Select Board

August 25, 2026

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

Call to order:
6:02 PM: Chair Klein 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."

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

- July 7, 2026
- July 21, 2026
- July 29, 2026
- August 11, 2026

Vote:
Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated 7/7/26. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.
Ms. Strehle approve the minutes dated 7/21/26. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.
Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated 7/29/26. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.
Ms. Strehle approve the minutes dated 8/11/26. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Teamsters Local Union 25 – DPW Supervisors

Return to Open Session

Potential vote to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with Teamsters, Local Union 25 – DPW Supervisors
Ashley Broyer, DPW Superintendent, reported that the Town had successfully negotiated a new three-year contract with the DPW Supervisors' union, extending through 2029. Ms. Broyer noted that the agreement was reached quickly and would not result in a significant increase to the budget. Both sides were pleased with the outcome.
Mr. Jack Manning added that the bargaining process was completed in just two meetings, which she noted was unusual and credited Ashley with being well prepared and said the Town received strong

August 25, 2026
support throughout the negotiations. The union presented approximately 15–16 proposals, 11–12 of which had financial implications. The Town agreed to some of the proposals but not others. The largest financial component of the agreement was salary. The union initially proposed 5% increases in each of the three years, while the Town ultimately settled on 3% increases in each year. Other negotiated items included longevity, housing allowances, stipends, and other benefits. The total additional cost of the agreement was estimated at approximately $19,000–$19,500. Excluding a one-time phone-related item, which had a significant impact because the union currently has only four members, the overall increase was slightly below 3.5%. Mr. Manning said the negotiations were successful because the union understood the Town's financial constraints and both parties maintained a strong working relationship with the Teamsters representative. She expressed appreciation for the collaborative process and the DPW Supervisors' hard work. Board members thanked Ms. Broyer for her leadership and all for their efforts during the negotiations. The Board expressed support for the agreement, noting that it was fair and demonstrated the Town's appreciation for the DPW Supervisors and their ongoing work.
Vote: Mr. Strehle made a motion to sign the memorandum of agreement with Teamsters Local 25 DPW Supervisors, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Consider approval of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Erik Christensen for the River Rock Music Festival at Weir River Farm to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Ms. Heather Wahle of Friendship Home addressed the Board regarding the organization's sixth annual Music Fest. Ms. Wahle explained that the event began as a small gathering in a private yard on the North River in Norwell and has grown significantly over the years. The event was relocated to a larger farm venue that can accommodate the growing attendance, and she noted that the hosts have been very gracious in supporting the event. Ms. Wahle stated that the Music Fest has become one of Friendship Home's most beloved fundraisers and its most inclusive event. Proceeds benefit Friendship Home in Norwell, which provides services and support to individuals with developmental disabilities. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share information about the event with the Board and offered to answer any questions. The Board thanked Ms. Wahle for her work and noted that the application was in order. One police detail officer is required to assist with parking.
Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Erik Christensen for the River Rock Music Festival at Weir River Farm to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion and potential vote regarding opening Warrant and insertion of Warrant Articles into the Warrant and to close the Warrant for the 2026 Special Town Meeting
Ms. Laura Burns, Light Board, addressed the Board regarding the HMLP proposed project and the status of its rate study. She explained that following Town Meeting, HMLP had been awaiting the rate study to determine the projected costs going forward and provide the public with an accurate assessment of the rate increases that would be necessary to complete the project. Ms. Burns reported that when HMLP received the initial rate study, the rate increases indicated as necessary to complete the project were not acceptable to the HMLP Board. As a result, HMLP has been meeting weekly with its consultants to identify ways to reduce the project's overall cost to ratepayers. The Board is also exploring alternative financing options. Ms. Burns said HMLP is currently awaiting a new proposal from Eversource regarding the financing of the portion of the project involving the station. Eversource indicated that it may have additional information by the end of the week. However, several variables remain unresolved, and HMLP does not yet have all of the information necessary to determine the best path forward. Time is becoming limited, the HMLP Board voted to request that the Select Board withdraw the previously

August 25, 2026
requested bonding article from the warrant. Ms. Burns explained that HMLP hopes to return with a complete proposal in the spring, when the necessary financial information will be available and there will be sufficient time for the Select Board, Advisory Committee, and public to review the proposal. Ms. Burns noted that HMLP is actively pursuing several options to reduce costs. One proposal would require legislative approval to allow HMLP to bond the entire project over 30 years rather than the current 20-year period. She explained that extending the bonding period would substantially reduce the annual cost of the project. HMLP wouldn't be required to use the 30-year term if the legislation were approved; it would provide an additional financing option. Ms. Burns reported that HMLP had voted to forward an article, approved by Town Counsel, asking Town Meeting to authorize the Select Board to petition the state's legislative delegation to seek legislation permitting HMLP to bond the project over 30 years. She provided the article to the Board and offered to answer questions.
Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to open the Warrant for the special town meeting and insert the following articles.
Article A: To see if the town of Hingham will vote to raise an appropriate, appropriate borrow or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to be expanded under the direction of the 2025 School Building Committee for the root system replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related to the project at the Plymouth River Elementary School, located at 200 High Street, Hingham, Massachusetts, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program and for which the town may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority MSBA. The town acknowledges that the MSBA grant program is a non-entitlement discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA and any project costs the town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA, so be the sole responsibility of the town. Any grant that the town may receive from the MSBA for the project shall not exceed the lesser 36.89% of eligible approved project costs as determined by the MSBA, or to the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA or act on anything related thereto inserted at the request of the 2025 School Building Committee.
Article, E: Will the Town of Hingham vote to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with article 89, Article two, section eight Mass General Laws constitutional amendment, Article to section eight of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth for the passage of special enabling legislation authorizing the town to repay any bonds or notes issued to finance projects undertaken by the Hingham Municipal Light Plant over a 30 year period, rather than over a 20 year period, as presently permitted by the General Laws which enabling legislation shall be in such form as the Select Board shall approves to act on anything related there relating thereto, inserted at the request of the Hingham Light Board, and to close the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, August 25th, 2026, and to direct the Town Administrator to forward copies of the articles to the Advisory Committee and to post them on the town's website within ten days of this vote. Under Town of Hingham General Bylaws article two, and all other applicable laws. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion and potential vote regarding submittal to the Massachusetts School Building Authority of the Schematic Design and associated documents for the Plymouth River Elementary School Roof project and South Elementary School Roof project
Ms. Angela Thedinga, joined by Superintendent Roberts and Ms. Aisha Oppong, provided an update on the elementary school roof projects and the MSBA schematic design process. She reported that schematic design is complete for the elementary school roofs and reviewed the proposed scopes and budgets.

August 25, 2026

For South Elementary School, the design team identified significant water infiltration, deteriorated roofing, flashing and masonry, as well as structural deficiencies in portions of the original 1948 roof framing. The recommended scope includes full roof replacement, standing-seam metal roofing on the steep-slope areas, 80-mil PVC roofing on the low-slope areas, flashing and masonry repairs, and structural reinforcement. The Committee determined that the longer-lasting roofing material and structural reinforcement were worthwhile despite the additional cost. The construction estimate is approximately $6.9 million, with an overall project budget of approximately $8.2 million.

For Plymouth River Elementary School, the design team found widespread water intrusion, deterioration of the existing roof, and structural concerns related to snow loading. The proposed scope includes full roof replacement with 80-mil PVC, structural reinforcement, and replacement of the roof deck where required, along with flashing, masonry and potential accessibility improvements. The construction estimate is approximately $13.8 million, with an overall project budget of approximately $16 million. Further engineering review is underway to determine whether the entire roof deck requires replacement, which could reduce the cost.

The Board discussed the 36.89% MSBA reimbursement rate and potential additional grant funding. It was noted that the reimbursement percentage applies to eligible expenses, and MSBA's review could affect the amount eligible for reimbursement. The Committee expects to receive additional feedback from MSBA following its schematic design submission.

The Board also discussed the potential use of a snow-melt system at Plymouth River. The Committee explained that the system would require significant electricity and maintenance and likely would not have kept up with the snowfall experienced last winter. Structural reinforcement was therefore considered the more reliable approach.

The Board asked about accessibility improvements. Ms. Thedinga explained that because the projects exceed 30% of the buildings' assessed value, certain accessibility upgrades may be required throughout the buildings. These improvements were identified through the Town's accessibility study and may also qualify for MSBA reimbursement.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to authorize the chair of the Select Board as Chief Executive Officer to sign and execute all required MSBA schematic design submittal documents for the Plymouth River Elementary School roof and South Elementary School roof projects. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Consider the Amendment to the Agreement with Construction Dynamics for the SSCC Pool Project

Mr. Kevin Whalen requested an amendment to the construction contract for the pool in the amount of $230,472 due to significantly more ledge being encountered at the construction site than anticipated. Mr. Chris Roddy, project architect, explained that borings had identified some ledge, and the site had been raised approximately five feet to mitigate the risk. The bid included an allowance for 100 cubic yards of ledge, but approximately 2,500 additional tons were encountered. The contractor has provided reduced unit costs for the additional ledge, resulting in savings compared to what the cost may have been had a larger allowance been included initially.

Mr. Chris Roddy, RMD, noted that an additional change order may be forthcoming, but approximately $200,000 remains in contingency, and the project is still expected to remain within the Town's overall budget.

Mr. Whalen explained that the project was funded through $550,000 in CPC funding and an $8 million appropriation from the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The CPC funds have been exhausted, and the $230,472 amendment will be funded from the $8 million appropriation. The project originally had approximately $403,000 in contingency, leaving approximately $172,000 after this change order. The project team anticipates limited additional change orders once the foundation and ledge work are complete and is also pursuing potential project credits.

August 25, 2026

Vote: Mr. Strehle made a motion to authorize the town administrator to sign amendment number one to the agreement with Construction Dynamics for the South Shore Country Club. Pool project value by $230,472, for a total value not to exceed 8,636,725. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Consideration of Recommendations from the Traffic Committee

- Reduce Speed Limit from 30 to 25 MPH - High Street, from ¼ mile west of the French/Ward intersection in the EB direction of travel
- Reduce Speed Limit from 30 to 25 MPH - High Street, from ¼ mile east of the French/Ward intersection in the WB direction of travel
- Implementation on a temporary basis of a four-way stop at the intersection of North Street, Main Street and Fearing Road
- Concept Roundabout Design for Cushing Street, Main Street and South Pleasant Street

Mr. JR Frey, Town Engineer, provided an update on the Town's Vision Zero safety study, conducted in partnership with the Boston MPO through its Safe Streets for All program. The study reviewed several high-crash locations, including Main Street/Cushing Street/South Pleasant Street, High Street/French Street/Ward Street, and North Main Street/Fearing Road, as well as a broader Main Street corridor study.

Regarding High Street/French Street/Ward Street, Mr. Frey explained that a temporary improvement was not feasible due to the volume of large vehicles using the intersection. He has begun the process of developing a permanent improvement, which could potentially be coordinated with the upcoming transmission-line project that will reconstruct portions of High and French Streets. The Board also discussed reducing the speed limit on High Street to 25 mph and increased police enforcement.

At North Main Street/Main Street/Fearing Road, the Town conducted traffic studies and determined that the intersection meets the warrants for a four-way stop. A temporary pilot would include additional pedestrian daylighting and removal of some parking spaces. The Board discussed the potential impacts on downtown businesses and parking, and the need for outreach to abutters and merchants before proceeding. The pilot would likely run for approximately two weeks, with traffic counters and police observations used to evaluate traffic flow, delays, and intersection operations.

Mr. Frey explained that the pilot could potentially be funded through Chapter 90 funds or the Town's operating budget, although the Boston MPO is pursuing a follow-up construction grant that could fund the improvements.

The Board also discussed a potential roundabout at Main Street/Cushing Street/South Pleasant Street, which could improve pedestrian connections and access to conservation properties. Mr. Frey noted that the project could potentially be incorporated into a future Complete Streets grant.

Regarding the existing Complete Streets project, Mr. Frey reported that the Town has received the signed state contract and is moving forward. Engineering plans are being prepared, with bidding anticipated in approximately four to six weeks. He also plans to request Chapter 90 funding to supplement the grant and cover additional project costs, including police details and traffic management.

Mr. Jeff Emerson, 764 Main Street, addressed the Board regarding concerns about a potential roundabout at the Main Street/Cushing Street/South Pleasant Street intersection. He expressed a preference for traffic signals rather than a roundabout. Mr. Emerson raised concerns that a roundabout could require widening Main Street by approximately 20–25 feet, bringing traffic closer to his home and potentially increasing noise, dust, pollution, and other impacts. He stated that traffic signals could improve the intersection without significantly changing the existing roadway footprint.

August 25, 2026
He also expressed concerns regarding traffic flow from Cushing Street and South Pleasant Street, pedestrian safety and the ability of school crossing guards and pedestrians to safely cross Main Street, and the potential impact of a roundabout on the surrounding historic district and scenic character of South Pleasant Street. Mr. Emerson asked the Board to consider traffic signals as an alternative to a roundabout when evaluating permanent improvements to the intersection.
Mr. Frey responded that traffic signals had been discussed and remain an option under consideration. However, he explained that traffic signals were not included in Tool Design's recommended Vision Zero toolbox because roundabouts generally provide greater safety and efficiency. He noted that roundabouts provide separate pedestrian crossing points on each approach and clearly establish right-of-way at each conflict point, which can improve safety for both pedestrians and motorists.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to accept the recommendation of the traffic committee and establish a speed limit of 25mph in the following areas of Hingham, pursuant to Mass General laws, chapter 90, section 17 C, and article 25 of the 2022 Town of Hingham. Annual town meetings reduce speed limit from 30 to 25 mile per hour. High Street from one-quarter mile west of the French forward intersection in the eastbound direction of travel. Reduce speed limit from 30 to 25mph. High Street from one-quarter mile east of the French word intersection in the westbound direction of travel. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Presentation and potential vote to approve Veteran's Monument Eagle Scout Project
Mr. John Doyle addressed the Board regarding his project to increase public awareness of Hingham's 21 military and Veterans Monuments. He proposed compiling historical information on all 21 monuments for the Veterans Services section of the Town website. Ten of the monuments would also receive small cast-aluminum plaques with QR codes linking to the online information.
Mr. Doyle explained that the project is being developed with assistance from the Hingham High School Veterans Club and Boy Scout Troop 4. The historical information is being reviewed by the Hingham Historical Society for accuracy. He will work with the Veterans Commission to determine appropriate plaque locations and will coordinate with Dig Safe prior to installation.
The plaques will be mounted on small posts secured to concrete bases with concrete wedge anchors and tamper-proof screws. The design is intended to be unobtrusive and not detract from the existing monuments.
Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve and support the proposed Eagle Scout project to install QR codes at the town's Veteran's Monuments, to provide the public with historical and background information about the monuments, and to authorize the project to proceed. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Select Board Goals Update
Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, provided a Q1 update on the Select Board's FY2027 goals, organized into three categories: Invest in the Community, Financial Stewardship, and Effective and Transparent Communication. Invest in the Community, Mr. Mayo reported progress on improvements to the Senior Center, including expanding programmable space, improving the outdoor patio, and addressing additional building and operational needs. The Town is also evaluating operating schedule changes and long-term funding options. Work is underway on the capital outlay schedule, building assessment, and standing facilities committee. Updates were also provided on the HMLP substation, healthcare subsidy study, harbor resiliency, Route 3A improvements, and Lincoln School Apartments. Under Financial Stewardship, the Sustainable Budgeting Task Force has been re-established and has completed data updates, drafted financial modeling options, and begun developing recommendations,

August 25, 2026
with a report anticipated in the fall. The Town has also made operational improvements within the Accounting Department and is reviewing opportunities under the Municipal Empowerment Act.
Under Effective and Transparent Communication, planning is underway for a fall meeting with the Advisory Committee and stakeholders, as well as development of a three-year communications plan. The Town is exploring improved communication systems related to upcoming construction projects and is working toward implementing electronic voting. Mr. Mayo reported that weekly Town video updates are ongoing, with eight completed to date. A legislative update for the Select Board is also being scheduled, and the League of Women Voters is working with the Town on a future meeting.

Appointments (for a list of Talent Bank Applicants, please visit Hingham-ma.gov/SB)

- Thomas O'Reilly- Harbor Development Committee
- Terrence Granahan - Harbor Development Committee
- Brenda Black- Human Rights Commission

Vote:
Mr. Ramsey a motion to appoint Thomas O'Reilly and Terrence Granahan and to the harbor Development Committee for a three year term ending June 30, 2029. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Strehle a motion to appoint Brenda Black to the Human Rights Commission for a three year term ending June 30th, 2029, as recommended by the Affordable Housing Trust. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Public Comment

No members of the public came forward.

Select Board/Town Administrator Reports

Nothing to report.

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

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Documents:

1. SB Minutes 7/7/26, 7/21/26, 7/29/26, and 8/11/26
2. MOA Hingham DPW Supervisor
3. River Rock Music Festival Packet
4. SBC Updated Presentation & Draft Article Packet
5. MSBA Packet
6. Construction Dynamic Amendment
7. Vison Zero
8. Traffic Committee Recommendations
9. Roundabout Concept
10. Veterans Monuments QR Code Project
11. Select Board Goals Presentation