

Select Board

September 08, 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
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations

Call to order:

6:01 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

- August 25, 2026 meeting minutes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated August 25, 2026. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Potential vote to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hingham Police Superior Officers Union, MCOP, Local 405

Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, explained that the previously approved Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) have been incorporated into the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) language by Labor Counsel Kevin Feeley. He noted that the substantive contract changes had already been approved and that the action before the Board was primarily administrative, making the revised CBA the official document. Chief Jones thanked the Personnel Board, Town staff, and the unions for their work on the agreement. He also referenced the recent civil service examination and noted the strong interest from applicants in working for the Town. Mr. Mayo further clarified that the MOA regarding the civil service departure had originally been treated as an appendix to the CBA. It has now been incorporated directly into the CBA language, meaning that all terms contained in the previously approved MOAs are now formally included within the CBA.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to sign the collective bargaining agreement with Hingham Police Superior Officers Union and CLP local 405 affected July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

Potential vote to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Hingham Police Patrolman's Association Union, MCOP, Local 505

Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, noted that Labor Counsel Kevin Feeley had worked on the agreement and incorporated the previously approved MOAs into the CBA. The Board was asked if there were any additional comments or questions. No further comments or questions were raised.

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Vote: MR. Ramsey made a motion and make a motion to sign the collective bargaining agreement with Hingham Police Patrolmen Association mixup local 505 effective July 1st, 2024 through June 30th, 2027. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

To consider the Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for seventy-three (73) Taser 10 Certification and 2 Day Taser Instructor Certification for the Hingham Police Department

Mr. David Sequeira, Procurement, presented a proposed contract with Exxon Enterprises, based in Scottsdale, Arizona. He explained that the company is currently available through a national procurement contract and specializes in providing public safety equipment to municipalities throughout the country. Exxon Enterprises is also the vendor currently supplying the Harbormaster with the drone previously approved by the Board. Mr. Sequeira stated that the vendor's sales team has been responsive and that the anticipated lead time for delivery of the equipment is approximately three months. The purchase will be funded through Police Capital. Under the contract, the vendor will invoice the Town annually. The total contract amount is \$358,678.20, which includes the required training. Mr. Sequeira confirmed that the total cost is consistent with the amount budgeted in the capital budget.

Chief Jones noted that Sgt. Brady would be responsible for coordinating training and could address any specific questions regarding the transition to the new equipment.

Sgt. Brady explained that the new equipment represents a significant improvement over the department's current model. The existing equipment is reaching the end of its warranty period, and Axon has largely discontinued production of the current model. The new equipment will provide several benefits, including virtual reality training capabilities. This will allow officers to conduct training throughout the year, rather than relying solely on the department's annual required training. In response to a question regarding the equipment's expected lifespan, Brady stated that the new equipment has an anticipated lifespan of five years. The Board noted that replacement costs would be incorporated into a future capital budget.

The Board also asked whether the department was satisfied with its experience with Axon's products.

Sgt. Brady confirmed that the department has had a positive experience with the company and its products.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement with Axon Enterprise Incorporated for 73 Taser Ten Certification and two day Taser Instructor Certification for the Hingham Police Department, in an amount not to exceed \$358,678.20. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor.

To consider the Agreement with LKB Engineering, PLLC for Plymouth River Basketball Court Design and Permitting Project

Mr. David Sequeira, Procurement, presented the results of the Town's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued in July pursuant to Chapter 7C for the design selection process. Mr. Sequeira explained that he, Mark, and Vicky conducted a mandatory site visit that was open to the public. The Town received four qualifications and subsequently interviewed all four firms. Mark and Vicky also participated in the selection process. Following the review and interview process, the selection team recommended LCV Engineering for the project. The firm's principal offices are located in New York, with additional offices in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. LCV has relevant experience with athletic and sport court projects, including projects in Canton, Norwood, and Duxbury. The Town also included in the Board's packet the firm's presentation, which identified several design and permitting projects previously completed in Hingham. Mr. Sequeira reviewed the anticipated project schedule. Since the project is located at an elementary school, the Town was mindful of the construction schedule and the need to minimize impacts on students and staff. Pending approval of the contract, design work is anticipated to take place

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during fall 2026, with permitting during winter 2026–2027. The project is expected to go out to bid in March 2027, with construction anticipated to begin in late June 2027, following the end of the school year. Construction is expected to be completed by late August 2027, prior to the return of students and staff. The engineer has indicated that the proposed schedule is adequate to complete the work. The project will be funded through Recreation Capital. Following approval of the contract, approximately \$273,500 will remain in the capital account. The negotiated contract fee is not to exceed \$70,000, with the engineer invoicing the Town monthly. The contract term will extend through December 31, 2027, to include design, permitting, construction administration, and project closeout services.

Ms. Vicki Donlan stated that the selection team was very impressed with LCV's principal, who has previously completed work for the Town and is familiar with Hingham. She noted that the firm's presentation gave the selection team confidence that the project could be completed at the expected level of quality and within the proposed schedule. The Town has already met with the firm to review the project schedule and ensure that expectations are clear. The Board discussed the scope of the project and confirmed that the actual construction will be funded through a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) grant, while the contract under consideration is for design and permitting services. Ms. Donlan explained that the project will primarily involve reconstruction of the basketball court surface and improvements to the surrounding area. The existing shed structure will remain, as a structural engineer previously determined that it is structurally sound. A small number of panels may need to be replaced, and the project will include measures to protect the existing steel structure, potentially including padding around the lower portions. The Board also discussed the existing chain-link fencing surrounding the court. Ms. Donlan stated that the Town is evaluating alternatives to the current fencing and whether fencing is necessary. The existing chain-link fence will be removed. The project team is also evaluating the existing court drainage and determining whether the new court should be constructed with asphalt or post-tensioned concrete, depending on cost and other project considerations. The Board discussed the possible purpose of the existing fencing, including keeping basketballs within the court area and preventing birds from nesting within the structure. It was noted that similar structures at other schools have experienced issues with birds nesting in the upper portions, resulting in debris falling onto the court.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement with LKB Engineering, PLLC for the Plymouth River Basketball Court design and permitting project not to exceed \$78,000. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

SAIL Presentation

Mary Nell Henry, Founder and Executive Director of Sail Home, and Jody Nash, President of the Board of Directors, presented Sail Home, which provides supportive, apartment-style housing for adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. Ms. Henry explained that the organization was founded in 2023 in response to the shortage of appropriate housing options for this population. SAIL Home's first property in Scituate was renovated and opened to residents in March 2026. The approximately 8,000-square-foot property provides housing for eight residents, with individual bedrooms and bathrooms, shared living and kitchen spaces, a community room, and overnight staff. Residents receive support with independent living skills through community builders, assistive technology, remote monitoring, and other services. The property is deed-restricted as affordable housing. The project received approximately \$1.75 million in CPC funding from Scituate toward the \$2.4 million renovation, with additional funding coming from grants, donations, fundraising, and private financing. Ms. Henry highlighted the significant support received from the local community. Ms. Henry explained that SAIL Home requires residents' families to live within 15 miles of the property in order to maintain strong connections to their communities. SAIL Home currently has residents from Scituate, Hingham, and Rockland. The organization's long-term goal is to replicate the model in other communities. The Board discussed the possibility of developing a SAIL

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Home project in Hingham, including the potential for multi-town CPC funding. Ms. Henry also noted that future developments could potentially combine SAIL Home housing with other types of housing, such as senior housing. The Board thanked Ms. Henry and Ms. Nash for the presentation and expressed interest in continuing the conversation regarding potential opportunities in Hingham.

Anita Ryan, 37 Baker Hill Drive, thanked Ms. Henry and Ms. Nash for the presentation and commended their work in repurposing an existing building and site for supportive housing. The Board member noted that this approach demonstrates how existing properties can be revitalized to create housing while preserving open space, resulting in a positive outcome for the community.

Discussion and potential vote regarding opening the Warrant to remove and replace an existing Warrant Article with a revised Warrant Article and to close the Warrant for the 2026 Special Town Meeting

Ms. Angela Thedinga presented a request from the School Building Committee to replace the current high school warrant article for the Special Town Meeting with a revised article. She explained that the existing article would expand the allowable use of previously authorized feasibility funds to continue into the design development phase. However, the remaining funds would cover only approximately 50% of the design development work. Ms. Thedinga stated that without additional funding, the project schedule could extend construction completion to September 2030, resulting in construction continuing into another school year. The School Building Committee therefore recommends authorizing an additional \$1,115,000 in design funding at the Special Town Meeting. This funding would allow the design development phase to be completed by April 2027, when the full project would be presented for funding at Annual Town Meeting, and would support a projected construction completion date of June 2030. Ms. Thedinga emphasized that the \$1.115 million is not an increase to the overall project cost, but rather funding that would eventually be required as part of the project and is being authorized earlier to maintain the schedule, reduce potential delays, and limit escalation costs. Ms. Strehle noted that the specific \$1,115,000 amount was based on detailed work packages and a budget developed by the project's consultants to carry the design through April 2027. In response to a question regarding the required vote, the Board discussed that the revised article would require a two-thirds vote because the funding would be borrowed, consistent with the voting requirement associated with the original borrowing authorization.

Vote: Ms. Strehle a motion to open the warrant for the 2026 Special Town meeting and remove and replace the existing warrant article regarding the high school roof and HVAC project with the following revised warrant article.

Article C: Will the town vote to amend the appropriation previously approved under article 34 of the Town of Hingham 2025 Annual Town Meeting to increase the amount of said appropriation by an additional \$1,115,000, and to expand the purpose for which said appropriation and any funds borrowed thereunder may be expended as follows; Said appropriation may be expended for a feasibility study, schematic design, detailed design, architectural, engineering, owners project management and other pre-construction services related thereto and up to and including preparation of construction documents and early bid packages for a potential roof replacement, heat pump conversion project, or other HVAC system repairs or replacement, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto at Hingham High School, 17 Union Street, Hingham, Massachusetts, or act on anything related thereto inserted at the request of the 2025 School Building Committee, and to close the warrant for the Special Town meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 and to direct the Town Administrator to forward copies of the article to the advisory committee, and to post the article 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.

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Discussion and potential vote to include local debt exclusion questions on the ballot for the November 3, 2026 special town election for the Plymouth River Elementary School roof project and the South Elementary School roof project

Ms. Katie Duggan, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance, requested that the Board approve the insertion of two local ballot questions for the November 3, 2026 election concerning the Plymouth River and South Elementary School roof projects. Ms. Duggan explained that the questions contain MSBA-approved language and have also been reviewed by bond counsel and Town Counsel. The ballot questions will not include dollar amounts. The Town will hold information sessions in October to explain the questions and the overall projects to voters prior to the November election. Ms. Duggan noted that the project cost figures have been submitted to the MSBA and that the Town has prepared motions containing the gross project amounts, including contingencies, for consideration at the Special Town Meeting. The Town anticipates receiving a 36.89% reimbursement from MSBA on eligible expenditures, which could reduce the final cost to the Town. The Board discussed the distinction between the Special Town Meeting and the November 3 Ballot. The construction funding for the two roof projects will require approval at Town Meeting, as well as voter approval through separate debt-exclusion ballot questions. The Board confirmed that the ballot questions require a majority vote.

Ms. Duggan stated that the Town will provide clear informational materials explaining the ballot questions and what a “yes” or “no” vote represents, as the formal ballot language is necessarily limited.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion pursuant to Mass General Law chapter 59, section 21 seek proposition two and a half and all other applicable laws to place the following local debt exclusion question on the ballot for the November 3rd, 2026 Special Town Meeting. Sorry special town election for the Plymouth River Elementary School roof project; 1. Shall the Town of Hingham be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so-called, the amount required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay the costs of the roof system replacement, including the payment of all costs, incidental or related thereto at the Plymouth River Elementary School, located at 200 High Street, Hingham, Massachusetts. Yes, open space, no open space and to direct the town clerk to take all actions necessary to include said question on said ballot. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion pursuant to Mass General laws chapter 59, section 21CK, proposition two and a half, and all other applicable laws to place the following local Debt exclusion question on the ballot for November 3rd, 2026. Special Town Election for the South Elementary School Roof project; 1. Shall the Town of Hingham be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay the costs of the roof system replacement, including the payment of all costs, incidental or related thereto at the South Elementary School, located at 831 Main Street, Hingham, Massachusetts. Yes, open space, no open space and to direct the Town Clerk to take all actions necessary to include said question on said ballot. Mr. Ramsey seconded. All were in favor

Discussion and vote to restrict parking along a portion of North Street

Ms. Klein advised that the agenda item was tabled until the next meeting pending receipt of additional information.

Public Comment

Mr. Chambers, Lincoln School Apartments, suggested opening state park gates during park hours to help reduce local traffic congestion. He also raised concerns about the condition of the Harbor Island and George Washington Town Forest, recommending improved maintenance, removal of dead trees and brush, and restoration of fire roads and fire ponds for recreational and emergency access.

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Select Board/Town Administrator Reports

Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations, announced that the Town's third Local Government Academy will begin on September 16, 2026, with 14 residents participating in the nine-session program. He noted that the program has been adapted to incorporate the upcoming Special Town Meeting and provide participants with a firsthand understanding of how local government operates.

Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator, presented the following one-day event permits:

- Stickmany Foundation – Stickmany Games: September 19, 2026, 4:00–9:00 p.m., at Weir River, with 150 attendees anticipated and no alternate date, and one police detail required.
- EqualAct Fundraiser: October 1, 2026, 6:00–8:30 p.m., at the Hingham Community Center, with 50 attendees anticipated, no alternate date, and no police detail required.
- The Beth Kitchen & Bar – South Shore Beer Fest: September 19, 2026, 4:00–7:00 p.m., at The Lawn at the Launch, 18 Shipyard Drive, with an alternate date of September 26, 125 attendees anticipated, and one police detail required.

Mr. Mayo shared the passing of Herb Frager, a longtime Hingham resident who worked for the Town for more than 25 years. Mr. Frager began as a van driver at the Senior Center before joining the Maintenance Department, where he was a dedicated member of the team. Mr. Mayo described him as a kind and friendly person who was well regarded by colleagues and residents and will be greatly missed.

Ms. Strehle noted that a ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of September 11th will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the Hingham Fire Department headquarters on Main Street, with the public invited to attend.

Ms. Klein welcomed students and thanked the school department, teachers, bus drivers, DPW, police, fire, and other community members for helping ensure a safe start to the school year.

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

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Documents:

1. SB Minutes 8/25/26
2. Police Superiors Contract
3. Police Patrol Contract
4. Axon Taser Agreement
5. LKB Engineering Agreement
6. SAIL Home presentation
7. STM Warrant Articles
8. STM Ballot Questions