

# Select Board

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February 3, 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**

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated January 20, 2026. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.**

## **Proclaim February 7, 2026 as Lincoln Day in the Town of Hingham**

The Select Board read a proclamation proclaiming February 7, 2026 as Lincoln Day in the Town of Hingham.

**Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to proclaim February 7, 2026 as Lincoln Day in the Town of Hingham. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.**

## **Proclaim the month of February as Black History Month in the Town of Hingham**

The Select Board read a proclamation proclaiming February as Black History Month in the Town of Hingham.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to proclaim February as Black History Month in the Town of Hingham. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.**

## **Appoint Lieutenant Darren McAdams as a Special Police Officer for the Town of Hingham**

Deputy Police Chief Ryan O’Shea asked the Select Board to appoint Lt. Darren McAdams as a Special Police Officer effective following his retirement on February 18, 2026.

**Ms. Strehle made a motion to appoint Darren McAdams as a Special Police Officer for the Town of Hingham effective February 18, 2026 through October 31, 2026. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.**

## **Consider the request from Webber Development LLC d/b/a Scarlet Oak Tavern, 1217 Main Street to amend their Entertainment License**

Kenny Robicheau, General Manager Scarlett Oak, asked to expand the Entertainment License to include Wednesday’s.

**Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the request from Webber Development LLC d/b/a Scarlet Oak Tavern, 1217 Main Street, to amend its Entertainment License to include Wednesday, in addition to the already approved Thursday through Saturday, for a live band of not more than five (5) performers playing contemporary music from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.**

#### **FY27 Departmental Budget Requests**

- **South Shore Country Club**  
Kevin Whalen, Director of SSCC, presented the FY27 budget request.
- **Weir River Water System**  
Russell Tierney, WRWS Superintendent, presented the FY27 budget request, noting an increase in contract services for the new billing system.
- **Sewer**  
Russell Tierney, Sewer Superintendent, presented the FY27 budget request, noting an increase in the debt services line.
- **Unemployment**  
Katie Dugan presented the FY27 budget request.

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

- **Article T: Water: Appropriation of PFAS Funds**  
Mr. Tierney explained that the Town and the Weir River Water System participated in a class action lawsuit related to PFAS contamination involving two manufacturers. The Town received settlement payments in June and September 2025 totaling \$2,993,966. An additional \$1.1 million will be received over the next seven years. In accordance with Massachusetts Department of Revenue guidance, a separate revenue account has been established, and funds will be appropriated for PFAS mitigation studies, design, and system upgrades within the Weir River Water System.  
**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article T, Appropriation of PFAS Funds. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.**
- **Article U: Water: Water Capital Projects**  
Mr. Tierney explained that while annual water system capital requests are typically around \$3 million, this year's request is \$5 million due to the MassDOT Route 3A project. The funding will support replacement of approximately 9,650 linear feet of aging water main along Route 3A and Lincoln Street, upgrading it to a 12-inch ductile iron main to improve capacity and address system restrictions. Design and permitting are underway using prior capital funds; this borrowing will cover construction and oversight.  
**Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article U, Water Capital Projects. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.**
- **Article W: Climate Action Commission**  
Brad Moyer, Chair of Climate Action Commission, explained that the proposed warrant article is a housekeeping measure. The Energy Action Committee determined that its work substantially overlapped with that of the Climate Action Commission, and shared membership created Open Meeting Law complications. As a result, it was decided to disband the Energy Action Committee and consolidate its responsibilities under the Climate Action Commission.  
The article would also expand the Commission's membership by two seats to allow former Energy Action Committee members to seek appointment, grant voting status to the School

Committee and HMLP representatives, and clarify the process for appointing the Chair and Vice Chair to ensure smoother operations.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article W, Climate Action Commission. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.**

- **Article EE: HMLP Borrowing**

Tom Morahan, HMLP General Manager, explained that Article E would authorize the Town to borrow up to \$70 million, plus borrowing costs, under MGL C44, §88, to extend and upgrade the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant's transmission and substation distribution facilities. He emphasized that the project will not increase residents' bills, as prior rate studies accounted for this work. While a new rate study is planned this year, any rate changes would not result from this project.

**Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article EE, HMLP Borrowing. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.**

- **Article LL: Electronic Voting Devices**

Mr. Mayo explained that Article LL would authorize up to \$100,000 to purchase or lease electronic voting tools, enabling the Moderator to implement the 2014 authorization for electronic voting. He recommended forming a task force to research options, training, and tech needs, with findings reported by September 2026, so electronic voting can be ready for the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.

Liza O'Reilly, 44 Floret Circle, League of Women Voters, said the League supports secure and accessible voting. After researching electronic voting in Hingham's benchmark towns, they endorse forming a committee to determine the best system for Hingham.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article LL, Electronic Voting Devices. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.**

### **Approve the sale of the Town's general obligation and refunding bonds and bond anticipation notes dated February 12, 2026, and sign related closing documents**

Ms. Dugan requested approval for the sale of general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and bond anticipation notes (BANs). She reported that the Town's AAA bond rating was reaffirmed in January, enabling a successful market offering the previous week. The Town secured competitive bids at the lowest cost of capital for two bonds and one BAN totaling \$67.2 million.

Janet Morley, CMA advisors added, that the Town had a highly successful sale, with the AAA rating reaffirmed, including the highest short-term rating on the bond anticipation notes (BANs). The Town received 17 bids on the refunding bonds, achieving a 2.2% true interest cost and approximately \$100,000 in annual savings over the life of the bonds. The BANs received 12 bids, with a net interest cost of 2.299%, the lowest short-term rate in several years.

**Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to adopt the text of the votes, as prepared by Bond Counsel and as provided to the Select Board, in connection with the sale of the Town's general obligation bonds and bond anticipation notes dated February 12, 2026, and to direct the Clerk to incorporate the text of such votes into the minutes of this meeting. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.**

See text of full vote attached.

### **Appointments and/or reappointments (for a list of Talent Bank Applicants and Board and Committee vacancies, please visit [Hingham-ma.gov/SB](https://www.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**

Art Robert reported an economic development update: Yankee Trader Seafood received a \$500,000 state tax credit to expand at 65 Industrial Park Road, investing \$7 million and creating 33 jobs, boosting Town revenue and reinforcing South Shore Park as a key economic development location.

Mr. Ramsey reminded the public that Saturday is Lincoln Day starting at 10 am.

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

**The Select Board meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.**

Documents:

1. SB Minutes – 1/20/26
2. Lincoln Day Proclamation
3. Black History Month Proclamation
4. Special Officer Appointment
5. Entertainment License Amendment
6. Bond & Sales Packet
7. FY27 Budget Requests
8. 2026 ATM Warrant Article Packet

**Vote:** We hereby determine, in accordance with G.L. c. 70B, that the cost of the (i) Foster Elementary School construction project authorized by a vote of the Town passed November 1, 2022 (Article 1) being refinanced with proceeds of a portion of the Notes (defined below) and (ii) Plymouth River School Window replacement project authorized by a vote of the Town passed April 30, 2022 (Article 14) being financed and refinanced with proceeds of a portion of the Notes (defined below), together with all other bonds and notes of the Town previously issued to pay costs of these projects, does not exceed the portion of the total cost of each project that is not being paid by each respective school facilities grant and we hereby approve the issuance of notes and bonds to finance each project under G.L. c. 70B.

**Further Voted:** that the sale of the \$8,600,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2026 Bonds, Series A of the Town dated February 12, 2026 (the "Series A Bonds"), to Fidelity Capital Markets, a Division of National Financial Services LLC, at the price of \$9,066,102.19 and accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed. The Series A Bonds shall be payable on February 1 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2027	\$420,000	5.00%	2041	\$285,000	4.00%
2028	420,000	5.00	2042	285,000	4.00
2029	420,000	5.00	2043	285,000	4.00
2030	420,000	5.00	2044	285,000	4.00
2031	410,000	5.00	2045	285,000	4.00
2032	290,000	5.00	2046	285,000	4.00
2033	285,000	5.00	2047	285,000	4.00
2034	285,000	5.00	2048	280,000	4.00
2035	285,000	5.00	2049	280,000	4.00
2036	285,000	5.00	2050	280,000	4.00
2037	285,000	5.00	2051	280,000	4.00
2038	285,000	4.00	2052	275,000	4.00
2039	285,000	4.00	2053	275,000	4.00
2040	285,000	4.00	2054	275,000	4.00

**Further Voted:** that the sale of the \$14,910,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series B of the Town dated February 12, 2026 (the "Series B Bonds"), to Loop Capital Markets, LLC at the price of \$17,257,443.31 and accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed. The Series B Bonds shall be payable on May 15 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2027	\$1,595,000	5.00%	2033	\$1,305,000	5.00%
2028	1,535,000	5.00	2034	1,320,000	5.00
2029	1,250,000	5.00	2035	1,335,000	5.00
2030	1,270,000	5.00	2036	1,350,000	5.00
2031	1,285,000	5.00	2037	1,365,000	5.00

2032            1,300,000            5.00

**Further Voted:** to approve the sale of \$43,755,653 4.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes of the Town dated February 12, 2026, and payable February 12, 2027 (the “Notes”), to TD Financial Products LLC, at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$744,283.65.

**Further Voted:** that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Series A Bonds and Series B Bonds (together, the “Bonds”), the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated January 16, 2026, and a final Official Statement dated January 28, 2026 (the “Official Statement”), each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

**Further Voted:** that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated January 16, 2026, and a final Official Statement dated January 28, 2026, each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

**Further Voted:** that the Bonds shall be subject to redemption, at the option of the Town, upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the Official Statement.

**Further Voted:** to authorize the execution and delivery of a Refunding Escrow Agreement to be dated February 12, 2026, between the Town and U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Refunding Escrow Agent.

**Further Voted:** that the Town Treasurer and the Select Board be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver continuing and significant events disclosure undertakings in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such forms as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertakings shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds and Notes, as applicable, for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds and Notes from time to time.

**Further Voted:** that we authorize and direct the Town Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the Town Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Bonds and Notes and to comply with relevant securities laws.

**Further Voted:** that any certificates or documents relating to the Bonds and the Notes (collectively, the “Documents”), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a “.pdf” file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures.

**Further Voted:** that each member of the Select Board, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.