
- Design work continues for Samoset Ave and Manomet Ave in Hull with construction planned for next fiscal year
- Route 3A Hingham project design is 50% complete. The project will go out to bid in the spring for construction to start in May or June
- Nantasket seawall project – all water main have been replaced around the seawall, service connections and tie-ins are scheduled for completion by February 2026
- The Strawberry Hill booster station design is 85% complete
- The AMI metering system went out to bid, with six bids received and are being reviewed
- HMLP billing transition and testing is on schedule with full activation anticipated in July 2026

Public Comment

No members of the public came forward.

Ms. Klein made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM

Documents:

1. BWC Meeting minutes – 11.4.25
2. Agreement with APEX Company packet
3. Extension – Hingham-Cohasset Water Agreement
4. Water – Warrant Article Packet
5. WRWS – Rate Increase Letter
6. BOWC update