

Select Board

March 10, 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.”

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 February 24, 2026. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to approve the minutes dated February 26, 2026. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

FY27 Capital Outlay Recommendations Update

Mr. Mayo recapped the proposed capital allocations discussed at last week’s Select Board meeting, including \$300,000 for the Harbormaster, about \$177,000 for Town Hall, \$164,000 for the Library, \$145,000 for IT capital expenses, \$58,000 for electrical work at Bear Cove Park’s Green Dock House, and \$47,000 for the Building Department. He noted the chiller project is separate and that all funded projects were identified by department heads as Priority 1 needs.

Ms. Klein commented that several police department requests are recurring items that are planned for and replaced annually, emphasizing the importance of recognizing these ongoing needs.

Consider the Agreement with Construction Dynamics, Inc. for the construction of a new community pool and bathhouse facility located at South Shore Country Club

George Kay, Country Club Management Committee, announced that the Management Committee has enthusiastically recommended the Select Board accept Construction Dynamics’ bid of \$7,896,000 as the low bidder to construct the community pool and bathhouse facility.

David Sequiera, Procurement Manager, added that there were three bidders and that the contract will run through October 31, 2027.

Christine Smith, 2 Park Circle, expressed gratitude for all who helped get the project moving.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement with Construction Dynamics, Inc. for the construction of a new community pool and bathhouse facility

located at South Shore Country Club in an amount not to exceed \$7,896,000.00. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

Police Sergeant Interviews (Potential Candidates: Detective Heather Hermida, Officer Benjamin Carr, Officer Daniel Murphy)

Deputy Chiefs Ryan O'Shea and David Petitti explained the process and history for applying for Sergeant and Lieutenant positions.

Detective Heather Hermida, Officer Benjamin Carr, and Officer Daniel Murphy each provided background on their personal lives and careers and responded to questions from Select Board members.

Police Lieutenant Interviews (Potential Candidates: Sergeant Brian Fernandes, Sergeant Phil Tracey, Sergeant Nicholas Smith)

Sergeant Brian Fernandes, Sergeant Phil Tracey, Sergeant Nicholas Smith each provided background on their personal lives and careers and responded to questions from Select Board members.

The Select Board took a 3 minute recess.

Station Street Lighting Discussion

Mr. Robert explained that the DPW, in collaboration with HMLP, is proposing to install 27 street lights and poles in the Station Street parking lot, which currently has 13 missing lights. He emphasized that full lighting will improve safety, usability, and support for Hingham Square businesses, transforming the lot from an overlooked space into an integral part of the area. Art noted that Ashley Broyer, DPW Superintendent, led the project through the Traffic Committee and Historic Districts Commission, both of which recommend moving forward, and requested the Select Board's support for the next steps.

Ms. Broyer further explained that using leftover funds from last fiscal year, she has coordinated with HMLP and her team to install matching light poles and fixtures in the main and smaller Station Street parking lots, replacing broken bases and staying within a tight budget.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Department of Public Works, in collaboration with the Hingham Municipal Light Plant, to install 27 streetlights and poles at the Station Street lot, as presented. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion and potential vote to include a debt exclusion question on the ballot for the upcoming Town of Hingham 2026 Annual Election regarding a new Center for Active Living located off Bare Cove Park Drive, Hingham, MA.

Mr. Mayo explained that the Hingham Center for Active Living (HCAL) project would be funded through a debt exclusion tax override, requiring two approvals: one at Town Meeting and a second by ballot. Mr. Mayo noted that the article has been added to the Town Meeting warrant, the Select Board has taken a position, and ADCOM is currently considering it.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to include the following question on the ballot for the upcoming Town of Hingham 2026 Annual Election pursuant to M.G.L. c. 59, § 21(C)(k). Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

Ballot Question

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 professional fees, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Center for Active Living located off Bare Cove Park Drive, Hingham, MA?

Yes ____ No ____

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

- **Article D: Report of the Personnel Board**

Karen Johnson explained that the Personnel Board had a busy year settling multiple collective bargaining agreements with public safety and concluded a successful bargaining season. She noted that the quality of police candidates and departmental morale, particularly following the police contract settlement, reflects the positive outcomes of that work.

Ms. Johnson added that, in addition to collective bargaining, the Personnel Board periodically reviews the personnel by-law. She noted an upcoming amendment to clarify that employees—or those returning within two years from town affiliates like the school department or light plant—will maintain their length of service, including vacation, accrued sick time, and longevity. The amendment also clarifies the exit interview process, giving departing employees more flexibility in choosing whom to speak with, allowing the town to gather feedback on employee experiences.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article D, Report of the Personnel Board. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article E: Salaries of Town Officers**

Mr. Mayo explained that Article E, a perennial article, sets the salaries of elected town officers, including the Select Board, Board of Assessors, Town Clerk, and Municipal Light Board members.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article E, Salaries of Town Officers. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article S: School Department Extraordinary Capital Needs**

Katie Roberts, School Superintendent, explained that funding had previously been requested for extraordinary capital needs at Hingham High School, Plymouth River Elementary School, and South Elementary, including roof repairs at both schools and HVAC work at the high school. She noted that Matt Meehan worked with Habib Associates and Crowley Engineering to prepare cost estimates. The district is requesting \$770,000 for potential repairs needed until SBA projects are completed, noting unused funds would be carried forward and any remaining balance returned to the Town.

Michelle Ayer, Vice Chair of the School Committee, emphasized that the requested funds are for essential repairs to keep schools safe, and any unused money will be returned to the Town.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article S, School Department Extraordinary Capital Needs. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

- **Article V: Sale, Lease or Conveyance of 86 Central Street**

Jack Falvey, Chair of the Affordable Housing Trust, provided a history of the Lincoln School Apartments, noting that since 1980 it has offered 60 affordable rental homes for seniors and that the Town of Hingham has overseen operations since 2008. He explained that the proposed article would authorize—but not require—the Select Board to explore conveying the property through a request for proposals to identify financial opportunities for capital improvements or additions.

The potential disposition could serve three goals: fund preservation and renovations, expand the Lincoln School Apartments by about 30 units to support senior affordable housing, and relieve the town of ownership and oversight after 18 years. Mr. Falvey noted that refurbishing the building will be costly and requires careful consideration. He added that operating housing of this size is complex and time-consuming, and private developers are better equipped for

renovations and expansion, with access to tax credits and fewer regulatory constraints. Any conveyance would include a deed restriction to preserve affordability.

Mr. Falvey also addressed neighbor concerns that a future private owner could expand the property beyond the approved size. After consulting Town Council, he noted that deed restrictions can likely be structured to limit future expansion.

Joe Kelly, 7 Independence Ln, asked whether funds from the proposed real estate transfer tax could be used to support future project improvements over the coming years.

Monica Cunningham, 77 Central St, has lived across the street since 1994 and supports the concept of senior and disabled affordable housing due to its lower traffic impact. She expressed concern that the warrant article does not specify this and suggested adding language to ensure it, while also noting a desire for more communication about the proposal.

Betsy Hernberg, 24 Elm St, added that neighbors are generally supportive of senior affordable housing but felt the process was somewhat rushed and that some residents did not receive notice about earlier meetings.

Amy Farrell, 95 Central St, emphasized that the property already needs capital work, and the town has limited resources. She stressed starting the process now to access affordable housing funding and enable future discussions on expansion, traffic, and parking.

The Select Board moved the vote to the next meeting.

Open the Warrant for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to Town of Hingham General Bylaws Article 2, Section 7 to insert Warrant Article NN: High School Life Safety System and East School Energy Recovery Units Replacement

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to open the Warrant for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to Town of Hingham General Bylaws Article 2, Section 7 to insert Warrant Article NN in the form attached hereto and to close the Warrant. Ms. Strehle seconded. All were in favor.

Vote: Ms. Strehle made a motion to recommend favorable action on Article NN, High School Life Safety System and East School Energy Recovery Units Replacement. Ms. Klein seconded. All were in favor.

FY26 Community Preservation Grant Agreement

Mr. Mayo explained that the grant agreement would provide \$40,000 to cover administrative and operating expenses for the CPC.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to authorize the Chair to execute the Community Preservation Committee Grant Agreement to implement the award approved pursuant to Article 21 of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting for Administrative and Operating Expenses. Ms. Strehle 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](https://hingham-ma.gov/SB))

There were no appointments to be made.

Public Comment

No members of the public came forward.

Select Board/Town Administrator Reports

Ms. Klein congratulated the Hingham High Boys Hockey team for making it to the final four this past weekend.

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

The Select Board meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Documents:

1. Minutes – 2.24.26 & 2.26.26
2. COC Summary FY27 Recommendations
3. Sergeant & Lieutenant Interview Packet
4. Station Street Lighting
5. Ballot Question – HCAL
6. 2026 ATM Warrant Article Packet
7. CPC Grant Agreement