

Select Board

May 5, 2026

Present:

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

WATD indicating they were recording the meeting.

Reorganization of the Select Board

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to nominate and appoint Elizabeth Klein as Chair of the Hingham Select Board. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 13, 2026. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Battle of Grape Island Day Proclamation

The Select Board read aloud a proclamation to proclaim May 17, 2026, as Battle of Grape Island Day in the Town of Hingham.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to proclaim Sunday, May 17, 2026 as Battle of Grape Island Day in Hingham. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Consider the Application for Alteration of Licensed Premises by Hingham Shipyard Hospitality, Inc. d/b/a The Beth, 18 Shipyard Drive, Suite 1K, Hingham, MA 02043

Attorney Jon Aieta explained that the application was for an alteration of premise to expand the outdoor seating area at The Beth. The existing patio seating would decrease from 92 to 58 seats, while a new larger patio with 92 seats would be added, bringing the total outdoor seating capacity to 150 seats. It was noted there would be no changes to indoor seating or occupancy limits. Mr. Aieta stated the patio would include a covered bar area, tables and chairs, and perimeter barriers to clearly define the licensed area, and that the expansion is intended to accommodate seasonal customer demand for outdoor seating. Planning Board and ZBA has previously approved the request.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the request of Hingham Shipyard Hospitality, Inc. d/b/a The Beth, 18 Shipyard Drive, Hingham, for an Alteration of Licensed Premises, in accordance with the Application for Amendment – Change or Alteration of Premises Information filed with the Town of Hingham on March 23, 2026. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Consider the Application for Change of Officers, Stock and Ownership Interest by The Fresh Market of Massachusetts, Inc., 11 Essington Drive, Hingham

Dawson Cooper, Upton Connel & Devlin, LLP, explained that Fresh Market of Massachusetts, Inc. had applied for changes to its officers and directors, along with a stock transfer, to remain compliant with ABCC requirements. Mr. Cooper stated the changes were part of a corporate ownership transaction affecting all three Massachusetts locations and that no operational changes were proposed at the licensed location.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of The Fresh Market of Massachusetts, Inc. for a Change of Officers and Change of Stock Interest, in accordance with the Application for Amendment - Change of Officers, Stock or Ownership Interest filed with the Town of Hingham on March 26, 2026, subject to the approval of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Consider approval of the Farmer's Market Permit Application to Sell at the Hingham's Farmer's Market submitted by Vitamin Sea Brewing, 30 Moore Road, Weymouth

Rich DiBona, Vitamin Sea Brewing, explained that Vitamin Sea participated in the Hingham Farmers Market the previous year and were seeking approval to participate again. Mr. Dibona stated they planned to sell four-packs of beer and, if requested, offer samples. It was noted that staff would be trained on all applicable rules and that samples would be limited to approximately 2-ounce pours.

Bev Vernon, 31 School St, President of Hingham Farmer's Market, stated that Vitamin Sea's participation as a vendor at the Farmers Market is permitted through a program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and requires Town approval for the vendor to participate in its second year at the market.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special Farmer's Market Permit to Vitamin Sea Brewing, LLC, 30 Moore Road, Weymouth, for the sale of malt beverages at the 2026 Hingham Farmer's Market on Saturday's, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, beginning May 16, 2026, and ending November 21, 2026. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Consider the Agreement with Stuart C. Irby Company, LLC, d/b/a Irby Utilities for the purchase of new streetlamps and poles for the Station Street Parking Lot

Ashley Broyer, DPW Superintendent, provided an update on the new lights for the Station Street parking lot, noting that there is an estimated eight-week turnaround from the time the order is placed to delivery. Ms. Broyer stated the lights are expected to be installed sometime this summer in coordination with Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant.

David Sequeira, Procurement Manager, explained that the agreement was a Chapter 30B purchase of supplies for the new Station Street parking lot lights. Mr. Sequeira stated that one bid was received from Irby Utilities for approximately \$63,072, which was below the estimated project cost. It was noted the cost includes delivery to Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant, which will coordinate installation with the DPW, and that the Historic Districts Commission submitted a letter supporting the project. He added that delivery is expected before June 30, with funding coming from FY26 encumbered expenses.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with Stuart C. Irby Company, LLC, d/b/a Irby Utilities for the purchase of new streetlamps and poles for the Station Street Parking Lot in an amount not to exceed \$63,072.00. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

2026 Annual Town Meeting Discussion

Ms. Klein thanked residents for participating in Town Meeting and noted that results are available on the Town website and through the Anchor. Approved items included the balanced budget, CPC projects, the sale of 230 North Street, healthcare subsidies for Town employees, and funding for electronic voting, while also recognizing the work of Town staff and committees.

Ms. Klein acknowledged that the Center for Active Living project, the possible sale of Short Street, and the possible sale, lease, or conveyance of 86 Central Street did not pass. The Town is still determining next steps, particularly regarding support for seniors and the ongoing issues at the LSA building.

Plans were also announced for a Town Meeting informational session before the next Town Meeting, along with upcoming FY27 goal setting and talent bank interviews for Town committees and boards.

Ms. Strehle thanked everyone who worked on articles brought before Town Meeting and said the open Town Meeting process worked, with voters making their voices heard. While disappointed in some results, particularly the Center for Active Living vote, Ms. Strehle said the Town must continue working toward solutions that support seniors.

Ms. Strehle reflected on concerns raised during Town Meeting regarding rising property taxes, the pace of building projects, maintaining existing Town buildings, and the Town's long-term capital needs. The importance of continued discussion, collaboration, and working together on next steps was emphasized moving forward.

Mr. Ramsey agreed with the previous comments made by Ms. Klein and Ms. Strehle. Concerns about affordability, project location, building size, and overall costs were clearly expressed during Town Meeting.

Mr. Ramsey also acknowledged upcoming financial challenges facing the Town, including major capital projects and the likelihood of a future override, while emphasizing the importance of continuing to support seniors and address community needs moving forward.

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

There were no appointments to be made.

Public Comment

Anne Riley, 214 Hull St, commented about having a light fixed, and a section of town with National Grid as the power source and a crosswalk repainting.

Select Board/Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Robert provided an update on Hingham's Rev 250 efforts celebrating America's 250th birthday, including outreach with the business community and coordination with the Hingham Historical Society. Updates included progress on key infrastructure projects such as Fountain Square (expected completion in about 60 days) and early utility work for the Route 3A project, along with efforts to keep businesses informed and engaged.

Mr. Robert also highlighted upcoming regional activity, including Rev 250 events, tall ships, and FIFA World Cup-related events at Gillette Stadium expected to draw significant regional visitors. A new website is being developed to centralize and promote local Rev 250 events, including historical commemorations, tours, and community programming throughout the spring and summer.

Mr. Mayo reported issuing two one day special permits, one for Best Brother Records, which held a concert at Ames Chapel on April 24th from 6:00–11:00 PM with about 70 attendees, and another for the

Sports Partnership Comedy Show at Patriot Cinemas on May 3rd from 5:30–9:00 PM, which drew just under 200 attendees and included one police detail.

Ms. Strehle thanked Mr. Ramsey for his work while being the Chair of the Select Board over the last year and helping her learn the routine.

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

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Documents:

1. Minutes – 4.13.26
2. Battle of Grape Island Proclamation
3. The Beth alteration of Licensed Premises packet
4. The Fresh Market change of Manager packet
5. Vitamin Sea Farmer's Market Application
6. Irby Utilities Contract