

Select Board

January 27, 2026

Present:

- Select Board: Mr. Bill Ramsey, Chair, Ms. Liz Klein, and Ms. Julie Strehle
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations
- Ms. Katie Dugan, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance

Call to order:

6:00 PM: Chair 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 Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending 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 the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

Consider the Agreement with K5 Corporation to provide Town-wide Pavement Markings (Ashley Broyer / David Sequeira)

David Sequeira, Procurement Officer, explained that the contract is for town wide pavement marking services, including sidewalks, crosswalks, ADA-compliant accessible parking spaces, and public parking lots. The use of modern road paint improves visibility in nighttime and wet weather conditions.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with K5 Corporation to provide Town-wide Pavement Markings in an amount not to exceed \$75,000. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

FY27 Departmental Budget Requests

Mr. Mayo gave an updated budget presentation explaining departmental requests totaled approximately \$38.45 million, coming in about \$60,000 under the FY27 cap. Savings were largely due to reduced Article 4 funding and multiple retirements, allowing the budget to be balanced without significant cuts.

He reviewed budget adjustments, including Police Department reductions and reallocation of surplus funds to priority needs such as payroll support, Police overtime, IT licensing and cybersecurity, Assessing hours, and Harbor Master training, with some items funded through non-tax levy sources. The FY27 budget is balanced.

- **Information Technology**

Bill Hartigan, IT Director, presented the FY27 budget request noting an increase due to fiber network repair, computer supplies, cyber security services and Office 365 agreement.

- **Fire**
Steve Murphy, Fire Chief, presented the FY27 budget request noting an increase request for scheduling software, custodial supplies, and ambulance supplies.
- **Animal Control**
Leslie Badger, ACO, presented the FY27 budget request noting that there were not any anticipated increases.
- **Harbormaster**
Ken Corson, Harbormaster, presented the FY27 budget request noting an increase in training.
- **Police**
Chief Jones presented the FY27 budget request noting an increase for software.
- **Public Safety Utilities**
Mr. Mayo presented the FY27 budget request noting an increase in utility costs.
- **Assessing**
Erin Delaney, Director of Assessing, presented the FY27 budget request. She noted that there are no proposed increases, with the exception of a request to increase the part-time Data Quality Inspector position from 24 to 48 hours per week.
- **Accounting**
Mr. Mayo presented the FY27 budget request, noting an increase in auditing services. The Accounting Department also submitted an additional request to add a full-time Payroll Specialist; however, the recommendation is to fund the position on a part-time basis.
- **Dispatch Services**
Mr. Mayo presented the FY27 budget request noting a small increase of .7%.

Discussion and possible votes on the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

- **Article A: Hannah Lincoln Whiting Fund**
Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article A, Hannah Lincoln Whiting Fund.
Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.
- **Article B: Assume Liability for DCR**
Mr. Mayo explained that the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), as a matter of policy, requires municipalities to assume liability if DCR performs any work within the town. In accordance with the applicable statute, the Town would assume liability for any damages to property sustained by any person as a result of work performed by DCR.
Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article B, Assume Liability for DCR. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.
- **Article C: Reports of Various Town Committees**
Mr. Mayo explained that the Town generally receives these reports in March, and they are provided for review at Town Meeting. It was noted that next year the Town will likely excuse, with thanks, the Energy Action Committee, the Public Safety Facility Building Committee, and the 2017 School Building Committee.
Ms. Strehle added that an article will come before Town Meeting to consolidate the Energy Action Committee's work into the Climate Action Committee to avoid overlap.
Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article C, Reports of Various Town Committees. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.
- **Article H: Disbursement of Electric Light Department Receipts**

Mr. Mayo explained that this is an annual article regarding the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant (HMLP), a self-funding enterprise. The Town receives an annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) from HMLP, with a minimum of \$450,000; for FY26, the payment is estimated at \$481,470.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article H, Disbursement of Electric Light Department Receipts. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article I: Building Department Revolving Fund**

Mr. Mayo explained that the Building Department Revolving Fund is credited with fees collected from plumbing, gas, and electrical inspections, and is used to pay the wages, salaries, and fringe benefits associated with those inspection services.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article I, Building Department Revolving Fund. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article J: Center for Active Living Revolving Fund**

Mr. Mayo explained that the Center for Active Living Revolving Fund, similar to the Building Department fund, is credited with fees and charges from program activities and is used to cover related program expenses. For this year, the Town is requesting authorization to transfer up to \$80,000 for that purpose.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article J, Hingham Center For Active Living Revolving Fund. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article L: Transfer to Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund**

Mr. Mayo explained that, pursuant to a 2019 Town Meeting vote, the Waterways Fund is annually funded with all mooring fees and 50% of the boat excise tax, with the option to apply the remaining 50% to the fund. This year, it was recommended allocating the remaining 50% of the boat excise tax to the Waterways Fund.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article L, transfer to Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article N: Acceptance and Granting of Easements**

Mr. Mayo explained that the "Acceptance and Granting of Easements" article, required annually, allows the Select Board to accept or grant easements needed for public works, including relocations requested by property owners. It was noted that this authorization must be renewed each year, as it expires at year-end.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article N, the acceptance and granting of easements. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article O: Recreation Department Revolving Fund**

Mr. Mayo explained that the Town is requesting \$2.9 million for the Recreation Department revolving fund, which is funded by program fees and used to cover related program costs and expenses.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article O, Recreation Department Revolving Fund. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

Consider the removal of Article R: Transfer of Funds to Balance Certain Capital, Grant and other Town Accounts from the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Mayo explained the need for this article has been resolved for this year.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to open the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to remove Article R: Transfer of Funds to Balance Certain Capital, Grant and other Town Accounts from the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to close the 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

Appointments and/or reappointments (for a list of Talent Bank Applicants and Board and Committee vacancies, please visit Hingham-ma.gov/SB)

There were no appointment to be made.

Public Comment

No members of the public came forward.

Select Board/Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Mayo announced that the Town received AAA ratings from Moody's and S&P, and that South Shore Country Club was ranked 14th among U.S. public golf courses. He thanked staff for their efforts and ended with "Go Pats."

Ms. Strehle thanked Ashley Broyer and the DPW team for snow removal efforts and also thanked custodial staff and encouraged residents to help keep fire hydrants clear. Ms. Klein echoed the statement adding a thank you to fire and police.

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

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Documents:

1. K5 Memo
2. FY27 Department Budget Packet
3. TA Budget Recommendation
4. Warrant Article Packet