

TOWN OF HINGHAM



WARRANT for the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Monday, April 27, 2026
at 7:00 P.M.**

**Hingham High School
17 Union Street, Hingham, MA**

and

**REPORTS
of the**

**Advisory Committee
Capital Outlay Committee
Planning Board**

**Select Board
Personnel Board
School Committee**

Please bring this report to the meeting for use in the proceedings

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE ON TOWN MEETING PROCEDURES

Welcome to the 2026 Hingham Town Meeting. In our commitment to open town meeting, Hingham remains true to a wonderful tradition – a tradition that allows each registered voter to play a pivotal role in the governance of the town and to do so with “voice and vote”. Town meeting is not only a gathering of citizens to consider matters of common concern; it is the legislative body of the town. As such, the meeting must be conducted in a fair and open manner and in accordance with the Town By-laws, as well as traditions that we have followed in Hingham town meetings for many years. Several matters of procedure are summarized below.

- An **article** in the warrant states a question for the town meeting to answer. A **motion** is a proposed answer to the question and must be within the scope of the article. An article (once published in the warrant) may not be amended, but a motion may be amended by vote of the meeting. All motions must be seconded.
- If the Advisory Committee is recommending an **affirmative motion** under an article, its motion will be received as the main motion under the article. A voter may propose to amend this motion, either to change it in part or to substitute a whole new motion (sometimes called a "substitute motion"). In any such case, the proposed amendment will be taken up and voted on first and then the main motion, as it may have been amended, will be acted upon.
- If the Advisory Committee is recommending **no action** under an article and a voter offers an affirmative motion, the voter's motion will be received as the main motion under the article. Such a motion is likewise subject to amendment.
- All **motions and proposed amendments** involving the expenditure of money must be **in writing**. So must all other motions and proposed amendments unless they are so brief and simple as to be easily understood when stated orally (e.g., motion for the previous question, motion to adjourn). Voters are welcome to seek the assistance of counsel for the Town in preparing motions or proposed amendments.
- **Limits on speaking:** No one may speak on any subject for more than six (6) minutes for the first time or for more than three (3) minutes for the second time. No one may speak more than twice on any question unless all others who have not spoken on the question shall have spoken if they desire to do so and unless leave of the meeting is first obtained. A person may speak more than twice, but only to make a brief correction of an error in or misunderstanding of his or her previous statement, including brief answers to questions from the floor (addressed through the Moderator).
- In addressing the meeting, a speaker shall confine his or her remarks to the matter before the meeting.
- Persons who are not registered voters of the Town may be admitted to the meeting as **guests** by the Moderator. A guest of the meeting may be granted permission to address the meeting by majority vote.
- The purpose of the **motion for the previous question** is to end discussion and have an immediate vote on the pending question. The motion is not debatable and requires a majority vote for adoption. The Moderator will decline to accept a motion for the previous question if

other voters are seeking recognition and if both sides have not had a fair opportunity to be heard. The Moderator will accept the motion for the previous question if it appears that both sides have been heard and the discussion is becoming repetitious.

- **Voting procedures:** All votes are taken in the first instance by voice vote. If the Moderator is in doubt as to the results or if seven (7) voters rise and express doubt as to the result declared by the Moderator, a standing vote is taken, **except** that a ballot vote is taken (instead of a standing vote) if either the Advisory Committee or fifty (50) voters promptly call for a ballot vote. As a ballot vote takes considerable time, our practice has been not to request a ballot vote in the absence of compelling reasons.
- At a **Special Town Meeting**, no money may be appropriated for any purpose if the Advisory Committee recommends against the appropriation, except by a **two-thirds vote** of the meeting.
- No vote may be **reconsidered** except after a **two-thirds vote** on a motion to reconsider such vote. A vote may not be reconsidered a second time or after a motion to reconsider it has failed to pass.
- A vote adopted at one session of the town meeting may not be **reconsidered at a later (adjourned) session** of the meeting unless the mover has given notice of the mover's intention to make such a motion either at the session of the meeting at which the vote was passed or by written notice to the Town Clerk not less than 12 hours before the hour to which adjournment has been voted and not more than 48 hours after the hour of adjournment of such session. Any motion for reconsideration pursuant to such notice of intention will be taken up at the beginning of the adjourned session.
- **Articles** in the warrant are to be acted upon **in their order** unless the meeting otherwise determines by majority vote.
- A **motion to adjourn** the meeting to a later time is a privileged motion and is decided by majority vote without debate. When the warrant is completed, a **motion to dissolve** the meeting is in order.
- The number of voters constituting a **quorum** in order to convene the first session of a Regular or Special Town Meeting is 300. The number of voters necessary to convene the second or any subsequent session of a Regular or Special Town Meeting is 200. Once convened, the quorum to transact business at any Regular or Special Town Meeting is 200; provided, however, that a number of less than 200 may from time to time adjourn the same. Once a quorum is determined at the start of the meeting (or adjourned session), the presence of a quorum is presumed to continue unless a point of no quorum is raised and a count of the meeting shows that a quorum is not present. In that event, the meeting may be adjourned to a later date.
- **If you wish to speak**, please rise and seek the attention of the Moderator or the Assistant Moderator. When recognized by the Moderator, you should come to a microphone. Please state your name and address at the outset each time you speak.

April 2026

Michael J. Puzo
Moderator

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I am pleased to submit this report on behalf of the Advisory Committee (the Committee or AdCom). The Committee, which is established by Article 14 of the Town of Hingham By-laws, is charged with reviewing and making a recommendation on all articles that come before Town Meeting. Advisory Committee recommendations, and any accompanying commentary, are included in this Warrant book.

A FOCUS ON THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE TOWN

The FY27 budget marks the final year of the FY24 Override Framework and FY24-28 Financial Management Plan (the “Financial Plan” or “Plan”). This Plan was developed as part of the FY24 budget development process and was signed by the Select Board, School Committee, Advisory Committee, School Superintendent, and Town Administrator. The Financial Plan was created as a public commitment to the taxpayers to hold budget increases for the municipal and school departments to 3.5%, year-over-year, through FY27 excluding out-of-district special education tuitions and special education contracted specialized services (OOD and Contracted Services) costs incurred by the schools, as defined in the document.

In the coming months, the Town will be looking for the Sustainable Budget Task Force to provide recommendations and Town leadership to develop a new or extended Financial Management Plan to guide long term financial strategy. These efforts are intended to help address projected budget gaps and inform decisions about the timing of a future override. The Town has more than \$3.5MM in the Tax Mitigation Stabilization Fund to assist in bridging near-term budget gaps.

In making its recommendations on both the budget and the Articles presented in this Warrant, the Committee puts significant weight on the adherence to the Town’s Financial Policy. While the Committee recognizes there are circumstances when the Town may need to operate outside of the Financial Policy, it is very important that it avoids doing so without a plan to timely return to compliance with the Financial Policy.

The Financial Policy requires the Committee to monitor the ratio of the Town’s Unassigned Fund Balance to the Town’s Total Annual Expenditures, which ensures that the Committee carefully consider the uses of the Excess Unassigned Balance (EUFB) to both preserve the proper ratio and utilize the EUFB consistent with the Financial Policy such as for:

- Capital expenditures
- Tax relief, including but not limited to a transfer of some portion of such Excess to a tax mitigation and/or stabilization fund or funds
- Retirement of debt
- Unfunded long-term liabilities

In recent years, EUFB has been supported by one-time sources of revenue, recurring operating surpluses, unusually strong investment income and unexpended appropriations. The Committee notes that future replenishment may be less certain due to changing economic conditions and uncertainty around the level of future federal and state funding. With the many important competing demands, this underscores the importance of long-term financial planning for the Town’s infrastructure needs and how to use EUFB.

The Town has benefited from great success in procuring federal and state grants and believes it will continue to do so to subsidize projects while seeking other sources of funding such as sales of surplus Town-owned real estate, if approved by Town Meeting.

Overall, the adherence to the Financial Policy and sound financial planning protects the Town's Aaa / AAA rating which allows the Town to secure favorable interest rates putting less stress on the tax rate and provides access to debt markets in financially volatile times.

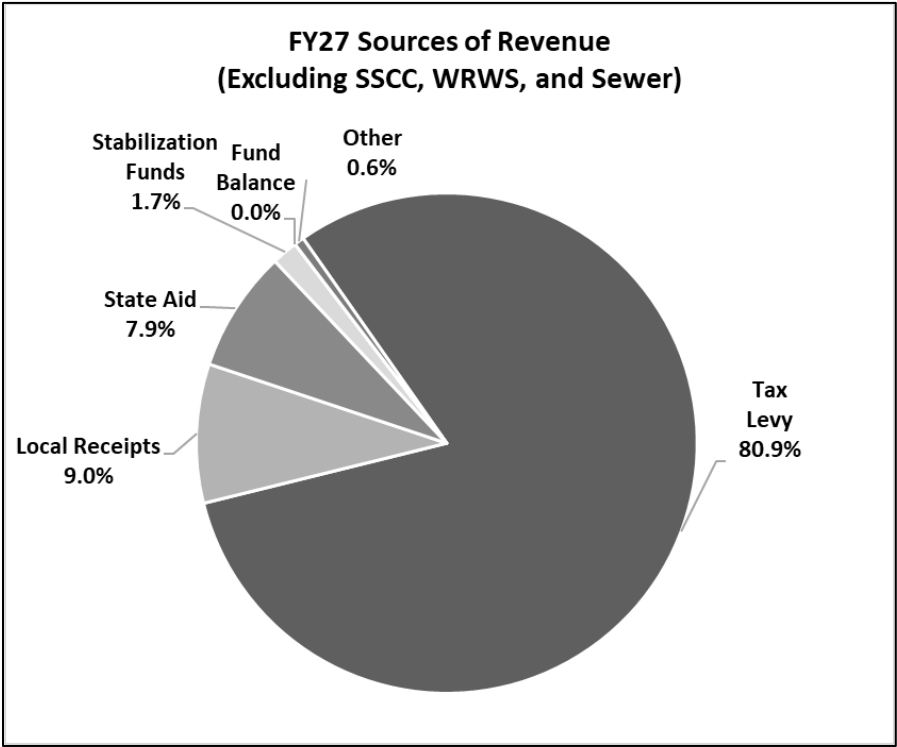
The Advisory Committee believes that the proposed budget reflects the commitments made to the Town as part of the Financial Plan, are consistent with the Town's Financial Policy, and are fair and equitable.

PROPOSED FY27 BUDGET

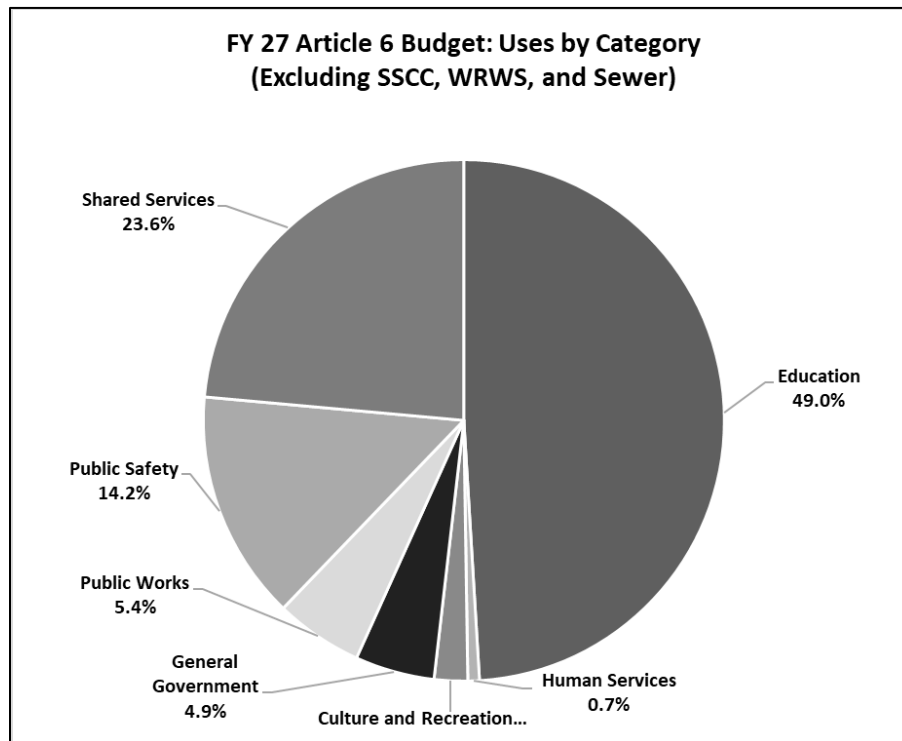
Many Towns are facing a difficult choice between reducing services or pursuing large overrides as they contend with significant budget deficits driven by rising health care costs, inflationary pressures, and an overreliance on one-time revenues to fund ongoing expenses. The Town's strong financial position and conservative budgeting enabled AdCom and the Select Board to vote to recommend a \$173MM balanced budget that did not require funding from either the Tax Mitigation Stabilization Fund, EUFB or Excess Overlay. Adherence to the MOU and a lower than forecasted insurance rate increase closed the small gap needed to balance the budget.

The Town's revenue sources for FY27 include a 2.5% increase in the Tax Levy, New Growth of \$700,000, modest increases in State aid and local receipts, use of the Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund, as well as \$2,300,000 from the Capital Project Cost and Debt Service (CPCDS) Stabilization Fund. The CPCDS Stabilization Fund was created in 2022 by Special Town Meeting specifically to help mitigate the tax impact of the new elementary school and public safety facility projects. The Town expects to apply the remaining balance of the CPCDS Stabilization Fund in FY28 (\$2,000,000) and FY29 (approximately \$500,000).

Below is a breakdown of revenue by category, excluding self-supporting operations (South Shore Country Club, Weir River Water System, and Sewer).



All budgets have been closely scrutinized by each department head, Town Administration, the Select Board, and the Advisory Committee. Below is a breakdown of spending by category, excluding self-supporting operations (South Shore Country Club, Weir River Water System, and Sewer).



Overall, operating budgets have grown from FY26 to FY27 by a total of 3.5%. This includes Articles 4 and 6, excluding self-supporting operations. Note that the FY27 School Department budget does not include out-of-district costs that exceed the 2% as defined in the Financial Management Plan (estimated to be \$2,079,200). In accordance with the MOU, the costs of OOD and Contracted Services in excess of 2% (estimated to be \$350,000 in FY26) that cannot be covered by credits, grants and/or the Special Education Reserve funds will be paid for out of Unassigned Fund Balance through the Reserve Fund process at the end of the fiscal year.

	FY26	FY27	% CHANGE
Municipal Departments:	\$37,205,334	\$38,507,520	3.5%
School Department:	\$70,383,752	\$72,847,183	3.5%
Capital Outlay (tax levy):	\$3,500,000	\$3,600,000	2.9%
Employee Benefits:	\$18,769,315	\$19,848,370	5.7%
Debt Service:	\$13,695,055	\$13,893,125	1.4%
Insurance and Incidentals:	<u>\$1,870,580</u>	<u>\$1,753,379</u>	-6.3%
OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL	\$145,424,036	\$150,449,577	3.5%
Proposed Reserve Fund Transfer for OOD Services	\$350,000	\$2,079,200	
Proposed Reserve Fund Transfer for Snow & Ice	\$1,050,000		

Personnel expenses represent 77% of the Town's Operating Budget. The Select Board, School Committee, and Personnel Board continue to work diligently to ensure that Town employees are compensated fairly and in line with benchmark communities. The Town continues to pre-fund its statutory

requirement to fully fund the Contributory Retirement System and its Other Post-Employment Benefits (“OPEB”) liability according to funding schedules. The Town’s goal is to reach full funding of its Contributory Retirement System obligation by the end of FY35 which is projected to reduce ongoing annual funding by approximately \$8.5MM starting in FY36.

Expense growth continues to outpace revenue growth. While the Town was able to meet the 3.5% expense growth cap, offsets and reductions were required in school budgets to do so. The School level-services budget request was \$81,981,179. This figure was offset by \$6,623,060 in grants and drawing down on revolving funds, and \$2,079,200 in estimated Special Education costs to be paid by the Town in accordance with the Financial Plan. Notwithstanding these items, as of the Warrant publication date, to comply with the Financial Plan required reductions to expenditures of \$431,736. Separately, self-supporting departments (water, sewer, South Shore Country Club) and Shared Services (employee benefits, debt service, capital outlay, property/liability insurance) are not subject to the 3.5% cap.

FY27 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

- As in previous years, the FY27 budget includes tax relief for the benefit of all taxpayers. This year, one source of relief is the CPCDS Stabilization Fund. If adopted, the proposed FY27 budget will result in an approximately 3.25% increase. For median assessed valuation home (\$1,079,500), this equates to approximately \$371. This increase includes the 2.5% levy increase, the Community Preservation Act Tax surcharge, excluded debt and the application of \$2,300,000 in tax mitigation from the CPCDS Stabilization Fund. It does not include the tax impact of the previously authorized debt exclusion for construction of the pool at the South Shore Country Club or the proposed debt exclusion for the Center for Active Living (Article 12). Absent the use of the CPCDS, the FY27 tax increase would have been 5.2% or \$591 for the median assessed valuation home.
- In addition, the Town offers over 12 tax relief programs to eligible citizens and Town Meeting took action in 2023 to double the benefit of many of the exemptions offered. Information regarding these programs can be found on the Assessment Data page of the Town’s website.

FINANCIAL POLICY CONFORMANCE

Expenditures in the proposed FY27 budget conform to the Town’s Financial Policy guidelines as follows:

	Target	Actual
Unassigned Fund Balance	16-20% Total Annual Expenditures	28.2% (6/30/25) 31.2% (6/30/24) 27.9% (6/30/23)
Capital Outlay	3.0-6.0% of Operating Budget	3.07% (FY27) 3.07% (FY26) 3.05% (FY25)
Debt Service	5.0-10% Total Annual Expenditures	9.20% (FY27) 9.35% (FY26) 8.08% (FY25)

Unassigned Fund Balance between 16% and 20% of Total Annual Expenditures ("TAE")

- Fund Balance is the accumulation of each year's actual surpluses and deficits. In accordance with the implementation of Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 54, Fund Balance is classified into five categories: Non-spendable, Restricted, Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned.
- Total General Fund Balance was 41.9% of TAE at the end of FY25 (the most recently completed Fiscal Year), equaling \$57,777,986. The amount reserved for particular future uses (per GASB 54) is \$18,852,286 (13.7%).
- As of the end of FY25, Unassigned Fund Balance equaled \$38,925,700 or 28.2% of TAE. Excess Unassigned Fund Balance (unassigned fund balance above 20% of TAE as specified in the Financial Policy) was \$11,316,118.
- Additionally, \$1.4MM of Excess Unassigned Fund Balance is anticipated to be needed to fund FY26 Reserve Fund transfers (Article 10) for items including \$1.05MM for snow and ice removal and \$350K to fund OOD and Contracted Services in accordance with the Financial Plan. The Excess Unassigned Fund balance anticipated for FY27 to fund Special Education out-of-district expenses in accordance with the Financial Plan is \$2.1MM. The Advisory Committee recommends that the new Financial Plan include a mechanism to estimate and identify a funding source for the OOD and Contracted Services at the beginning of the fiscal year rather than through the Article 6 Reserve Fund process at the end of the fiscal year.
- The Advisory Committee recommends favorable action on spending Articles that propose using approximately \$5.8MM of EUFB. These proposed uses are consistent with the Town's Financial Policy. While the Committee did not support the use of \$1.3MM of Excess Unassigned Fund Balance to increase the Town's share of employee health insurance (see Article 29), it did support financing a study to find a permanent solution and source of funding to resolve the Town's underfunding of its share of employee health insurance.

Capital Expenditures between 3% and 6% of the Operating Budget

- Per the Town's Financial Policy, the Capital Outlay Plan for any Fiscal Year should budget between 3% and 6% of the Town's Operating Budget for that Fiscal Year. For FY27, the Capital Outlay tax levy budget is \$3,600,000, or 3.07%.
- The Financial Policy specifically indicates that this ratio shall not include the cost of capital items that are included in separate Warrant Articles presented at the Town Meeting. However, the Capital Outlay Committee recommended transferring from Excess Unassigned Fund Balance \$2,605,437 for a High School life safety system and the replacement of East School energy recovery units (Article 19) plus \$1,485,540 for the replacement of the cooler/chiller system for the Hingham Public Library (Article 16). If this total of \$4,090,977 is included in the calculation, the percentage increases to 6.6%, slightly over the higher end of the range of 3-6% recommended in the Financial Policy.
- The Capital Outlay Committee recommended a FY27 total capital budget of \$3,932,917, of which \$3,600,000 will be funded from the tax levy. The balance of the capital budget will be funded from the Capital Stabilization Fund (\$74,547), the Municipal Waterways Fund (\$250,000) and the Recreation Department Revolving Fund (\$8,370).

- Capital items in addition to those mentioned above include:
 - Extending and enlarging Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant's transmission and substation distribution facilities - \$70,000,000 to be repaid by the HMLP ratepayers
 - Construction of the Center for Active Living – up to \$29,930,000 to be borrowed through a debt exclusion
 - School Department Extraordinary Capital Needs - \$770,000 funded from EUFB
 - Weir River Water System expenditures to support compliance with new PFAS regulations and improvements to the System - up to \$7,667,956 to be repaid by the WRWS ratepayers.
- All of this spending and borrowing is subject to approval by Town Meeting.
- Please see the Capital Outlay Committee Report at the back of this Warrant for more details on recommended and future capital projects and funding sources.
- The Advisory Committee recommends continued monitoring of the Capital Outlay Budget and maintaining funding levels as prescribed by the Town's Financial Policy. In addition to developing funding sources for infrastructure maintenance mentioned above, the Town should continue maintaining its schedule of future major capital projects needed in the Town and the impact on the Capital Outlay Plan, taxpayer rates, debt service, and Fund Balance.

Reserve Fund of Approximately 0.75% of the Operating Budget

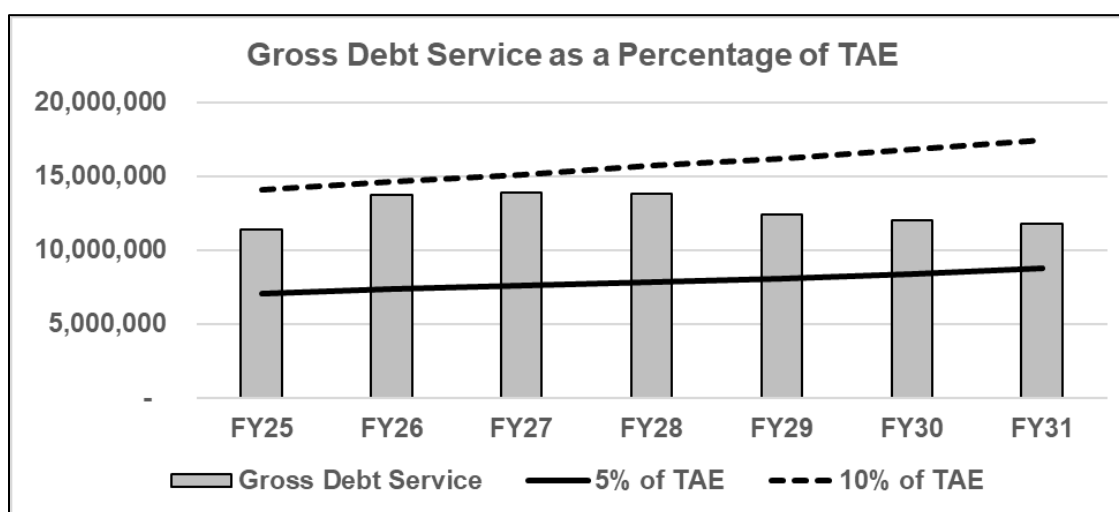
- Massachusetts General Laws provide for annual appropriations to a Reserve Fund from which transfers for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures may be made from time to time, with the advice of the Select Board and the approval of the Advisory Committee. The Reserve Fund is used to save the time and expense of a Special Town Meeting for relatively low-cost items.
- Per the Town's Financial Policy, the annual appropriation amount for the Reserve Fund should be approximately 0.75% of the Operating Budget presented at Town Meeting. At year end, the Reserve Fund is supplemented with a transfer from Fund Balance to cover extraordinary and unforeseen expenses incurred during the fiscal year.
- In FY25, a total of \$1,080,422 in Reserve Fund transfers were made. The transfers by department are:

Accounting	\$29,300
Legal Services	\$271,651
Police	\$400,000
Town Hall	\$25,500
Town Meeting	\$31,000
Worker's Compensation	\$210,000
Unemployment	\$112,971
Total	\$1,080,422

- Unexpended funds (if any) in the Reserve Fund for a Fiscal Year are returned to Fund Balance effective at the end of that Fiscal Year.
- The proposed amount for the FY27 Reserve Fund in the Operating Budget is \$854,608. This is 0.73% of the FY27 Operating Budget.

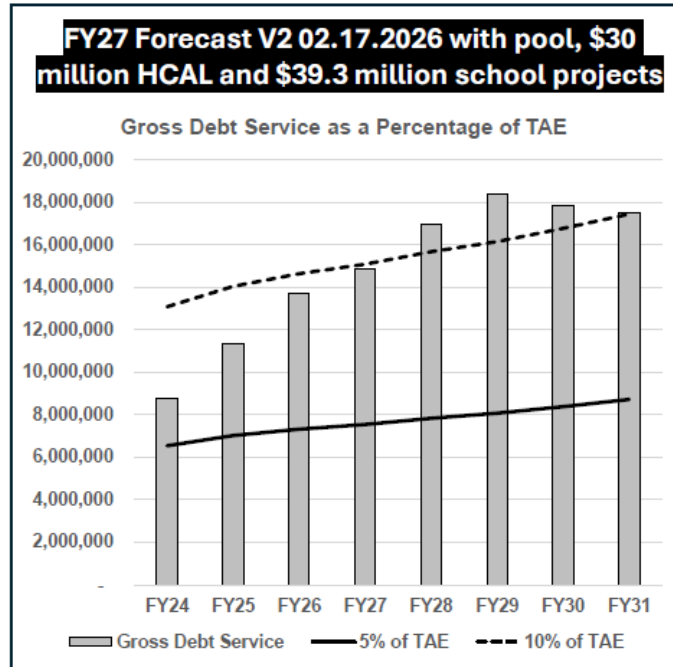
Average Annual Debt Service between 5% and 10% of Total Annual Expenditures (“TAE”)

- Per the Town’s Financial Policy, the Town should maintain average annual debt service (repayment of principal and current interest for borrowings) between 5% and 10% of TAE.
- FY27 debt service of \$13,893,125 represents 9.2% of FY26 TAE – an increase from \$13,695,055 in FY26, which represented 9.4% of FY26 TAE. In February 2026, the Town completed a refunding of its 2015 General Obligation Fund that resulted in approximately \$100,000 in annual debt service savings.
- The graph below reflects currently issued debt-only and incorporates the application of remaining CPCDS Stabilization Fund balances in FY28 and FY29, as well as the impact of debt that is retiring during this period.



The Advisory Committee notes that at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting, the Town will vote on the construction of a new Center for Active Living (HCAL) not to exceed \$29,930,000. The Town has also accepted a bid for the construction of a pool at the South Shore Country Club, which was approved at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The Town has also been accepted into the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair Program for roof projects at three schools and HVAC Replacement at the High School. Accepted projects are reimbursed at a rate of 30-40% for eligible expenses. The anticipated projected net costs to the Town, after MSBA reimbursement, and timing of borrowing are currently estimated to be approximately \$8.6MM in FY27 and \$30.7MM (after applying a cost escalator to \$28.2MM) in 2028. However, as schematic design has only recently begun, these estimates remain subject to change as project scopes and costs are further refined.

The chart below shows that if authorized by the Town, the additional debt service associated with the HCAL and School projects will temporarily exceed the range defined in the Town Financial Policy (10% of Total Annual Expenditures). However, with level principal payments, debt service is projected to return to compliance with the Financial Policy by FY32. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Town continue to monitor debt service levels. The Town may consider applying EUFB to the CPCDS Stabilization Fund or a similar Fund to potentially reduce debt service expense and mitigate the tax impact at a future Town Meeting.



There is also an additional \$9.5MM of non-excluded debt that is authorized but unissued borrowing for which the timing of future borrowing is uncertain. This includes appropriations for the purchase of a Fire Truck, reconstruction of the Town Pier and Inner Harbor structures, and the feasibility study for the High School roof project.

Based on the current interest-rate projections from the Town's financial advisors and using the Town's Financial Planning Model, it is estimated that every \$10MM in additional 30-year level principal excluded debt would result in an approximate 0.65% property tax increase in the first year of long-term borrowing. For the median assessed valuation home (\$1,079,500), this equates to an approximate \$78 tax increase. Due to level principal borrowing, the impact would decrease each year.

Details on additional capital projects can be found in the Report of the Select Board and the Report of the Capital Outlay Committee contained in this Warrant.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION AND LIABILITY FUNDING

- The FY27 budget recommends funding Contributory Retirement and Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB") (retiree health care benefits) so as not to burden future generations with unsustainable or disproportionate financial obligations. The FY27 budget includes a Contributory Retirement funding amount of \$7,547,646 and an OPEB contribution of \$1,554,162.
- Frequent analysis of the OPEB funding level is necessary due to the continual changes in the actuarial assumptions that determine the contribution amount. These include the impact of future health insurance premiums, the updating of actuarial assumptions related to lifespans, and the assumed future rate of return on the set-aside funds. The Town does a full actuarial valuation of OPEB every two years. As of June 30, 2025, Hingham had funded its OPEB trust with \$34,105,234. Assets are projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments for current plan members. The valuation will be updated next in the fall 2026.

REVENUE SOURCES AND USES (FIVE-YEAR FORECAST)

- The aggregate budget uses for FY27 of \$175,133,750 balances to the forecasted revenue sources of \$175,133,750.
- New Growth is the amount by which the property tax base increases due to new development and improvement to existing properties. The projection of New Growth revenue for FY27 and beyond is based on the extrapolation of building permit activity and other indicators of the local economic outlook. The Town is currently conservatively forecasting New Growth to be \$700,000 and continues this level in the forecast in future years as there are no large development projects before the Town in the near term.
- With regard to particular FY27 Other Revenue line items:
 - South Shore Country Club (“SSCC”) and Weir River Water System (“WRWS”) are enterprise funds and as such their revenues are fully offset by their operating expenses, capital expenses, and employee benefit costs, as detailed in Article 6 Uses total.
 - Likewise, Sewer revenues are fully offset by sewer operating expenses, debt, capital expenses, and employee benefit costs, all of which are included in the Article 6 Uses total.
 - Estimated Light Plant revenue of \$500,000 is a payment in lieu of taxes (“PILOT”).

POTENTIAL OVERRIDE

The Financial Plan stipulates that there would not be another operating override proposed before FY28. Deficit projections contained in the Five-Year forecast assume that no additional revenue sources will be available, 3.5% growth in municipal and education expenses, 2% growth in out-of-district services, and no significant changes to shared costs including employee benefits. The assumptions used for future years in developing the Five-Year Forecast have consistently been conservative resulting in large deficits in future years. Below is a chart showing the projected deficits in the Five-Year Forecasts developed for FY24-27. Surplus revenue, controlled expenditures and the use of stabilization funds and Excess Unassigned Fund balance have closed the deficits without another override since FY24, but the Advisory Committee recognizes this will likely not be sustainable beyond the next few years based on revenue and expense projections. The increasing deficits projected in each Year 4 highlights the need for additional revenue or structural changes.

	Forecasted Excess/(Shortfall) beyond Fiscal Year			
Fiscal Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
2024	(\$2,029,072)	(\$2,889,372)	(\$4,370,527)	(\$5,782,852)
2025	(\$1,756,920)	(\$3,245,476)	(\$4,939,992)	(\$6,347,941)
2026	(\$1,790,435)	(\$3,396,324)	(\$4,761,192)	(\$7,042,215)
2027	(\$1,837,396)	(\$3,751,414)	(\$6,173,656)	(\$8,914,669)

Using the Town’s Financial Planning Model, it is estimated that every \$1MM in an operating override would result in an approximate 0.84% property tax increase in the first year. For the median assessed valuation home (\$1,079,500), this equates to an approximate \$95 increase in the first year.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Committee has voted unanimously to recommend the budget amounts presented in Article 4 and unanimously for the budget amounts presented in Article 6 with the exception of one vote in opposition of the Reserve Fund and the Education budgets for approval by Town Meeting. In addition,

FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

SOURCES	ACTUALS		ESTIMATE		FORECAST	FORECAST		FORECAST		FORECAST	
	FY2025		FY2026		FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030		FY2031	
Tax Levy											
Prior Year Levy (before excluded debt)	103,368,500		106,913,744		110,908,898	114,381,620	117,941,161	121,589,690		125,329,432	
2.5% increase	2,584,213		2,672,844		2,772,722	2,859,541	2,948,529	3,039,742		3,133,236	
New growth	961,031		1,322,310		700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000		700,000	
Override	0		0		0	0	0	0		0	
Debt exclusions (net of Stab + CPCDS)	7,514,265		8,696,646		9,105,992	9,584,495	9,696,570	10,114,139		10,054,159	
Total Tax Levy	114,428,009		119,605,544		123,487,612	127,525,656	131,286,260	135,443,570		139,216,826	
Other Revenue											
State Aid (flat FY28-31)	11,162,931		11,543,617		11,990,944	11,990,944	11,990,944	11,990,944		11,990,944	
Local Receipts (2.5% FY28-31)	17,187,989		13,396,435		13,719,968	14,062,967	14,414,541	14,774,905		15,144,278	
Fund Balance	2,000,000		611,124		0	0	0	0		0	
SSCC	2,385,364		2,377,493		2,610,509	2,610,509	2,610,509	2,610,509		2,610,509	
Weir River Water System	14,810,135		14,436,530		15,174,160	15,174,160	15,174,160	15,174,160		15,174,160	
Sewer	4,229,478		4,286,508		4,628,794	4,628,794	4,628,794	4,628,794		4,628,794	
Light Plant PILOT (\$450K Min.)	471,485		500,000		500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000		500,000	
Stabilization Fund - 8409	178,836		178,836		178,836	178,836	478,836	213,693		113,693	
CPCDS Stabilization Fund (Foster/PSF) - 8412	1,000,000		2,200,000		2,300,000	2,000,000	492,466	0		0	
Capital Stabilization Fund - 8499	0		30,000		74,547	0	0	0		0	
Tax Mitigation Stabilization Fund - 8414	0		0		0	0	0	0		0	
Excess Overlay	0		334,570		0	0	0	0		0	
Municipal Waterways Fund	571,143		346,952		468,380	484,773	501,740	519,301		537,477	
Per-ride Assessment Funds	25,010		0		0	0	0	0		0	
Total Other Revenue	54,022,371		50,242,065		51,646,138	51,630,984	50,791,991	50,412,306		50,699,854	
Total Sources	168,450,380		169,847,608		175,133,750	179,156,640	182,078,251	185,855,877		189,916,681	
USES											
State Assessments (5% FY28-31)	1,173,673		1,192,655		1,127,782	1,184,171	1,243,380	1,305,549		1,370,826	
Overlay	237,374		600,000		600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000		600,000	
Other expenses / deficits	0		0		0	0	0	0		0	
Total	1,411,047		1,792,655		1,727,782	1,784,171	1,843,380	1,905,549		1,970,826	
Appropriations											
Capital Outlay (+\$100k FY28-31)	1,817,183		4,291,124		3,924,547	4,024,547	4,124,547	4,224,547		4,324,547	
Article 6 (w/o capital)	151,319,602		161,466,657		169,135,292	174,827,074	179,490,956	185,515,678		192,138,785	
Article 4	0		1,754,862		346,129	358,244	370,782	383,759		397,191	
Total Appropriation	153,136,785		167,512,643		173,405,968	179,209,864	183,986,285	190,123,984		196,860,523	
Total Uses	154,547,832		169,305,298		175,133,750	180,994,035	185,829,665	192,029,533		198,831,349	
EXCESS (Shortfall)	13,902,548		542,310		0	(1,837,396)	(3,751,414)	(6,173,656)		(8,914,669)	

the Advisory Committee has reviewed each of the other Articles in the Warrant and, after public discussion with sponsors, petitioners, proponents, and other interested citizens, has provided comments and recommended motions that reflect the relevant points made during the Committee's deliberations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Advisory Committee is most grateful for the assistance and tireless hours of work by Town Administrator Tom Mayo and Assistant Town Administrator for Finance Katie Dugan. The Advisory Committee also is appreciative of the contributions by Assistant Town Administrator for Operations Arthur Robert, Town Accountant Ann MacNaughton, Office Manager Sharon Perfetti, Executive Assistant Samantha Downton and Town counsel John Coughlin, Esq. Their diligence and timely support have enabled the Advisory Committee to better represent and serve the Town.

As in past years, the Advisory Committee benefited from strong working relationships and good communication with the Select Board, the School Committee and Administration, Town Department heads, the Capital Outlay Committee, the Community Preservation Committee, the Planning Board, and the numerous other Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees with which the Advisory Committee and its liaisons routinely interface. Developing a budget is always challenging and the Advisory Committee could not have completed its work without the support of so many of our Town leaders. Continued collaboration, mutual respect, and teamwork benefit everyone.

Hingham continues to be well served by the extraordinary efforts of its many capable and responsible employees and volunteers. The Advisory Committee thanks them all for their contributions.

Finally, the Advisory Committee would like to express its respect for the Town's citizens preparation for and participation in the Annual Town meeting. As Benjamin Lincoln once said, "With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed."

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carol Tully, Chair
Kevin Freytag, Vice Chair
Ted Ciolkisz, Secretary
Brenda Black
Ben Burnham
Elaine Cusker
John Germaine
Michael Herde
Dave Leiphart
Alan Macdonald
Steven Pohl
Mary Power
Jerry Seelen
Tina Sherwood
Brian Stack

REPORT OF THE SELECT BOARD

I am pleased to submit this report for Fiscal Year 2026 on behalf of the Select Board.

As a result of the hard work, devotion, and commitment of our municipal leaders, committees, employees, volunteers, local businesses, and residents, the Town continued to move forward with vital projects and fiscal stability. The Board has continued its efforts to find efficiencies, promote economic growth, and enhance the Town's infrastructure.

In August, the Public Safety Facility on Route 3A officially opened ushering in a new era for public safety in our community. This state-of-the-art facility is the new home of the Police Department and the new Station 2 for the Fire Department. The Board thanks the Public Safety Facility Building Committee for its diligence and hard work in bringing this important project to fruition.

The Board honored its fiscal pledge to control budget growth to 3.5% as established in the FY24-28 Financial Management Plan that was adopted by the Select Board, School Committee, and Advisory Committee in March 2023. The Board's proposed budget assures ongoing services for Town residents, including our most vulnerable residents, while respecting the constraints of fiscal responsibility.

The Town once again secured a coveted AAA rating from the leading credit rating agencies - Moody's and Standard & Poor's. This is the highest rating possible, which helps assure that Hingham has access to capital markets at the lowest possible rates, resulting in lower debt costs paid by taxpayers.

- Moody's Ratings assigned its Aaa stable rating to the Town's planned general obligation and refunding bonds, citing the Town's strong financial position with healthy reserves and liquidity, large and affluent tax base, and conservative fiscal management policies.
- S&P Global Ratings assigned its AAA long-term rating to the planned general obligation and refunding bonds and SP-1+ rating to the short-term notes. The ratings reflects the Town's consistently strong finances due to its affluent and stable property tax valuations and management's strong, forward-looking budgeting.

In February, the Town of Hingham issued \$23.5 million in long-term General Obligation Bonds and \$43.8 million in short-term Bond Anticipatory Notes. The Town's fixed income offerings were met with strong market demand during the bidding process at the end of January. The top-rated credit ensured robust market access resulting in the lowest cost of capital to the benefit of our residents. The refunding bonds were particularly well received enabling the Town to generate almost \$100,000 in annual debt service savings on the 2015 general obligation bonds.

The Town successfully applied \$4.66 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support several key projects—including the Route 3A sewer system improvements, the new Public Safety Facility, an economic development plan, a storm water master plan, and other community initiatives—while mitigating impacts on taxpayers and ratepayers.

The Town remains committed to climate action planning, ADA accessibility improvements, developing a plan to grow south Hingham, enhancing our downtown business district, and preserving the historical beauty of Hingham. Work continues to progress for the Harbor wharf wall and Route 3A Improvement Projects (sewer operations, resiliency, and long-term capital improvements). The Board continues to place an emphasis on safety and implemented motor vehicle speed limit reductions and cross walk safety measures throughout town.

The Town kicked off the Rev250 celebration honoring the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

The Town confirmed its commitment to senior residents with plans to locate a proposed new Hingham Center for Active Living (HCAL) building at Bare Cove Park Drive. The proposed HCAL will be an easy-to-navigate one-story building with large windows for natural light, sufficient parking spaces (including ADA-designated spaces), and a design that best supports programs that will enhance the independence and ongoing personal development of the Town's senior population. The Board thanks the Center for Active Living Building Committee, the Council on Aging, and the HCAL staff for their tireless work and commitment to this project.

Continuing its tradition of strong financial stewardship, the Town is advancing a focused set of important future capital investments. In the near term, the Town is furthering key projects including the proposed Hingham Center for Active Living, critical school roof and mechanical system replacements with assistance of the School Committee and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Accelerated Repair Program, and the previously authorized South Shore Country Club pool project and Inner Harbor resiliency work. At the same time, the Town maintains flexibility in the timing of future initiatives such as harbor dredging and wharf wall reconstruction. Importantly, many of these future capital costs are expected to be offset through state and federal grant opportunities and strategic regional coordination. With the ability to thoughtfully sequence projects, combined with anticipated debt roll-off and strong underlying financials, the Town remains well positioned to invest in essential infrastructure while preserving long-term fiscal stability and minimizing the impact on taxpayers.

Tom Mayo continues in his role as Town Administrator to lead the Select Board's supporting team. In 2026, we welcomed Katie Dugan as the new Assistant Town Administrator for Finance. Art Robert continues to serve as the Assistant Town Administrator for Operations, providing essential support for the Town's ongoing activities. Sharon Perfetti ably serves as the Office Manager for the Select Board and Town Administrator, Samantha Downton serves as Executive Assistant, David Sequeira as Procurement and Contracts Manager, and Patricia Burke as the Town's first full-time Sustainability Coordinator.

The Select Board thanks all Town employees, committee members, and residents who assist us in making Hingham an exceptional place to live and work. As Chair of the Select Board, it has been an honor and privilege to work alongside a group of highly-motivated and dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to assure that Hingham remains a welcoming and vibrant community for all its residents.

HINGHAM SELECT BOARD

William C. Ramsey, Chair

Elizabeth F. Klein

Julie M. Strehle

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Plymouth, ss.

To the Constables of the Town of Hingham in the County of Plymouth, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hingham qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Hingham High School, 17 Union Street, in said Hingham, on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:00 pm, then and there to act on the Warrant Articles listed below.

You are hereby also directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hingham qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at three designated polling places in said Town of Hingham according to their precinct, to wit: Precinct 1, 2, 3, and 4: High School, 17 Union Street; Precincts 5, 6, and 7: Middle School, 1103 Main Street; and Precinct 7A: Willard Square at Linden Ponds on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm, then and there to give their votes on the official ballot for:

- A Moderator to serve one year;
- One member of the Select Board to serve three years;
- One member of the Board of Assessors to serve three years;
- One member of the Board of Health to serve three years;
- One member of the Municipal Light Board to serve three years;
- Two members of the School Committee to serve three years;
- One member of the Planning Board to serve five years;
- One member of the Sewer Commission to serve three years;
- One member of the Recreation Commission to serve five years

And to give their votes "Yes" or "No" on the following Town ballot question:

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

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk on or before April 13, 2026.

Given under our hands at Hingham this thirty-first day of March 2026.

William C. Ramsey, Chair
Elizabeth F. Klein
Julie M. Strehle
SELECT BOARD

A true copy

Attest:

By virtue of the within warrant I hereby certify that I have noticed and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Hingham, qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the time and place indicated in the above warrant by causing a notice thereof to be published in The Hingham Journal seven days at least before the day appointed for said meeting. An attested copy was presented and posted by the Town Clerk in the Town Hall as of this date.

Kathleen A. Peloquin
Constable of Hingham
April 1, 2026

ARTICLE 1 HANNAH LINCOLN WHITING FUND

Will the Town choose all necessary Town Officers, other than those to be elected by ballot, including the following:

- One member of the Committee to have charge of the income of the Hannah Lincoln Whiting Fund for a term of three years,

or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This Fund was established in 1915 pursuant to the will of Ada B.W. Bacon in memory of her mother, “to be expended in relieving the necessities of the deserving poor or unfortunate of South Hingham...” Grants from the fund’s income are made at the discretion of a committee of three members, one of whom is elected each year by the Town. The total assets of the fund are \$15,733.32 of which \$733.32 is available for distribution; the principal of \$15,000 is held in trust and may not be disbursed.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That Laura Boyle, 22 Westmoreland Road, be elected a member of the Committee to have charge of the income of the Hannah Lincoln Whiting Fund for a term of three years.

ARTICLE 2 ASSUME LIABILITY FOR DCR ON RIVERS, HARBORS, ETC.

Will the Town, in accordance with, and only to the extent permitted by, Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 91, Section 29, as amended, assume liability for all damages that may be incurred by work to be performed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the improvement, development, maintenance, and protection of tidal and non-tidal rivers and streams, harbors, tide waters, foreshores, and shores along a public beach within the Town, in accordance with Section 11 of said Chapter 91, and authorize the Select Board to execute and deliver a bond of indemnity to the Commonwealth assuming such liability, or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Department of Conservation and Recreation (“DCR”), as a matter of policy, requires the Town to assume liability if the DCR is to perform any of this type of work within the Town. In accordance with the statute, the Town would assume liability for all damages sustained by any person as a result of such work performed by the DCR.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town, in accordance with, and only to the extent permitted by, M.G.L. c. 91, § 29, as amended, assume liability for all damages that may be incurred by work to be performed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the improvement, development, maintenance, and protection of tidal and non-tidal rivers and streams, harbors, tide waters, foreshores, and shores along a public beach within the Town, in accordance with Section 11 of said Chapter 91, and authorize the Select Board to execute and deliver a bond of such indemnity to the Commonwealth assuming such liability.

ARTICLE 3 REPORTS OF VARIOUS TOWN COMMITTEES

To receive the reports, if any, of the following: Affordable Housing Trust; Audit Committee; Capital Outlay Committee; Center for Active Living Building Committee; Climate Action Commission; Commission on Disabilities; Community Preservation Committee; Conservation Commission; Country Club Management Committee; Council on Aging; Energy Action Committee; GAR Hall Trustees; Harbor Development Committee; Historic Districts

Commission; Historical Commission; Board of Managers of Lincoln Apartments LLC; Long Range Waste and Recycling Committee (Cleaner Greener Hingham), Master Plan Implementation Committee; Memorial Bell Tower Committee; Open Space Acquisition Committee; Public Safety Facility Building Committee; Scholarship Fund Committee; 2017 School Building Committee; 2025 School Building Committee; Town Historian; Wastewater Master Planning Committee; Weir River Water System Citizens Advisory Board; and Weir River Water System Transition and Evaluation Committee; or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Town is fortunate to have many public-spirited citizens willing to work in these capacities. We thank them for their excellent service and recommend that all these posts and committees be continued, except that the following committees shall be discharged with thanks: Energy Action Committee, 2017 School Building Committee, and Public Safety Facility Building Committee.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the reports, if any, of the existing Town Committees and Commissions and the Town Historian be received; and that all said bodies and posts of government be continued, except that the following committees shall be discharged with thanks: Energy Action Committee, 2017 School Building Committee, and Public Safety Facility Building Committee.

ARTICLE 4 REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL BOARD

Will the Town accept the report of the Personnel Board appointed under the Classification and Salary Plan, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Personnel Board is established pursuant to the Town of Hingham Personnel By-Law and is comprised of five members appointed by the Moderator. This Article provides funds to pay for currently undetermined financial obligations of the Town relating to salary increases, fringe benefit changes, and job reclassifications for non-School Department employees, and makes certain amendments to the Personnel By-Law, including the Classification and Salary Plan.

The major actions in this year's report include Memoranda of Agreement with each of the following unions: (i) Police Patrolman's Association (term, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027), (ii) Hingham Police Superior Officers Union MCOP, Local 405 (term, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027), (iii) Hingham Permanent Firefighters Association, IAFF, Local 2398 (term, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027) and (iv) Department of Public Works Teamsters Local 25 (term, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028).

The Police Patrolman's Association Memorandum of Agreement provides for the following: (A) increases (i) general wage, 3% annually, (ii) clothing allowance, (iii) sick leave buy back, and (iv) overtime rate for police details; (B) modifications (i) hiring grades for new officers, (ii) educational incentive pay, (iii) sick leave, (iv) performance evaluation form, and (v) forced overtime rate; and (C) additions (i) two steps on the salary schedule for officers achieving 15 and 25 years of service, (ii) stipends for Evidence Room Officer, Drone Unit Officer, Childcare Safety Installation Officer, and Assistant Fleet Maintenance Officer; and (iii) wellness program with the goal of identifying and supporting employees at high risk for a cardiac event. The agreement also provides an equity adjustment.

The Hingham Police Superior Officers Union MCOP, Local 405 Memorandum of Agreement provides for the following: (A) increases (i) general wage, 3% annually, and (ii) overtime rate for police details; (B) modifications (i) educational incentive pay, (ii) sick leave, (iii) sick time retirement payout, (iv) performance evaluation form, and (v) forced overtime rate; and (C) additions (i) two steps at each officer grade at years 6 and 9 of service, (ii) stipend for Drone Unit Officer; and (iii) wellness program with the goal of identifying and supporting employees at high risk for a cardiac event. The agreement also provides an equity adjustment.

The Hingham Permanent Firefighters Association, IAFF, Local 2398 Memorandum of Agreement provides for the following: (A) increases (i) general wage, 3% annually, and (ii) Fire Prevention Officer stipend, and (B) additions (i) stipend for paramedics, and (ii) stipend for members of the newly created Fire Training Division. The agreement also provides an equity adjustment.

The police and fire department agreements also provided for the withdrawal from Civil Service, subject to: (i) the parties negotiating provisions governing promotions, layoffs, and discipline for inclusion in a future CBA, and (ii) approval at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting of Articles 24 (Civil Service: Fire) and 25 (Civil Service: Police), subject to the conditions set forth in both articles.

The Department of Public Works Teamsters Local 25 Memorandum of Agreement provides for the following increases: (i) general wage, 3% annually, (ii) sick leave buyback, (iii) annual longevity payments, (iv) clothing allowance, and (v) Class A license stipend. An essential employee stipend was added, and an equity adjustment was provided (for all positions except Foreman).

This Article recommends that employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements receive a general wage increase of 3%, effective July 1, 2026.

This Article also seeks to make an amendment to the Town's Personnel By-law, which is described in the report of the Personnel Board. The amendment clarifies the manner in which the Town gives credit to former employees rehired within two years of termination for purposes of determining sick time and vacation time benefits, and adds a similar credit for longevity benefits. The amendment also provides that former employees of Hingham Municipal Light Plant and the Hingham Public Schools who are rehired within the same time period will be covered by these sick time, vacation time, and longevity provisions.

The amendment also modifies the exit interview process by adding a provision to permit department heads and employees hired pursuant to an employment agreement to seek an exit interview with a member of the Personnel Board.

The Advisory Committee, Select Board, and Personnel Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the report and recommendations of the Personnel Board, a copy of which is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, be accepted; that the amendments of the Personnel By-Law, including the Classification and Salary Plan, and any cost item agreements reached by the Personnel Board in collective bargaining, which may be embodied or referred to in said report, be approved and adopted in their entirety, such approval and adoption to become effective July 1, 2026 or as otherwise specified in said report or agreements; that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$346,129 for the purpose of this vote; and that the Town Accountant is hereby authorized and instructed to allocate said sum to and among the several Personnel Services and Expense Accounts in such amounts, respectively, as are proper and required to meet such amendments and to comply with such collective bargaining agreements as may be entered into by the Select Board on behalf of the Town.

ARTICLE 5 SALARIES OF CERTAIN TOWN OFFICERS

Will the Town fix the salaries of the following Town Officers:

1. Members of the Select Board
2. Members of the Assessors
3. Town Clerk
4. Members of the Municipal Light Board;

or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This Article fixes the salaries of the elected Town Officers listed above.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the salary from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for each of the following officers shall be at the rates below stated or provided after the name of the office.

Select Board: at the annual rate of \$2,000 each, except that the Chair shall receive an annual rate of \$2,500 for the period of incumbency.

Board of Assessors: at the annual rate of \$1,800 each, except that the Chair shall receive an annual rate of \$2,000 for the period of incumbency.

Town Clerk¹: in accordance with the compensation rates established in Grade 10 of the Town of Hingham Classification and Salary Plan of the Personnel By-law.

Municipal Light Board: at the annual rate of \$214 each (to be paid from the receipts of the Hingham Municipal Light Department).

¹ The Town Clerk, when serving as a member of the Board of Registrars of Voters, shall be paid for such duties in accordance with M.G.L. c. 41, § 19G.

ARTICLE 6 BUDGETS

Will the Town raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money to defray the expenses of the Town for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2026, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Town's FY27 budget has been prepared in accordance with the Town of Hingham FY24 Override Framework and FY24-28 Financial Management Plan, also known as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was presented at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting in conjunction with the override. At that meeting and a subsequent ballot vote at the Annual Town Election, Hingham citizens approved a \$7.9 million override to support the Town's FY24 operating budget. The MOU serves as a pledge by Town leaders to taxpayers to limit the future growth of operating budgets to 3.5% and not to propose another override before FY28. The MOU was signed by the Select Board, School Committee, School Superintendent, Advisory Committee, and Town Administrator.

The Municipal departments—categorized under General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Human Services, and Culture and Recreation—and the School Department have been held to the 3.5% operating budget growth rate as stipulated by the MOU. Separately, self-supporting departments (water, sewer, South Shore Country Club) and Shared Services (employee benefits, debt service, capital outlay, property/liability insurance) are not subject to the 3.5% cap.

Within the School budget, while the MOU is in place, out-of-district special education tuitions, related contracted transportation, and in-district contracted specialized services (OOD and Contracted Costs) are considered separately for growth calculation due to their unpredictable and largely uncontrollable nature. These OOD and Contracted Costs are budgeted within the School Department operating budget at a 2% annual growth rate for the duration of the MOU.

Per the MOU, if expense growth exceeds 2%, excess costs will first be offset by applicable circuit breaker reimbursements, grant funding, and, to the extent possible, Special Education Reserve funds. Any remaining excess expenses will be paid through the Article 6 Reserve Fund process (Article 10 in the Warrant for the 2026 Town Meeting). For FY26, the projected payment from the Article 6 Reserve Fund is approximately \$350,000 after applying of the balance in the Special Education Reserve Fund (approximately \$400,000). Additionally, Article 10 is projected to include approximately \$1,050,000 for snow and ice expenses.

For FY27 excess OOD and Contracted Costs are projected at approximately \$2,079,200, to be funded from next year's Article 6 Reserve Fund Process.

The MOU outlines the maximum operating budgets for the Municipal and School Departments assuming the full amount is budgeted each year. Given the limitations of adhering to a 3.5% growth rate, certain programs and

services have been funded at lower levels than desired or not funded at all in FY27.

Maximum Operating Budgets	2024	2025	2026	2027
Municipal	\$ 34,731,577	\$ 35,947,182	\$ 37,205,334	\$ 38,507,520
School	\$ 65,703,985	\$ 68,003,624	\$ 70,383,751	\$ 72,847,183

The FY27 budget season began with both Municipal and School departments submitting level-service budget requests. Revenue sources of note include the transfer of \$2,176,908 from Ambulance Receipts for Fire Department payroll for ambulance services; the transfer of \$468,380 from the Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund for Harbormaster payroll and capital outlay; the transfer of \$74,547 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for capital outlay of various departments; the use of \$4,628,794 in sewer rates to support the Sewer budget; the use of \$2,610,509 in South Shore Country Club (SSCC) revenue to support the SSCC budget; and the use of \$15,174,160 in water rates from Weir River Water System to support the Weir River Water System budget.

The Municipal level-services budget request was \$38,447,617, which was \$59,903 less than the budget expenses as outlined by the commitment in the MOU. Budget adjustments included the addition of a Part-Time Payroll Specialist, additional Town Cybersecurity and monitor response services, and the purchase of Office 365 licenses for elected officials to provide them with Town email.

Under M.G.L. c. 71, § 34, Town Meeting establishes the total School Department budget, but may not limit the authority of the School Committee to determine expenditures within that total appropriation. The School level-services budget request was \$81,981,179. This figure was offset by \$6,623,060 in grants and revolving funds, and \$2,079,200 in estimated Special Education costs to be paid by the Town in accordance with the MOU. Notwithstanding these items, as of the Warrant publication date, the level services request resulted in a requirement to reduce \$431,736 in expenses to comply with the MOU.

The Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article and Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of this Article except for the Budgets for the Reserve Fund which had a vote of 13-1 and Education which had a vote of 12-1.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town raise, appropriate and/or transfer for each of the following purposes, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026 (FY27), the sum of money stated therefor, including any appropriations or transfers from specified funds as detailed below, and also that authority is hereby given to turn in vehicles and equipment in partial payment for vehicles and equipment purchased in those cases where a turn-in is stated; and provided that any amount or portion thereof appropriated to a sub-account and included in a numbered account as set forth below may be transferred to another sub-account under the same numbered account with the approval of the Select Board and the Advisory Committee.

	<u>Fiscal 2025 Expended</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026 Appropriated</u>	<u>Advisory Fiscal 2027 Recommended</u>
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
122 SELECT BOARD			
Payroll	852,756	859,906	904,364
Expenses	<u>90,444</u>	<u>72,649</u>	<u>75,200</u>
Total	943,200	932,555	979,564
131 HUMAN RESOURCES			
Payroll	208,853	211,816	218,696
Expenses	<u>8,416</u>	<u>9,100</u>	<u>9,325</u>
Total	217,268	220,916	228,021
132 RESERVE FUND	0	800,000	854,608
135 ACCOUNTING			
Payroll	326,142	326,588	389,911
Expenses	30,404	12,700	12,700
Audit	<u>86,850</u>	<u>96,150</u>	<u>106,000</u>
Total	443,396	435,438	508,611
137 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Payroll	290,959	266,946	278,373
Expenses	611,464	724,468	797,725
Capital Outlay	<u>259,476</u>	<u>135,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>
Total	1,161,900	1,126,414	1,221,098
141 ASSESSING			
Payroll	356,307	372,916	387,069
Expenses	9,636	11,358	11,358
Consulting	35,195	45,000	45,000
Map Maintenance	<u>695</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>
Total	401,832	429,574	443,727
145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR			
Payroll	401,709	426,331	452,573
Expenses	58,470	64,336	68,855
Tax Titles	9,497	10,000	11,000
Capital Outlay	<u>0</u>	<u>9,595</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	469,675	510,262	532,428
151 LEGAL SERVICES	615,485	395,372	400,000
159 TOWN MEETING			
Payroll	1,994	2,800	2,800
Expenses	<u>108,672</u>	<u>95,000</u>	<u>110,200</u>
Total	110,666	97,800	113,000

	<u>Fiscal 2025 Expended</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026 Appropriated</u>	<u>Advisory Fiscal 2027 Recommended</u>
161 TOWN CLERK			
Payroll	227,877	240,226	262,947
Expenses	<u>19,191</u>	<u>20,130</u>	<u>20,441</u>
Total	247,068	260,356	283,388
162 ELECTIONS			
Payroll	35,715	15,480	24,925
Expenses	23,724	21,100	34,310
Capital Outlay	<u>13,075</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	72,514	36,580	59,235
171 CONSERVATION			
Payroll	240,511	241,781	256,291
Expenses	<u>9,104</u>	<u>49,250</u>	<u>29,400</u>
Total	249,616	291,031	285,691
175 COMMUNITY PLANNING			
Payroll	253,512	258,245	273,927
Expenses	<u>9,533</u>	<u>17,650</u>	<u>17,650</u>
Total	263,045	275,895	291,577
176 LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT			
Payroll	172,982	176,038	188,510
Expenses	<u>3,002</u>	<u>7,170</u>	<u>7,170</u>
Total	175,985	183,208	195,680
177 BARE COVE PARK			
Payroll	26,550	26,366	27,184
Expenses	6,650	15,300	15,300
Capital Outlay	<u>0</u>	<u>23,231</u>	<u>58,000</u>
Total	33,200	64,897	100,484
192 TOWN HALL			
Payroll (including overtime of \$15,000)	337,798	339,030	358,732
Expenses	361,840	379,600	380,550
Capital Outlay	<u>68,274</u>	<u>305,052</u>	<u>168,690</u>
Total	767,912	1,023,682	907,972
193 GAR HALL			
Expenses	<u>25,132</u>	<u>20,332</u>	<u>20,332</u>
Total	25,132	20,332	20,332
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	<u>6,197,895</u>	<u>7,104,312</u>	<u>7,425,416</u>

	<u>Fiscal 2025 Expended</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026 Appropriated</u>	<u>Advisory Fiscal 2027 Recommended</u>
PUBLIC SAFETY			
210 POLICE			
Payroll (including overtime of \$914,406)	6,656,833	7,048,364	7,891,323
Expenses	416,719	466,600	497,000
Capital Outlay	<u>405,182</u>	<u>621,670</u>	<u>524,885</u>
Total	7,478,735	8,136,634	8,913,208
220 FIRE			
Payroll (including overtime of \$928,448) (appropriate \$2,176,908 from Ambulance Receipts)	7,054,346	7,361,651	8,339,025
Expenses	565,461	744,537	800,237
Capital Outlay	<u>65,735</u>	<u>831,124</u>	<u>300,960</u>
Total	7,685,542	8,937,312	9,440,222
240 DISPATCH SERVICES	1,114,465	1,089,389	1,090,100
241 BUILDING			
Payroll	353,776	399,672	403,202
Expenses	11,904	13,582	13,582
Capital Outlay (transfer \$24,547 from Capital Stabilization Fund)	<u>0</u>	<u>46,000</u>	<u>47,139</u>
Total	365,680	459,254	463,923
292 ANIMAL CONTROL			
Payroll (including overtime of \$2,059)	92,963	97,451	105,103
Expenses	<u>3,085</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>6,200</u>
Total	96,048	103,651	111,303
295 HARBORMASTER			
Payroll (including overtime of \$15,480) (transfer \$218,380 from Municipal Waterways Improvement & Maintenance Fund)	308,009	321,321	338,236
Expenses	89,480	90,235	123,885
Capital Outlay (transfer \$250,000 from Municipal Waterways Improvement & Maintenance Fund) (transfer \$50,000 from Capital Stabilization Fund)	<u>60,000</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
Total	457,488	561,556	762,121
299 PUBLIC SAFETY UTILITIES			
Emergency Water	332,438	400,000	412,000
Street Lighting	112,875	128,624	132,483
Public Safety Facility	<u>0</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>128,864</u>
Total	445,313	648,624	673,347
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	<u>17,643,271</u>	<u>19,936,420</u>	<u>21,454,224</u>

	<u>Fiscal 2025 Expended</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026 Appropriated</u>	<u>Advisory Fiscal 2027 Recommended</u>
EDUCATION			
300 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT			
Payroll	58,583,673	60,266,942	61,502,914
Expenses	11,419,951	10,116,810	11,344,269
Capital Outlay	<u>921,714</u>	<u>1,623,452</u>	<u>1,032,858</u>
Total	70,925,338	72,007,204	73,880,041
TOTAL EDUCATION	70,925,338	72,007,204	73,880,041
PUBLIC WORKS			
420 DPW/HIGHWAY/TREE & PARK			
Payroll (including overtime of \$110,035)	2,518,095	2,908,597	3,025,934
Expenses	796,249	894,190	918,060
Snow Removal (including overtime of \$126,407)	700,894	633,968	633,968
Road Maintenance	287,134	430,500	430,500
Capital Outlay	<u>186,336</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>792,640</u>
Total	4,488,708	4,867,255	5,801,102
430 TRANSFER STATION			
Payroll (including overtime of \$44,630)	577,890	591,406	670,001
Expenses	1,028,076	1,327,462	1,327,462
Capital Outlay	<u>159,913</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>390,000</u>
Total	1,765,879	1,943,868	2,387,463
440 SEWER			
Payroll	312,884	204,750	224,541
Expenses	299,501	669,912	665,752
Engineering	10,008	13,500	13,500
Debt Service	44,095	42,617	138,764
MWRA Charges	2,165,417	2,319,234	2,377,215
Hull Intermunicipal Agreement	432,654	459,245	473,022
Capital Outlay	<u>410,937</u>	<u>577,250</u>	<u>736,000</u>
Total (appropriate \$4,628,794 from Sewer revenue)	3,675,496	4,286,508	4,628,794
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	9,930,083	11,097,631	12,817,359
HUMAN SERVICES			
510 HEALTH			
Payroll	368,863	312,342	300,929
Expenses	<u>14,491</u>	<u>40,962</u>	<u>42,850</u>
Total	383,354	353,304	343,779

	<u>Fiscal 2025 Expended</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026 Appropriated</u>	<u>Advisory Fiscal 2027 Recommended</u>
541 CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING			
Payroll	374,845	408,052	429,490
Expenses	<u>11,462</u>	<u>22,310</u>	<u>22,310</u>
Total	386,307	430,362	451,800
543 VETERANS' SERVICES			
Payroll	121,312	114,448	121,304
Expenses	6,372	7,956	7,956
Benefits	<u>83,328</u>	<u>148,529</u>	<u>148,529</u>
Total	211,012	270,933	277,789
545 HEALTH IMPERATIVES	2,700	0	0
546 SOUTH SHORE RESOURCE & ADVOCACY CTR	3,700	0	0
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	987,073	1,054,599	1,073,368
CULTURE AND RECREATION			
610 LIBRARY			
Payroll (including overtime of \$76,690)	1,825,540	1,967,159	2,014,422
Expenses	415,617	498,827	512,862
Capital Outlay	<u>38,300</u>	<u>156,000</u>	<u>164,375</u>
Total	2,279,457	2,621,986	2,691,659
630 RECREATION			
Payroll	196,759	0	0
Expenses	208,482	0	0
Capital Outlay	<u>35,900</u>	<u>365,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	441,141	365,000	0
631 ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE			
Payroll	0	76,928	79,236
Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>204,165</u>	<u>210,290</u>
Total	0	281,093	289,526
650 BATHING BEACH			
Payroll	29,756	31,202	32,138
Expenses	<u>13,777</u>	<u>8,800</u>	<u>8,800</u>
Total	43,533	40,002	40,938
691 HISTORIC PRESERVATION			
Payroll	74,179	75,782	82,985
Expenses	<u>4,426</u>	<u>9,538</u>	<u>9,538</u>
Total	78,605	85,320	92,523

	<u>Fiscal 2025 Expended</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026 Appropriated</u>	<u>Advisory Fiscal 2027 Recommended</u>
692 CELEBRATIONS	11,397	15,241	15,241
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	<u>2,854,133</u>	<u>3,408,642</u>	<u>3,129,887</u>
ENTERPRISE FUNDS			
720 SOUTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB			
Payroll	1,112,002	1,161,978	1,219,463
Expenses	797,074	896,234	963,350
Debt Service	250,919	244,281	392,696
Capital Outlay	<u>278,310</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>
Total (appropriate \$2,610,509 from South Shore Country Club revenue)	2,438,305	2,377,493	2,610,509
730 WEIR RIVER WATER SYSTEM			
Payroll	285,091	334,451	328,959
Expenses	7,392,407	7,874,746	8,397,548
Debt Service	<u>5,928,584</u>	<u>6,227,333</u>	<u>6,447,653</u>
Total (appropriate \$15,174,160 from Weir River Water System revenue)	13,606,083	14,436,530	15,174,160
TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	<u>16,044,388</u>	<u>16,814,023</u>	<u>17,784,669</u>
DEBT SERVICE			
DEBT SERVICE	10,933,506	13,695,055	13,893,125
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	<u>10,933,506</u>	<u>13,695,055</u>	<u>13,893,125</u>
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
900 GROUP INSURANCE	7,345,835	8,406,867	9,007,640
903 OPEB	1,412,523	1,498,660	1,554,162
910 CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT	6,759,093	7,190,072	7,547,646
912 WORKER'S COMPENSATION	540,000	330,000	330,000
913 UNEMPLOYMENT	122,971	50,000	51,900
914 MANDATORY MEDICARE	1,155,400	1,293,716	1,357,022
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	<u>17,335,822</u>	<u>18,769,315</u>	<u>19,848,370</u>

	<u>Fiscal 2025 Expended</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026 Appropriated</u>	<u>Advisory Fiscal 2027 Recommended</u>
UNCLASSIFIED			
915 PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE	1,700,527	1,870,580	1,753,379
TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED	1,700,527	1,870,580	1,753,379
GRAND TOTAL	154,552,035	165,757,781	173,059,838

ARTICLE 7 TRANSFER FROM THE STABILIZATION FUND

Will the Town transfer a sum of money from the Stabilization Fund and/or from available reserves for the purpose of paying debt service for excluded debt in order to reduce the need to raise said funds through the FY26 tax rate, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Stabilization Fund, with a balance of approximately \$1.8 million as of December 31, 2025, contains premiums related to the issuance of excluded debt bonds for multiple school capital projects approved in prior fiscal years. These bond premiums were transferred into the Stabilization Fund pursuant to Article 12 of the 2011 Annual Town Meeting, and Article 7 of the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, with the intent that they be used to offset future debt service costs on the bonds. Each year, an amortized portion of these funds is withdrawn from the Stabilization Fund to offset the fiscal year interest payments due on the bonds, thereby reducing the annual cost to taxpayers.

Under the version of M.G.L. c. 44, § 20 in effect at the time these bond premiums were deposited into the Stabilization Fund, these funds were considered general revenue of the Town and could have been used for any lawful purpose under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter M.G.L. c. 40, § 5B. However, that statute has since been amended and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) Division of Local Services issued updated guidance in February 2022 limiting the future use of such bond premiums (IGR No. 22-01). Under this guidance, the bond premiums presently in the Stabilization Fund must be used to offset interest paid in future years on the original excluded debt. The recommended motion follows this guidance by transferring a portion of the Stabilization Fund to offset interest on the excluded debt, thereby reducing the amount that would otherwise need to be raised through the FY27 tax rate.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town transfer \$178,836 from the Stabilization Fund for the purpose of paying interest on outstanding excluded debt notes/bonds in order to reduce the need to raise said funds through the FY27 tax rate.

ARTICLE 8 DISBURSEMENT OF ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS

Will the Town appropriate, from the receipts of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant ("HMLP"), money for the maintenance and operation of the Plant for the 12-month period commencing July 1, 2026, pursuant to Sections 57 and 57A of Chapter 164 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and provide for the disposition of any surplus receipts, and will the Town transfer from available funds to HMLP any Monetized Tax Credits received by the Town for HMLP eligible projects, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant ("HMLP") is self-funding; funds collected from billing customers are used to pay all expenses incurred by the Plant. The HMLP Board has a written policy in place whereby it makes a voluntary earned surplus payment in the form of a Payment In Lieu of Taxes ("PILOT") to the Town. The PILOT amount is calculated by multiplying the number of kilowatt hours sold by HMLP in the prior year by \$0.0025. The minimum payment that HMLP is expected to make to the Town is \$450,000. However, based on sales for the last several years, it is estimated that the total final payment will be approximately \$480,000 during FY27. HMLP's PILOT to the Town has the effect of reducing the Town's tax rate.

HMLP is due to receive \$380,284 from the Town in Monetized Tax Credits ("Credits"). These Credits were paid by the Federal Government as reimbursement for the installation of solar panels on the HMLP administrative building, garage, and a solar canopy above the parking area. The Town has already received and deposited these funds as general fund revenue, and an amount equal to said Credits will be appropriated from Unassigned Fund Balance to HMLP.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That, with the exception of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant's ("HMLP") PILOT, to which no less than \$450,000 in received funds is hereby transferred to the Town's General Fund to reduce the FY27 tax rate, all funds received by the HMLP during the 12-month period commencing July 1, 2026, be appropriated to said HMLP, the same to be expended by the Manager of said HMLP under the control and direction of the Municipal Light Board, for the expenses of the Plant during said period, pursuant to and as defined in Sections 57 and 57A of Chapter 164 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and, if there should be any surplus receipts at the end of said period, such amount as is deemed necessary shall be transferred to the Plant's net investment in capital assets and appropriated and used for such additions to the Plant as may be authorized by the Municipal Light Board during said period; and further, that the Town transfer an amount equal to the Monetized Tax Credits received by the Town from the Federal Government of \$380,284 from Unassigned Fund Balance to HMLP.

ARTICLE 9 BUILDING DEPARTMENT REVOLVING FUND

Will the Town limit the total amount that may be spent from the Building Department Revolving Fund, established under Article 18 of the General By-laws, to \$265,000 during FY27, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Building Department Revolving Fund is credited with all fees from plumbing, gas, and electrical inspections performed by Inspectors. This fund is used to pay wages, salaries, and fringe benefits (as applicable) to these Building Department staff members. This revolving fund was previously created by Town Meeting under Article 18 of the Hingham General By-laws and is compliant with M.G.L. c. 44 § 53E1 ½.

Each year, Town Meeting must vote to limit the total amount that may be spent from this revolving fund. In recent years, the total spending cap has been as high as \$280,000. However, a determination was made in FY26 to begin lowering the spending cap in order to continue to bring the revolving fund more in line with its revenue and maintain a positive balance in the revolving fund. The spending cap for FY27 is \$265,000.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town limit the total amount that may be spent from the Building Department Revolving Fund established under Article 18 of Town of Hingham General By-laws, to \$265,000 during FY27.

ARTICLE 10 TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE RESERVE FUND

Will the Town raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to the Town's Reserve Fund for use during FY26, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This Article is included each year in case the existing Reserve Fund is not adequate to cover extraordinary or unforeseen expenses for the balance of the current Fiscal Year ("FY26"); such expenses traditionally have included budget items that are difficult to manage or predict, such as excess snow and ice removal costs, unanticipated legal expenses, extraordinary Police and Fire overtime, and the like. The 2025 Annual Town Meeting allocated \$800,000 to the Reserve Fund for FY26, an amount that was both consistent with the Town's Financial Policy (approximately 0.75% of the Operating Budget) and deemed likely adequate at the time to cover the traditional unanticipated expenses.

In 2023 the Town developed the "FY24 Override Framework and FY24-28 Financial Management Plan," also known as the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"). This document includes caps on operating budget growth for both Municipal departments and the School department. It also includes a mechanism by which certain excess costs for out-of-district special education tuitions, related contracted transportation, and in-district contracted specialized services ("OOD and Contracted Costs"), as defined in the MOU, would be covered by the Town's Reserve Fund, outside of the School Department's capped annual operating budget. As of this writing, the excess OOD and Contracted Costs incurred during FY26 are projected to account for a significant portion of the entire Reserve Fund allocation for this fiscal year. As a result, the Reserve Fund transfer delineated by this Article will be significantly higher than in most previous years, both in absolute and relative terms.

Based on the time frame established in the MOU, this situation is likely to recur next year during the development of the FY28 annual budget, if the Town's OOD and Contracted Costs continue to be at or above current levels. This situation would not necessarily recur in subsequent years if the Town does not extend the current MOU or does not adopt a new MOU with similar provisions.

In addition to the unanticipated amount of excess OOD and Contracted Costs described above, recent snowstorms have resulted in significant additional costs for snow and ice removal. The total specific amount to be raised and appropriated, or transferred from available funds, will be reported at Town Meeting.

RECOMMENDED: The Advisory Committee will make its recommendation at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 11 WATERWAYS FUND TRANSFER

Will the Town vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money, which sum was generated from fees paid to the Town of Hingham during FY26, from any parking license for the purpose of accessing slips or moorings, and revenues generated by the Harbormaster's Office and/or boat excise taxes, for deposit to the Town's Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund, to be used in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40, § 5G, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This Article asks if the Town will transfer funds generated from fees related to the use of Hingham Harbor to the Town's Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund (MWIMF), in addition to those required by state law.

The MWIMF was established at 2019 Annual Town Meeting and by statute must receive all proceeds from mooring fees and 50% of the boat excise taxes collected by the Town each year, which total approximately \$350,000 per year.

This Article asks if the Town will transfer additional monies to the MWIMF, equal to the revenues generated in FY26 by the Harbormaster's Office, including mooring/docking permit late fees and boating fines, parking licenses for the purpose of accessing slips or moorings, and the remaining 50% of boat excise taxes.

Transferring these waterways-related revenues to the MWIMF will provide the Town a partial funding source for future appropriations for harbor related expenses, such as dredging and improvement of the harbor, the breakwaters, retaining walls, piers, wharves and moorings, and associated law enforcement and fire prevention activities. The current balance in the Fund is \$1,551,287.

The amounts noted below are projected estimates because the total receipts from each of these Harbor related sources will not be known until the end of FY26. Transfer of these funds to MWIMF will not increase the FY27 tax levy.

The Advisory Committee and Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from available funds a sum of money, which sum was generated from fees paid to the Town of Hingham during FY26, including all revenue from any parking license for the purpose of accessing slips or moorings (approximately \$40,000), all revenues generated by the Harbormaster's Office, including mooring/docking permit late fees and boating fines (approximately \$25,000), and the remaining 50% of boat excise taxes (approximately \$25,000) from Local Receipts, for deposit into the Town's Municipal Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund, to be used in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40, § 5G.

ARTICLE 12 CONSTRUCTION OF CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING

Will the Town raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Select Board to be used to pay for the construction of a new Center for Active Living, including all professional fees, equipment and furniture associated therewith, at a site located off Bare Cove Park Drive, Hingham, MA or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This article asks if the Town will raise and appropriate funds to build a new Center for Active Living ("CAL" or senior center), off Bare Cove Park Drive. Bids for constructing the new CAL are expected in mid-April, and the actual cost of construction will be reported at Town Meeting. The January 2026 estimate for the construction cost is \$29,927,423.

Hingham currently has 7,904 residents over 60 years old, comprising 32% of the town's population (2025 Town Census). The number of senior residents is projected to grow to approximately 9,000 or 39% of the town's population by 2035 and become the largest senior population percentage among our peer towns. The 2025 Healthy Aging in Massachusetts report released in May 2025 from the UMASS Gerontology Institute showed that compared to our benchmark and peer south shore communities, Hingham's seniors (65+) exceed the state's average of seniors living with multiple chronic medical conditions.

Hingham's current CAL was established in 1997 in 5,200 sq. ft. of Town Hall, and since 2011, has been acknowledged as undersized and inadequate for the needs of Hingham's significant and growing senior population.

History of the project

- In 2013, first community needs assessment, Aging in Hingham by UMASS Gerontology Institute, reported an increasing senior population. The report can be found on Center for Active Living Building Project webpage on the Town website.
- In 2017, funds were appropriated to assess space needs of departments by the Town Hall Study Committee (Article 22, ATM 2017) and reported the space inadequate for the Elder Services Department among others.

- In 2020, \$525,000 was appropriated for design and engineering work to renovate space at Town Hall for an enlarged senior center and additional parking (Article 14 of ATM 2020).
- Also in 2020, the Senior Center Building Committee was established (Article 15 of ATM 2020) and was renamed the Center for Active Living Building Committee, (“CALBC”), when the center’s name change occurred in 2023).
- In 2022 a new Aging in Hingham: Community Needs Assessment was completed by the UMass Gerontology Institute and identified the needs and preferences of Hingham residents as they age. The report can be found on the CAL Building Project webpage on the Town website.
- In 2023, the uses for which the 2020 appropriation could be used were amended to allow considering alternative Town-owned sites in addition to potential expansion at Town Hall (Article 15 at ATM 2023).
- After extensive review of multiple sites in town, the CALBC chose a site off Bare Cove Park Drive because no option at Town Hall was found that provided sufficient space for the planned programming and a solution for adequate parking. Details of the full range of sites assessed can be found in the 2/11/25 CAL presentation on the CAL Building Project webpage.
- In 2025, Town Meeting appropriated \$2.5 million for professional services to complete design and pre-construction bid documents in order to obtain construction bids for a new CAL located off Bare Cove Park Drive (Article 15 ATM 2025).
- And in 2025, Town Meeting authorized the town to petition the state legislature (Article 16 of ATM 2025) under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution to change the use of approximately 5.387 acres of currently protected public recreation land off Bare Cove Park Drive to use for the CAL, and to authorize, as replacement land, approximately 7 acres of town-owned land off High Street near Plymouth River School, to be placed under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission, which will subject it to Article 97 protection. On 2/6/26, this legislation was enacted into law. If the CAL construction funding is approved and the Town proceeds with the CAL project, a vote of the Conservation Commission will subsequently be needed to accept the transfer of care, custody, and control of the parcel.

Design process

The CALBC met 67 times in public meetings from 2021 through early 2026 to identify the challenges at the existing CAL, the needs and interests of residents, programming and design concepts in other modernized senior centers, and to develop the proposed programming and space needs for a new CAL. The UMass study identified the need for an expanded facility with multiple large spaces for educational, fitness, and enrichment activities, areas for social interaction (34% of Hingham’s seniors live alone), supports for caregivers (30% of Hingham’s seniors are caregivers), and increased transportation services, along with increased outreach to help seniors learn about the services available at the center. Thirty-two percent of study respondents indicated they attend programs at other towns’ senior centers which are not available at Hingham’s CAL. This was validated through conversations with neighboring towns. The driving force for building a new center is to accommodate the current and increasing population of seniors by providing a facility that can significantly expand the number and array of programs now severely restrained by the current location’s size, inadequate parking, and building configuration.

The CALBC engaged EDM Studio (an architectural firm with expertise in buildings including municipal senior centers), SLR Consulting (site planning, civil engineering, and environmental analysis), and Lifespan Design studio (senior center design specialist) to assist in the design process. EDM conducted a survey, focus groups and one-on-one meetings. This data was used with the UMass study to inform the design process. A core aspect of the modern senior center model is congregating the full range of services appropriate to supporting senior wellness in one location, allowing for an initial contact with senior services, and resulting in learning about and then evolving into participation in a range of services as seniors age and their needs change.

Proposed building and site development

The new CAL is proposed to be a 25,950-sq. ft. single story building with enhanced accessibility, ADA compliance, natural daylight, outdoor amenity space, and 140 parking spaces. It was designed for sufficient space for a wide range of activities consistent with the modern model for senior services delivery, whose goal is support for seniors to remain healthy, engaged, and able to live in their own homes. The building’s spaces and furnishings are

appropriate for seniors with mobility and other challenges. Constructed according to the Specialized Energy Code, it will be all-electric for greater energy efficiency, reduced emissions, and operating costs.

There have been questions as to why the project is not being located at Town Hall, as had originally been proposed. The CALBC undertook the feasibility study for the new CAL with the expectation that the space being vacated by the Police Department's move out of Town Hall would be redeveloped to house the new CAL. As the programming needs for Hingham's growing number of seniors were identified, it became evident that the Town Hall location could not provide sufficient space nor sufficient parking without major construction and the use of current athletic field land. The results of the comparative analysis of four Town Hall and eight Bare Cove Park Drive sites can be found in the 2/11/25 CAL Presentation on the CAL Building Project webpage. At this time, the South Shore Regional Emergency Communications Center ("SSRECC") is considering taking additional space at Town Hall and is seeking a grant from the Massachusetts 911 Department for feasibility and design.

Development of the proposed site off Bare Cove Park Drive will include demolishing an abandoned munitions building, installing storm water management systems, constructing a parking lot with 140 spaces, and planting of 250 native trees and shrubs.

Programming planned

Modern senior centers are designed to offer a wide range of programs that have been shown to positively impact overall wellness in seniors. They also offer programs for those already experiencing chronic conditions aimed at supporting them in remaining active and engaged, and which have been shown to reduce the need for emergency medical care. Aspects of the programming planned for the new CAL were modeled on the Marshfield senior center, a town with similar demographics and percentage of seniors (28%), where the center was expanded to 24,000 sq. ft. in 2022. The success of the programming at the Marshfield senior center is reflected in 55% of that Town's seniors participating in one or more activities at their center each year.

Hingham's new CAL plans to offer a wide range of services, including:

Health and Wellness services such as health screenings, blood pressure and flu shot clinics, health and safety classes, support groups for persons living with chronic conditions; fitness classes such as stretch, balance, yoga, fitness room; Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) counseling, and wellness fairs

Nutrition services including congregate meals, cooking and nutrition classes, on site café providing light meals and snacks and opportunities for socialization, and Meals on Wheels home delivered meals

Learning, arts and enrichment activities including Bridgewater Senior University classes, Life Long Learning lectures, clean and wet art classes and open art activity times, and board and card games and game instruction offered in person as well as remotely for seniors at home

Outreach services including consults with older adults, caregivers and family members, information and referrals related to housing, in home services, caregiver supports, community support services and support groups; assistance in applying for subsidized programs for fuel, housing, nutrition benefits, and for real estate tax exemption and relief programs

Transportation services including transportation to local medical appointments, essential shopping, local errands, CAL programs, local day trips, and full day trips

Financial and legal services including elder law education, financial advisor consults, AARP Tax Assistance Program, fuel assistance, property tax work off, and senior circuit breaker tax credit information

Construction costs

The January 2026 estimate of the total cost of constructing the new CAL is \$29,927,423 consisting of:

Building Costs: \$19,964,549

Site Development Costs: \$6,213,950 (about 20% of total; includes electric service and sewer line)

Soft Costs: \$4,348,924 (furnishings, testing, and standard project contingency)

Final building and site costs will be confirmed in mid-April and provided at Town Meeting.

In addition to construction and site work, the project includes two infrastructure improvements not funded by construction borrowing:

A \$400,000 water line to also be extended to Bare Cove Park to serve a new hydrant and bubbler, and \$275,000 to repave Bare Cove Park Drive after construction. Both will be funded through the DPW budget, totaling \$675,000.

Prior to, and separate from, the CAL project, due to pre-existing conditions in the area, the Town identified the Fort Hill/Bare Cove Park Drive intersection as a candidate for the state's Complete Streets Funding Program to improve pedestrian and cyclist accessibility to the MBTA and to the various existing recreational amenities along Bare Cove Park Drive, as well as improve the efficiency of the existing intersection. The traffic studies and zoning permits for the CAL did not identify improvements to this intersection as necessary for the construction of the CAL. However, the Town believes that a traffic signal would be the best option to improve accessibility and intersection operation and is estimated to cost \$300,000. To accomplish this, the Town is actively pursuing cooperation and possible partnership with MBTA, grant funding from MassDOT, as well as budgeting Chapter 90 funding for this capital improvement

Operating costs

Senior centers are unique in that services are provided through a range of funding sources including the municipal budget, annual state formula grant, activity fees, other grants, community fundraising (Council on Aging Gift Account and new in 2025, Friends of the CAL, formed to fundraise and support services at the CAL), partnerships with local organizations, and thousands of volunteer hours.

The proposed Center for Active Living municipal budget for FY27 is \$451,800 which includes 4 full-time and 4 half-time CAL positions. In 2025 volunteers provided 5,404 hours of service for the CAL with an additional 1,000 hours provided by seniors participating in Hingham's property tax work-off program. Also in 2025, seventy-five organizations, businesses, and agencies provided support for the CAL to enrich programs and expand comprehensive supports for seniors.

Operating costs for the new CAL are expected to increase the CAL municipal budget by approximately \$225,000 in the first year of operation. This includes the hiring of a new custodial position, utility, and insurance costs associated with the new building. These costs are ongoing and are likely to grow.

The experience of other recently expanded and modernized South Shore senior centers indicates that, as the additional space allows for expanded types and frequency of classes, increased opportunities for volunteers and partnerships to provide a wider range of enrichment, and educational programs, the fee revenues will increase. Additional fee revenue has supported new full-time staff positions in some modernized senior centers on the South Shore. The new CAL also expects an increase in the number of seniors using the Hingham property tax work-off program and providing staffing support for programming at the CAL. It is also anticipated that as programming and participation at the CAL grows, new staff positions will be proposed to the municipal budget. Potential rental use of the building in off-hours could also generate revenue.

Total project cost and proposed funding

As previously stated, the January 2026 estimate for constructing the new CAL is \$29,927,423 (rounded to \$30 million). It is anticipated that the Town will issue a \$15 million Bond Anticipation Note ("BAN") in FY27, followed by a \$30 million BAN in FY28. After construction is complete and final costs are confirmed (up to \$30 million), long-term level principal bonds will be issued and repaid over 28 years.

Without any new borrowing or overrides, Hingham property taxes are projected to rise approximately 16.9% over five years (FY26–31, averaging 3.4% annually). This includes allowable increases under Proposition 2½, the impact of existing debt, and the phase-out of stabilization funds currently offsetting the Public Safety Facility and Foster School projects, which will be fully depleted by FY29.

Authorization of the CAL project (estimated at \$30 million) is projected to increase property taxes by an additional 1.8% over five years, or about 0.4% annually. Adding this cost for CAL, total property taxes are expected to rise approximately 18.8% over five years, averaging 3.8% per year. The incremental impact on homes of varying assessed values is shown in the table below.

	Projected CAL Tax Increase				
Property Assessed Value	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
\$750,000	\$30	\$60	\$155	\$152	\$149
\$1.075 million (median assessed valuation)	\$43	\$86	\$222	\$218	\$214
\$1.367 million (average assessed valuation)	\$55	\$109	\$283	\$277	\$272
\$2.0 million	\$80	\$160	\$414	\$406	\$398
\$2.5 million	\$100	\$200	\$517	\$507	\$497

Individual property owners can calculate the tax increase for their property by using the Tax Impact Calculator located on the Town website.

Hingham’s Council on Aging supports the proposed new CAL building project.

Resident views

The Advisory Committee has heard from many residents about this project, both at meetings and through letters to the Committee and the Select Board. We are grateful to those who have taken the time to share their perspectives, and we recognize that thoughtful community engagement strengthens our deliberations.

Proponents

- View the project as a needed investment in public health infrastructure to support Hingham’s growing senior population and long-term community health.
- Believe the current facility is inadequate and that a purpose-built center would provide expanded space needed for modern senior center programming and improve participation and efficiency.
- View the proposed space as proportional to other modern South Shore senior centers given Hingham has and is projected to continue to have the largest senior population.
- Note the project aligns with prior planning efforts and the Town’s goal of supporting residents across all life stages.
- Acknowledge costs, but argue delay will increase construction expenses and that some operating costs may be offset through fees, partnerships, and other revenue sources.

Opponents

- Question whether projected demand supports the proposed size and cost and whether the building may be underutilized.

- Believe the scope may reflect desired amenities rather than essential needs, contributing to the building being the most expensive senior center on South Shore, and may not be the best use of resources given other priorities including repairs to current Town buildings.
- Express concern about uncertain long-term operating costs and the potential impact on future budgets.
- Raise affordability concerns, particularly for seniors on fixed incomes, and question the timing of the project given recent tax increases and future capital needs.
- Note concerns about the proposed location, including accessibility, traffic, and potential impact on wildlife in adjacent Bare Cove Park.

The proposed new CAL has been reviewed and permitted by the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, and the Conservation Commission.

Approval of this article requires a two-thirds vote by Town Meeting and an affirmative majority vote at the May 2, 2026, election.

The Advisory Committee voted 9-5 in favor, and the Select Board voted 3-0 in favor of this article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town appropriate not more than \$29,930,000 to be expended by the Select Board for professional fees, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a new Center for Active Living located off Bare Cove Park Drive. To meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. c. 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and further that the appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. c. 59, §21C (Proposition 2 ½).

ARTICLE 13 CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING REVOLVING FUND

Will the Town limit the total amount that may be spent from the Center for Active Living Revolving Fund, established under Article 16 of the General By-laws, to \$80,000.00 during FY27, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted at the request of the Council on Aging)

COMMENT: The Hingham Center for Active Living's Revolving Fund is credited with all fees and charges received from Center for Active Living programs and pays expenses associated with providing these services and activities for the Town's senior residents. This Article would limit the total amount that may be spent from this revolving fund to \$80,000 in FY27.

The Advisory Committee and Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town vote to limit the amount that may be spent from the Center for Active Living Revolving Fund, established under Article 16 of the General By-laws, to \$80,000 during FY27.

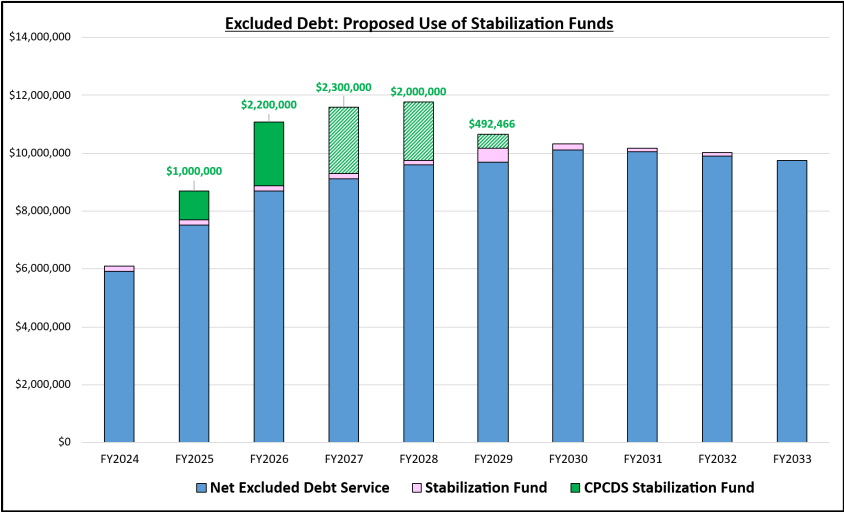
ARTICLE 14 TRANSFER FROM THE CAPITAL PROJECT COST AND DEBT SERVICE STABILIZATION FUND

Will the Town transfer a sum of money from the "Capital Project Cost and Debt Service Stabilization Fund" established under Article 3 of the 2022 Town of Hingham Special Town Meeting to be expended by the Select Board for the purpose of the payment of debt service on outstanding excluded debt bond anticipation notes and/or bonds related to the new elementary school at 55 Downer Avenue, Hingham, MA and the new Public Safety Facility at 335 Lincoln Street, Hingham, MA, in order to reduce the need to raise these funds through the FY27 tax rate, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Capital Project Cost and Debt Service (“CPCDS”) Stabilization Fund’s primary stated purpose is to pay capital costs of and/or to offset a portion of the annual debt service related to the construction of the Public Safety Facility (“PSF”) and/or the Foster School project. In addition to its establishment at the Special Town Meeting in 2022, the CPCDS Stabilization Fund was also funded with \$7,000,000 from excess Unassigned Fund Balance. Annual appropriations made from the CPCDS Stabilization Fund are intended to help mitigate tax increases to pay the debt service on these projects or to be used for any other lawful purpose as determined by a future Town Meeting.

The 2024 and 2025 Annual Town Meetings approved the transfers of \$1,000,000 and \$2,200,000, respectively, from the CPCDS Fund to lessen the tax increase needed to support the new debt service payments for the PSF and Foster School projects. This article would enable another transfer of up to \$2,300,000 from the Fund to similarly lower the tax burden needed to support the debt service costs due in FY2027.

The chart below illustrates the annual debt service payments due in the initial years of the full borrowing for the PSF and Foster School projects. The shaded portion shows the impact of utilizing funds from the CPCDS account to offset a portion of the costs, thereby reducing the spike in tax increases that would be necessary to support the early years of the payment schedule.



The chart shows the reduction in tax burden through this proposed transfer of \$2.3 million in FY2027, as well as projected amounts to be transferred in subsequent years to support a flattened dependence on tax revenue. This use of funds is within the scope of the purpose of the CPCDS Stabilization Fund. The level and timing of future appropriations for FY28 and beyond will be reassessed annually in conjunction with the available information at that time and may be materially different than what is indicated in the table.

The Select Board and Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town transfer the sum of \$2,300,000 from the “Capital Project Cost and Debt Service Stabilization Fund” established under Article 3 of the 2022 Town of Hingham Special Town Meeting for the purpose of making debt service payments on the excluded debt notes/bonds issued by the Town for the Public Safety Facility and Foster School projects in order to reduce the need to raise these funds through the FY27 tax rate.

ARTICLE 15
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Will the Town appropriate, borrow and/or set aside for future appropriation a sum of money from the available Community Preservation Funds remaining after payment of debt service for bonds and/or notes

issued under M.G.L. c. 44B for the following items recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026:

- 1) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$40,000 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be used by the Community Preservation Committee for its administrative and operating expenses.
- 2) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$209,179 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be available for expenditure by the Select Board for the payment of bonds or notes borrowed for Community Preservation projects under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44B, § 11.
- 3) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$605,487 from the Community Preservation General Fund for community housing purposes to the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust Opportunity Fund to be used by the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust for community housing purposes and that these funds, including, without limitation, any net proceeds received by the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust from the sale of any property acquired in whole or in part with said funds or any previous funds appropriated to the Opportunity Fund, shall remain in said Opportunity Fund for future use for said purposes.
- 4) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$299,572 from the Community Preservation General Fund and/or the Community Housing Reserve Fund for community housing purposes by the Hingham Housing Authority to be used for the Roof Replacement project at 30 Thaxter Street.
- 5) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$30,300 from the Community Preservation General Fund for historic preservation purposes to be used by the Hingham Historical Commission for the Victory Statue (Iron Horse) Restoration Project.
- 6) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$160,000 from the Community Preservation General Fund for historic preservation purposes to be used by the Hingham Veteran's Services for the elevator replacement project at the Grand Army Hall.
- 7) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$185,500 from the Community Preservation General Fund and/or Historic Resources Reserve Fund for historic preservation purposes to be used by the Hingham Community Center for preservation and restoration of the exterior of the John Thaxter House (Hingham Community Center) and to authorize the Town of Hingham Historical Commission, with the approval of the Select Board, to acquire a preservation restriction for said project under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 40, § 8D and M.G.L. c. 184, §§ 31-33 and all other applicable laws.
- 8) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$333,500 from the Community Preservation General Fund for open space/recreational use purposes to be used by Town of Hingham Recreation Commission for the PRS Basketball Court Project.

or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted at the request of the Community Preservation Committee)

COMMENT: The Community Preservation Act ("CPA"), M.G.L. c. 44B, is a local option statute enacted by the State Legislature in 2000 and adopted by the Town in 2001. It enables towns to collect and expend funds (including funds from the Commonwealth) to maintain their character by supporting open space, affordable housing, historic preservation, and recreation initiatives specifically defined by the CPA. The current Hingham CPA surcharge rate is 1.5% of real property taxes. CPA funds are not part of the operating budget and are maintained separately for use only through CPA grants and administrative expenses.

This year, as in previous years, the total dollar amount of grants requested by applicants to the Community Preservation Committee ("CPC") exceeded the CPC's available budget. The CPC carefully reviewed each application and applied consistent guidelines and criteria to determine which projects to approve and, for those approved, an appropriate grant amount within the year's budget. In making these decisions, the CPC also considered how each application aligned with the 2021 Hingham Master Plan, the 2021 Hingham Housing Plan, the 2020 Fields and Outdoor Courts Study, and the 2016–2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The CPC started the deliberation process this year with a budget of \$1,905,070. That includes local tax revenue of \$1,645,530, plus an annual distribution from the Commonwealth's Community Preservation Trust Fund (based on a formula) of \$259,540. The CPC recommendations total \$1,863,538, leaving a surplus of \$41,532, which will be held in reserve for next year's budget. The proposed funding of these projects will meet the required ten percent (10%) allocations for historic preservation, open space, and affordable housing.

The comments of the Advisory Committee are set forth below and correspond to the numbered sections of this Article.

- *Section 1: Administrative Fund:* The CPA allows up to 5% of annual CPA budget to be reserved for operational and administrative expenses, including engineering, legal, and consulting costs associated with the review of proposed projects, the administration of projects approved by Town Meeting, and the salaries of staff. In the past, Hingham's administrative appropriations have averaged amounts below the 5% allowed by the CPA. This year's contribution to the CPC Administrative Fund equals \$40,000 and represents less than 2% of the annual CPA budget. Any unspent funds will be returned to the CPC General Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

The Advisory Committee, the Select Board, and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation.

- *Section 2: Debt Payments:* This section requests payment of debt in the amount of \$209,179 for the annual debt payment due for the purchase of the Lehner Property off South Pleasant Street, authorized by ATM 2016. This is the required payment of the Town. This payment will exhaust the amount required to be spent from the Community Preservation Open /Space reserve.

The Advisory Committee, the Select Board, and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation.

- *Section 3: Hingham Affordable Housing Trust Opportunity Fund:* CPC recommends a grant of \$605,487 for the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust ("HAHT"), established by Article 21 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting. The purpose of the Trust is summarized in the Article approved by Town Meeting, "... to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Hingham for low and moderate-income households."

The Opportunity Fund is used to support developments underway, preserve existing housing, and to provide funds to aid purchases of market rate housing or land acquisitions to create housing that is affordable. Opportunities to create new affordable housing units often arise that require immediate responses, e.g., when a property is listed for sale. Replenishing the Opportunity Fund will allow the Trust to respond quickly to those opportunities. All purchases and other expenditures are subject to detailed financial reporting and Select Board approval.

While Hingham achieved its 10% minimum affordable housing requirement until 2030, the Town continues to have unmet housing needs. HAHT continues its efforts to purchase and develop affordable housing within the Town given the increasing and high cost of housing, the higher-than-average percentage of renters who are cost burdened, and the gap in available housing for older and disabled residents. CPA funding is the primary, recurring revenue source for HAHT. When HAHT purchases such a property, it applies for an affordability restriction from the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities ("EOHLC"), formerly known as Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD"). Once the restriction is in effect, HAHT sells or rents the property and places the proceeds back into the Opportunity Fund for future purchases and other expenditures.

The HAHT final Housing Plan was issued in June 2021; the goal of the Housing Plan is to proactively address local housing issues and to sponsor initiatives to meet the most pressing of these needs. Additionally, the Hingham Master Plan sets a goal of HAHT creating 5 units of affordable housing each year over the next decade (50 units by 2031). The Trust's recent work and plans include creating up to seven new affordable homeownership opportunities over the next two to three years.

The Advisory Committee, the Select Board and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation.

- *Section 4: Hingham Housing Authority Roof Replacement:* CPC recommends a grant of \$299,572 to replace roofs, gutters, and downspouts on eight buildings at the Thaxter Park Development, owned and operated by the Hingham Housing Authority ("HHA"). HHA provides housing for low-income elderly, disabled, and special-needs residents. Thaxter Park includes 92 units built in 1973 and 1987. The original roofs on eight buildings

are beyond their useful life. The EOHLC determined in 2013 that roof replacement is an eligible use of CPC funds for community housing. The total project cost is \$599,144. Because state-aided capital funds have recently been used for other major needs including roof replacements on other buildings, the HHA is seeking CPC funding for fifty percent (50%) of the project cost. Securing CPC funding will allow the Authority to apply for a matching grant through the High Leverage Asset Preservation Program ("HILAPP").

The Advisory Committee, the Select Board and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation.

- *Section 5: Hingham Historical Commission Victory Statue (Iron Horse) Restoration Project:* CPC recommends a grant of \$30,300 for the Hingham Historical Commission for rehabilitation of the Victory Statue "Iron Horse" (c. 1929) located at 0 Otis Street "Victory Park" overlooking Hingham Bathing Beach. The statue is in the Lincoln Historic District and is listed on the Town of Hingham's Historical Asset Inventory. The bronze statue was created by female artist Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson and her daughter, also Theo. It honors Hingham residents who served in the Armed Forces. The goal of this project is to remove graffiti, repair scratches, stabilize corrosion and restore the surface with recoating. This routine maintenance is expected to last approximately 8 years.

The Advisory Committee, the Select Board, and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in support of this recommendation.

- *Section 6: Grand Army of the Republic ("GAR") Hall Elevator Replacement:* CPC recommends a grant of \$160,000 for the Veterans' Services to replace an elevator within the GAR Hall located at 358 Main Street (near the intersection of Pond Street). The GAR Memorial Hall is located in the Lincoln Historic District and is listed on the Town of Hingham's Historical Asset Inventory. This Hall remains one of only six remaining in Massachusetts. Built originally for Civil War Union Veterans, it houses memorabilia from the Civil War to present day. The Hall serves multiple purposes including a meeting place for all Hingham Veterans, the Scouts, police associations, Memorial Day events, and Veterans Day events. The building is no longer compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") requirements due to the failed elevator. Repairs to the elevator now outweigh its value due to multiple service calls being made per month. The goal of this project is to replace the existing elevator to restore ADA compliance.

The Advisory Committee, the Select Board, and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in support of this recommendation.

- *Section 7: Hingham Community Center:* CPC recommends a grant of \$185,500 to support the continued public use and preservation of the John Thaxter House (built in 1718), home of the Hingham Community Center ("HCC"). This project addresses critical exterior and structural needs, protects defining architectural features, and helps ensure the long-term integrity of this landmark building. The HCC serves as an active community hub, welcoming more than 250 weekly visitors and over 4,000 guests annually for programs, classes, meetings, and events. The HCC supports a wide range of uses, including youth and family programming, fitness and arts classes, services for adults with disabilities, civic and nonprofit gatherings, cultural celebrations, local business events, fundraisers, memorials, and seasonal camps. These activities reflect the building's role not just as a preserved landmark, but as a vibrant, inclusive space that supports residents of all ages and strengthens downtown community life. The HCC is a nonprofit organization that maintains the property through program fees, facility rentals, and private donations, and receives no operating or capital funding from the Town of Hingham. These improvements will enhance safety and functionality while preserving the building's character.
- Project components include:
 - **Restoration of Central Street-Facing Exterior:** Repairs to the main entranceway and sidewalk transition to improve safety, accessibility, and appearance.
 - **Structural Repairs to Front and Side Portico Entrances:** Restoration of molding and roof elements, along with reconstruction of the side portico steps to match the front entrance.
 - **Replacement of Rear Vinyl Siding with Cedar Shingles:** Removal of existing vinyl siding and trim on the rear elevation and installation of cedar shingles to match the primary façade.

- **Repointing of Two Chimneys and Five Fireplaces:** Masonry repairs to ensure structural stability, including the interior fireplace in the ballroom and the chimney featuring a rare, historic John Hazlitt mural.

The Advisory Committee, the Select Board, and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in support of this recommendation.

- *Section 8: Plymouth River School ("PRS") Basketball Court:* The CPC recommends a grant of \$333,500 to reconstruct the basketball court at PRS and to repair and stabilize its roof structure. This court is the only outdoor court in Town protected by a pavilion and is under the care and custody of the Recreation Commission. The Commission funded a structural analysis that identified necessary roof repairs to ensure the court's long-term safety and usability. In addition, the 2020 Hingham Fields and Outdoor Courts Study confirmed that the court is in poor condition, with large cracks throughout the asphalt surface. The total project cost is estimated at \$343,500. The PRS Parent Teacher Organization ("PTO") has generously committed \$10,000 toward the project, and the Recreation Commission will be responsible for all ongoing court maintenance.

The Advisory Committee, the Select Board, and the Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously in support of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town vote to appropriate, borrow and/or set aside for future appropriation a sum of money from the available Community Preservation Funds remaining after payment of debt service for bonds and/or notes issued under M.G.L. c. 44B for the following items recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026:

- 1) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$40,000 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be used by the Community Preservation Committee for its administrative and operating expenses.
- 2) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$209,179 from the Community Preservation General Fund to be available for expenditure by the Select Board for the payment of bonds or notes borrowed for Community Preservation projects under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 44B, § 11.
- 3) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$605,487 from the Community Preservation General Fund to the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust Opportunity Fund to be used by the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust for community housing purposes and that these funds, including, without limitation, any net proceeds received by the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust from the sale of any property acquired in whole or in part with said funds or any previous funds appropriated to the Opportunity Fund, shall remain in said Opportunity Fund for future use for said purposes.
- 4) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$299,572 from the Community Preservation General Fund and/or the Community Housing Reserve Fund for community housing purposes by the Hingham Housing Authority to be used for the Roof Replacement project at 30 Thaxter Street.
- 5) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$30,300 from the Community Preservation General Fund for historic preservation purposes to be used by the Hingham Historical Commission for the Victory Statue (Iron Horse) Restoration Project.
- 6) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$160,000 from the Community Preservation General Fund for historic preservation purposes to be used by the Hingham Veteran's Services for the elevator replacement project at the Grand Army Hall.
- 7) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$185,500 from the Community Preservation General Fund and/or Historic Resources Reserve Fund for historic preservation purposes to be used by the Hingham Community Center for preservation and restoration of the exterior of the John Thaxter House (Hingham Community Center) and to authorize the Town of Hingham Historical Commission, with the approval of the Select Board, to acquire a preservation restriction for said project under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 40, § 8D and M.G.L. c. 184, §§ 31-33 and all other applicable laws.
- 8) Appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$333,500 from the Community Preservation General Fund for open space/recreational use purposes to be used by Town of Hingham Recreation Commission for the Plymouth River School -Basketball Court Project.

ARTICLE 16
REPLACEMENT OF COOLING/CHILLER SYSTEM AT HINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Will the Town raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Select Board to be used to pay for the replacement of the Cooling/Chiller System at the Hingham Public Library, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted at the request of the Library Trustees)

COMMENT: This Article requests that the Town utilize \$1,485,540 from Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) to replace critical cooling equipment at the Hingham Public Library (the Library), in order to maintain fundamental Town services and operations.

The Library is one of the Town's most valued community centers and provides a variety of services to all demographics. The current building was opened in 1966 and underwent renovation and expansion in 2001. Many core components of the cooling system from the 2001 renovation (the heating system was renovated in 2016) are at the end of their useful life and are beginning to fail. Replacement parts are no longer being manufactured, which makes necessary repairs costly and difficult. Portions of the cooling system need to be replaced as soon as possible in order for the Library to provide reliable, uninterrupted capacity for the building's daily use, as well as its critical function to the Town as a designated cooling center during the summer months.

After developing a scope of work with the Town's Engineering Department and obtaining quotes, the Library received \$80,000 in Capital Funding in FY26 for engineering studies to complete a schematic narrative suitable for preliminary budget pricing, followed by construction documents suitable for final cost estimates, bidding, and construction. In December 2025, Allied Consulting Engineering Services provided a schematic narrative and a preliminary cost estimate for the project of \$1,810,084. In March 2026 this was revised down to a final cost estimate of \$1,485,540. This number represents replacement of the chiller in its existing mechanical room location, and replacement of the fan coil units (air handlers) located in the ceiling of the Children's Area, as well as any other incidental work, including professional services fees. This work will complete bringing the entire HVAC system up to date.

Allied Consulting Engineering Services is responsible for completing final construction documents and will provide on-going construction phase services, such as responding to bids and making on-site visits. Rotti McGroddy Design Collaborative is responsible for final cost estimates and will provide additional architectural services as needed for the project. Once final construction documents and cost estimates are received, the project will be put out to bid, and construction could start at the beginning of FY27.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town appropriate and transfer an amount not to exceed \$1,485,540 from Unassigned Fund Balance, to be expended under the direction of the Select Board to be used to pay for the replacement of the Chiller and other failed components of the cooling system at the Hingham Public Library.

ARTICLE 17
RECREATION DEPARTMENT REVOLVING FUND

Will the Town vote to limit the total amount that may be spent from the Recreation Department Revolving Fund, established under Article 46 of the General By-laws, to \$2,900,000.00 during FY27, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted at the request of the Recreation Commission)

COMMENT: The 2025 Annual Town Meeting voted to amend the Town of Hingham General By-laws to add a new article re-establishing the Recreation Department Revolving Fund under a different statutory mechanism: M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E½ instead of M.G.L. c. 44, § 53D. That action also transferred all funds in the existing Recreation Department Revolving Fund to the newly established fund.

The Recreation Department Revolving Fund is credited with all fees and charges received from Recreation Department programs and is used to pay expenses associated with providing these services, including salaries for all full-time employees. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 53E½, Town Meeting must annually authorize a total spending limit for the fund. Additionally, the Recreation Department is required to report related revenues and expenditures. The 2025 Annual Town Meeting authorized a FY26 spending limit of \$2,700,000. Based on year-to-date actuals, the Recreation Department is requesting that the FY27 spending limit be increased to \$2,900,000.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town vote to limit the amount that may be spent from the Recreation Department Revolving Fund, established under Article 46 of the General By-laws, to \$2,900,000.00 during FY27.

ARTICLE 18 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EXTRAORDINARY CAPITAL NEEDS

Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the School Committee for the purpose of funding Roof and/or Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system Extraordinary Maintenance Capital needs for Hingham High School, Plymouth River Elementary School and/or South Elementary School, or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted at the request of the School Committee)

COMMENT: This article seeks authorization to fund extraordinary capital maintenance and repair needs for critical school infrastructure. Specifically, the requested funding will address roof system repairs at Plymouth River Elementary School ("PRS") and South Elementary School ("South"), as well as both roof and HVAC (heating and air conditioning) system repairs at Hingham High School ("HHS"). The requested funds will supplement the \$500,000 previously appropriated to the Schools Emergency Capital Repairs Fund at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

The Town is currently evaluating potential projects that could include replacement of the PRS, South, and HHS roofs and the HVAC system at HHS. In fall 2025, these projects were accepted into the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA") Accelerated Repair Program, which provides the opportunity for state grant funding to offset a portion of project costs. In conjunction with the MSBA, the Town has initiated schematic design work, which will help define project scope, timeline, and the amount of grant funding the Town may receive. It is anticipated that projects could be brought forward for consideration at a Special Town Meeting in fall 2026 and/or the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.

Until permanent solutions are implemented (estimated 24-36 months), the Town must continue to maintain existing critical building systems to ensure the schools remain safe and operational. Over the past year, several significant mechanical and building system issues have arisen, particularly at HHS, where major components of the 27-year-old heating system have experienced repeated failures. Roof systems at PRS and South have also required frequent emergency repairs and engineering assessments due to leaks, snow loads, and other maintenance concerns.

The funds authorized under this article will enable the School Department to address urgent maintenance needs as they arise. They will also support necessary repairs, maintenance, and preventative work to keep these systems functioning until permanent solutions are implemented. These efforts are intended to extend the usable life of the systems while the Town evaluates longer-term capital solutions.

The source of funding for this article is Unassigned Fund Balance.

Both the Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this article.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Town appropriate and transfer \$770,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to the School Extraordinary Maintenance Capital account to be expended under the direction of the School

Committee for the purpose of funding Roof and/or Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system Extraordinary Maintenance Capital needs for Hingham High School, Plymouth River Elementary School and/or South Elementary School.

ARTICLE 19

HIGH SCHOOL LIFE SAFETY SYSTEM AND EAST SCHOOL ENERGY RECOVERY UNITS REPLACEMENT

Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be expended by the School Committee for a replacement Life Safety System (new fire detection and alarm system) at Hingham High School and/or for the replacement of Energy Recovery Units (new rooftop HVAC units) at East Elementary School, or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted at the request of the Select Board)

COMMENT: The purpose of this article is to authorize up to \$2,605,437 from Unassigned Fund Balance to fund two school facility infrastructure replacements: Energy Recovery Units ("ERUs") serving East Elementary School, and the Fire Alarm/Life Safety System at Hingham High School.

At East Elementary School, four of the five ERUs that support the building's ventilation system are failing or require frequent repair to remain operational. These rooftop HVAC units help regulate temperature, humidity, and fresh air circulation throughout the building. The existing units were installed when the school opened approximately 18 years ago and are nearing the end of their expected service life. The equipment manufacturer is no longer in business, making replacement parts and technical support increasingly difficult to obtain. As a result, the Town's mechanical contractor has had to repeatedly intervene to keep the units functioning, including multiple major control system repairs. Continued failures have resulted in maintenance disruptions and interruptions within the school environment.

The proposed project would involve procurement of new equipment, removal of the existing units, installation of replacement ERUs, controls integration, and full system commissioning. Implementation would be managed through the School's Facilities Department. Replacement of the failing units is proposed as a long-term solution to restore reliable ventilation and reduce ongoing repair costs.

At Hingham High School, the existing Fire Alarm System is a significant component of the building's overall Life Safety System, which consists of fire detection equipment, alarm panels, smoke detectors, horns, strobes, and related components, has been in place for approximately 26 years, and is reaching the end of its functional service life. Many system components are no longer manufactured or supported by the original vendor, making repairs difficult and increasingly costly. The system requires frequent service calls due to issues with sensors, alarm devices, and proprietary control panels. Supplemental power supplies and other system components are also deteriorating, contributing to recurring maintenance issues and operational disruptions.

The proposed project would include a full system assessment, design, procurement of new equipment, installation of new control panels and field devices, and system-wide testing and commissioning. The work would be managed through the School's Facilities Department in coordination with local fire officials to ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. Replacement of the system would provide a modern, fully supported Fire Alarm/Life Safety System designed to meet current code requirements and ensure reliable operation.

The estimated cost of replacing the ERUs at East Elementary School is \$860,000, and the estimated cost of replacing the Fire Alarm System at Hingham High School is \$1,745,437, for a total estimated project cost of \$2,605,437. These estimates are based on an assessment by the Town's architectural consultants. Both projects address critical building infrastructure where continued repair is becoming increasingly unreliable and costly over time.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town appropriate and transfer a sum of up to \$2,605,437 from Unassigned Fund Balance, to be expended under the direction of the School Committee, for the replacement of the Energy

Recovery Units at East Elementary School (\$860,000) and the replacement of the Fire Alarm/Life Safety System at Hingham High School (\$1,745,437).

ARTICLE 20 CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION

Will the Town vote to dissolve the Energy Action Committee established under Article 41 of the 2008 Hingham Annual Town Meeting and to transfer all the duties of said Energy Action Committee to the Climate Action Commission established under Article 23 of the 2023 Hingham Annual Town Meeting, and further, will the Town vote to reorganize the Climate Action Commission as follows:

Said Climate Action Commission shall have thirteen voting members, each to serve a two year term and thereafter until a successor is appointed, consisting of the following: (a)(i) one member of Cleaner Greener Hingham or its designee; one member of the Planning Board or its designee; one member of the Conservation Commission or its designee; one member of the Development & Industrial Commission or its designee; one member of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant Board or its designee; and one member of the School Committee or its designee, with each of the above to be selected by their respective board or committee; and (ii) seven residents, with four selected by the Select Board and three selected by the Moderator; and (iii) one non-voting member consisting of the Town's Sustainability Coordinator or any successor role thereto; and (b) said Climate Action Commission shall be led by a Chair and a Vice Chair, with the Vice Chair performing the duties of the Chair when the Chair is not available, each to be elected by majority vote of all thirteen voting members present at the first duly called meeting of said Climate Action Commission following this vote and subsequently thereafter upon any successful motion for a new election to be held for one or both positions.

In the event that any board or committee fails to select a member or its designee as provided in (a)(i) above for a period of sixty days or more then the Moderator may fill said vacancy for the remainder of said term and thereafter until a successor is appointed by their respective board or committee.

or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted at the request of the Climate Action Commission)

COMMENT: This article asks the Town to dissolve the Energy Action Committee and transfer its responsibilities to the Climate Action Commission; expand the size of the Commission to 13 voting members; define who is eligible to be a voting member; and define the process for electing the Commission Chair and Vice Chair.

The Energy Action Committee was established in 2008 with duties related to reducing energy consumption in municipal buildings, raising public awareness and reducing the Town's impact on the environment.

With the 2021 adoption of Hingham's Climate Action Plan and the 2023 establishment of the Climate Action Commission to oversee the implementation of that plan, a committee focused solely on municipal energy conservation and emissions becomes redundant. The Climate Action Commission is charged with reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions across all sectors of the Town, municipal, residential and commercial.

Given the number of activities undertaken by Climate Action Commission members including tracking new developments in technologies, monitoring and contributing input to town projects regarding emissions, public education related to reducing emissions throughout the town and proposing strategies to achieve Net Zero emissions, increasing the size of the Commission provides more resources to accomplish these tasks. Additionally, since the Commission's establishment, a member of the School Committee and of the Hingham Municipal Light Board or their designees have been non-voting members of the Commission. This article proposes making these representatives voting members.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town vote to dissolve the Energy Action Committee established under Article 41 of the 2008 Hingham Annual Town Meeting and to transfer all the duties of said Energy Action Committee to the Climate Action Commission established under Article 23 of the 2023 Hingham Annual Town Meeting, and

further, that the Town vote to reorganize the Climate Action Commission as follows:

Said Climate Action Commission shall have up to thirteen voting members consisting of the following: (a)(i) one member of Cleaner Greener Hingham or its designee, one member of the Planning Board or its designee, one member of the Conservation Commission or its designee, one member of the Development & Industrial Commission or its designee, one member of the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant Board or its designee, one member of the School Committee or its designee, with each of the above to be selected by their respective board or committee, in each such case where only members or their designees who are residents of Hingham are to be deemed voting members, and where any non-resident member or designee is deemed a non-voting member; and (ii) seven residents, with four selected by the Select Board and three selected by the Moderator, each to serve a two-year term and thereafter until a successor is appointed, except when first selected the terms are to be staggered as follows: two Select Board designees to one-year terms and two to two-year terms, and one Moderator designee to a one-year term and two to a two-year term; and (iii) one non-voting member consisting of the Town's Sustainability Coordinator or any successor role thereto; and (b) said Climate Action Commission shall be led by a Chair and a Vice Chair, with the Vice Chair performing the duties of the Chair when the Chair is not available, each to be elected by majority vote of all voting members present at the first duly called meeting of said Climate Action Commission following adoption of these changes by Town Meeting vote and subsequently thereafter upon any successful motion for a new election to be held for one or both positions, which such selection shall occur at least once within any two-year period.

In the event that any board or committee fails to select a member or its designee as provided in (a)(i) above for a period of sixty days or more then the Moderator may fill said vacancy for the remainder of said term and thereafter until a successor is appointed by their respective board or committee.

ARTICLE 21 SALE OF 230 NORTH STREET

Will the Town authorize, but not require, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3, c. 40, § 15A and Article 5A, Section 4A of the Town of Hingham General By-laws and all other applicable laws, the Select Board to sell the property, with all buildings thereon, located at 230 North Street, Hingham, MA, for any use allowed or permitted in the applicable zoning district under the Town of Hingham Zoning By-laws and subject to a Preservation Restriction under M.G.L. c. 184, §§31-33 to be held by a qualified governmental body or by a qualified charitable corporation or trust and which the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve and/or accept, all on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This Article asks Town Meeting to authorize, but not require, the Select Board to sell the property and buildings at 230 North Street, also known as the North Fire Station or Torrent, Station 2. The new Public Safety Building serves the district previously served by the North Fire Station.

Pursuant to Town of Hingham General By-laws Article 5A, Section 4A, Town Meeting must approve the use or uses intended for the property upon its disposition. The use of the property will be restricted to uses allowed or permitted in the applicable zoning district under the Town of Hingham's Zoning By-laws. The parcel currently is in the Official and Open Space zoning district which primarily allows institutional uses (public buildings, utilities, and certain recreational or civic uses). However, Article 37, also in this Warrant, asks Town Meeting to change the zoning designation for the parcel to "Business A" to match the zoning of the adjacent properties and broaden the parcel's range of use for potential sale by the Select Board.

A Preservation Restriction will not be required, since the property is in the Lincoln Extension (Phase 1) Local Historic District. Any work to the exterior of the building, including landscaping, would trigger a review by the Historic Districts Commission ("HDC"). The Town of Hingham, acting by and through its HDC, will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the property's historic significance and character.

The proceeds from any such sale shall be deposited into the Capital Stabilization Fund ("CSF"). The CSF was established in Article 13 of 2023 Annual Town Meeting and is funded with the proceeds received from the Town's

sale of certain surplus property under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 63. The CSF may be used to pay for capital equipment and/or capital projects only after the proceeds are used to pay off any debt originally incurred to acquire the specific real estate. If a sinking fund exists for that debt, the money must be added to it; if no debt is outstanding, the money can be used for any purpose for which the town is authorized to borrow money for a period of five years or more (capital projects).

Approval of this Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote by Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee voted 12-1 and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town authorize, but not require, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3, c. 40, § 15A, and Article 5A, Section 4A of the Town of Hingham General By-laws, and all other applicable laws, the Select Board to sell the property, with all buildings thereon, located at 230 North Street, Hingham, MA, for any use allowed or permitted in the applicable zoning district under the Town of Hingham Zoning By-laws, and subject to Hingham Historic District Commission by-laws and regulations, all on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, and provided further that the proceeds from any such sale shall be deposited into the Capital Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 22 SALE OF 8 SHORT STREET

Will the Town authorize, but not require, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3, c. 40, § 15A and Article 5A, Section 4A of the Town of Hingham General By-laws and all other applicable laws, the Select Board to sell the property, with all buildings thereon, located at 8 Short Street, Hingham, MA, for any use allowed or permitted in the applicable zoning district under the Town of Hingham Zoning By laws and subject to a Preservation Restriction under M.G.L. c. 184, §§31-33 to be held by a qualified governmental body or by a qualified charitable corporation or trust and which the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve and/or accept, all on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Town's property at 8 Short Street, a 0.28 acre site with a two-floor approximately 3,300 square foot structure built in 1857, and a single car garage built circa 1950, has served several municipal purposes over the years. In its original location it was the Hingham Centre School from 1857 to 1894; after moving to Short Street, it became the Central Fire Station from 1896 to 1942, the World War II Rationing Board from 1942 to 1946, and then the Tree and Park Barn. Since then, the Town has leased the property to private persons, including a local cabinetmaker for 12 years, whose lease terminated at the end of 2025. The property is located in the Business A Zoning District and listed on the inventories of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Hingham Historical, Architectural and Archeological Assets. In January 2024, the Hingham Historical Commission voted unanimously to support placement of a Preservation Restriction on the property.

The article asks if the Town will authorize the sale of this property ending the Town's responsibility to maintain it and potentially generating future tax revenue. Under Hingham By-Law, Article 5A, Section 4A, Town Meeting must approve the use intended for any real property prior to its disposal or transfer. The Town proposes selling the property for any use permitted in Business A Zoning, but subject to a Preservation Restriction. The Town of Hingham, acting by and through its Historical Commission, will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing the terms and conditions of the Preservation Restriction. The future use of the property will be impacted by the current limited capacity of its septic system and available parking.

The proceeds from any such sale would be deposited into the Capital Stabilization Fund ("CSF"). The CSF was established in Article 13 at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting and is funded with the proceeds received from the Town's sale of certain surplus property. The purpose of the CSF is to pay for capital equipment and/or capital projects only after the proceeds are used to pay off any debt originally incurred to acquire the specific real estate; if a sinking fund exists for that debt, the money must be added to it; if no debt is outstanding, the money can be used for any purpose for which the town is authorized to borrow money for a period of five years or more (capital projects), all as required by MGL c. 44, § 63.

Approval of this Article requires a two-thirds vote by Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee voted 13 to 1 in favor of this Article, and the Select board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town authorize, but not require, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3, c. 40, § 15A and Article 5A, Section 4A of the Town of Hingham General By-laws and all other applicable laws, the Select Board to sell the property, with all buildings thereon, located at 8 Short Street, Hingham, MA, for any use allowed or permitted in the applicable zoning district under the Town of Hingham Zoning By laws and subject to a Preservation Restriction under M.G.L. c. 184, §§ 31-33 to be held by the Town of Hingham through its Historical Commission and which the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve and/or accept, all on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town.

ARTICLE 23 SALE, LEASE OR CONVEYANCE OF 86 CENTRAL STREET

Will the Town authorize, but not require, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3, c. 40, § 15A and Article 5A, Section 4A of the Town of Hingham General By-laws and all other applicable laws, the Select Board to sell, lease or otherwise convey the property, with all buildings thereon, located at 86 Central Street, Hingham, MA, for community housing purposes as defined in M.G.L. c. 44B, § 2 and to authorize the Select Board to impose an Affordable Housing Restriction on said property under M.G.L. c. 184, §§ 31-33 to be held by a qualified governmental body or by a qualified charitable corporation or trust and which the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve and/or accept, all on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, and provided further that the proceeds from any such sale shall be applied first to any outstanding indebtedness for the property under M.G.L. c. 44, § 63 with any remaining proceeds deposited into the "Capital Stabilization Fund", or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This Article requests that the Town authorize but not require the Select Board to dispose of the property known as Lincoln School Apartments located at 86 Central Street, after engaging in a Request for Proposal ("RFP") process to explore the terms of a potential disposal. This authorization would allow the Select Board to initiate and evaluate proposals through the RFP process, but it does not approve a specific sale, lease, or conveyance of the property.

Lincoln School Apartments is an affordable housing development which provides 60 rental homes for Hingham seniors and people with disabilities and is a key property in meeting the Town's affordability goals. It is unique in serving its residents due to its central location within the Town, its convenience to public transportation routes, and its proximity to shops, eateries, places of worship, and open space. Built in 1912, the property served as Lincoln Elementary School until its sale to the Benedictine Fathers in 1980, pursuant to Town Meeting vote, to expand the building to approximately double its original size and convert it to affordable housing for seniors and persons with disabilities. Corcoran Management has continuously managed the property since 1980.

In 2008, the Town exercised its right of first refusal and repurchased the property, as approved by Town Meeting, leased it to a Limited Liability Corporation owned by the Hingham Affordable Trust ("AHT"), and established a volunteer Board of Managers that oversees Corcoran Management. The AHT nominates two of the five members of that Board.

The Town, in conjunction with the AHT and Board of Managers, has identified three reasons for exploring disposition of the property. First, the Town's experience over the last 18 years has led it to determine that it lacks sufficient expertise and resources to continue in the ownership role. Second, the property is in near-term need of significant capital improvements, such as but not limited to: repointing of the entire building envelope, roof repair and replacement, overhaul of the HVAC system, extensive interior renovations to the 45-year-old common areas and individual units, and installation of a second elevator to ensure the health and safety of residents. The Town wishes to explore whether a private entity would be better able to finance and carry out those renovations. Third, under the 2021 Master Plan, the Town has identified the increasing need for, and prioritized the development of, affordable

housing, and has set a specific goal for the AHT of creating 50 new affordable units by 2031, particularly for seniors and persons with disabilities. The Lincoln School Apartments property is a favorable site for building additional affordable units, both because it is an operating development with existing infrastructure that has met Town permitting requirements and because of its central location convenient to downtown Hingham.

Lincoln School Apartments currently has over 140 existing applicants resulting in a two- to five-year waiting list for available units. The current waiting list would remain in effect, subject to any local preferences applicable to new units that favor Hingham residents, employees, and certain others. In sum, a disposition after an RFP process may provide an opportunity for a private (nonprofit or for-profit) entity to either acquire or enter into long-term lease of the property, carry out the significant needed renovations, and expand the number of units, if a favorable proposal is presented.

Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Town is virtually alone in its role of ownership and oversight of a large affordable housing development, which is typically the role of housing authorities. As proposed, disposal of the property by sale or lease to private ownership and further development would benefit the Town by introducing greater management expertise and greater resources. Private financing options and tax credits that are unavailable to municipalities would facilitate much-needed capital improvements, renovations, and any potential expansion of the property, bolstering the Town's affordable housing stock especially within the senior community. The Town would require deed restrictions (1) protecting affordability to the greatest extent permitted by law, (2) restricting occupancy to seniors and persons with disabilities, consistent with the current occupancy of the property, and (3) limiting the size of the buildings on the property to no more than 30% of the parcel area.

Furthermore, the RFP process to be carried out by the Select Board, with the assistance of the AHT, would seek to ensure that any potential development or expansion of the property is of a scale and style that contributes positively to the character of the Town.

This vote represents an initial, exploratory step intended to allow the Town to better understand potential options for the property. A Town vote granting the Select Board authorization to dispose of the property at this stage is designed to facilitate the broadest set of RFP responses among interested developers. Recent experience in Massachusetts has shown that developers are more likely to invest in an expensive RFP response where the Town has shown its significant interest in proceeding with a transaction by delegating authority to the Select Board. The Town vote thus represents the first step in starting a meaningful and effective RFP process.

As part of an ongoing, exploratory process the Town should expect plenty of opportunities for further public discourse. At the conclusion of the RFP process, the Select Board would determine which, if any, proposal serves the best interest of the Town. Any proceeds of any ensuing sale of the property would be applied to the property's outstanding debt and any remaining proceeds would be deposited into the Town's Capital Stabilization Fund. The Select Board retains full discretion to accept or decline any proposal in accordance with its determination of the Town's best interest.

Approval of this Article requires a two-thirds vote by Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town authorize, but not require, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 3, c. 40, § 15A and Article 5A, Section 4A of the Town of Hingham General By-laws and all other applicable laws, the Select Board to sell, lease or otherwise convey the property, with all buildings thereon, located at 86 Central Street, Hingham, MA, for housing for seniors and persons with disabilities with incomes not to exceed the low or moderate income levels under applicable laws and regulations, provided that in the event of any further construction on the property, the building or buildings in their entirety shall not occupy more than 30% of the land area of said parcel and to direct the Select Board in connection with any such conveyance to impose restrictions on said property for said use as housing for seniors and persons with disabilities with incomes not to exceed the low or moderate income levels under applicable laws and regulations and limiting the size of all buildings on the site to no more than 30% of the land area of said parcel, including but not limited to, a restriction under M.G.L. c. 184, §§ 31-33, if and to the extent such a restriction is approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as required by law, to be held by a qualified

governmental body or by a qualified charitable corporation or trust and which the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve and/or accept, all on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, and provided further that the proceeds from any such sale shall be applied first to any outstanding indebtedness for the property under M.G.L. c. 44, § 63 with any remaining proceeds deposited into the “Capital Stabilization Fund”.

ARTICLE 24 FIRE CIVIL SERVICE

Will the Town vote to rescind its vote under Article 34 of the 1944 Town of Hingham Annual Town Meeting by which the Town accepted M.G.L. c. 31, § 48 applying Civil Service laws, rules and regulations to the regular or permanent members of the Town of Hingham Fire Department, provided that said revocation shall not affect the existing Civil Service rights of any of said members employed as of the date of this vote, and transfer from available funds a sum of money to compensate said members for said removal from Civil Service, all in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Hingham and The Hingham Permanent Firefighters Association IAFF – Local 2398, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: Civil Service (codified at M.G.L. c. 31) dates back to 1871 and has been used since that time as a public employment system for hiring, promotion and disciplinary action based on test scores, rather than political patronage. The 1944 Annual Town Meeting voted to adopt Civil Service for the Hingham Fire Department, and it has been in place since that time.

The Civil Service hiring process is arduous, protracted, and lacks recruitment flexibility. The traditional process relies on a statewide exam that is held infrequently and it can take multiple years from the time a candidate studies for the test to when they are actually hired. In addition, Hingham must hire from a strictly ranked list provided by the Civil Service Commission based on test scores and statutory preferences. This structure often limits the Fire Chief’s ability to select candidates who are the best fit for Hingham’s specific needs.

In recent years, there has been a sharp, statewide decline in the number of applicants to the fire and EMT service, leaving departments struggling to fill vacancies from the same small pool of candidates. As these vacancies remain open, the Fire Department must still meet required minimum staffing levels to ensure public safety. This has resulted in substantial overtime costs to the Town. Firefighters are frequently required to work extended shifts to maintain coverage, contributing to fatigue and increasing the risk of burnout. Continued reliance on overtime is not a sustainable long-term staffing strategy and places both operational and financial strain on the Department.

Rescinding Civil Service would return full hiring control to Hingham. Job postings, test administration, hiring and promotions will be conducted by the Town. Applicants will pay for a Hingham-approved test administrator and interview directly with Hingham Fire Department personnel. This would allow the Town to expand its size and diversity of its candidate pool. Preference could still be given to veterans, Hingham residents and other characteristics desired by, and unique to, Hingham’s needs in keeping with fair hiring laws. Revocation will create greater operational efficiency and help Hingham become a first-choice employer.

A vote in favor of rescission does not change the employment rights and protections of Fire Department personnel. Existing Fire personnel remain covered by Civil Service. New union members will be afforded protections through their Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”) with the Town and Just Cause termination standards. Eliminating Civil Service does not move Hingham to at will employment. In short, the safety net for the employee remains, but the red tape for the Town is reduced.

An affirmative vote at Town Meeting is the first step in the process to exit civil service as agreed to in a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) between the Hingham Permanent Firefighters Association IAFF and the Town. Final CBA language governing promotions, layoffs and discipline will be drafted with the IAFF Union and the Personnel Board and will require approval by the Select Board and the Union. Once approved, a one-time payment of \$7,500 will be made to each firefighter who is a member of the Union at the time the contract terms are ratified. While the

exact amount will not be known until after the Town Meeting vote, it is not to exceed \$390,000 and will be funded through Unassigned Fund Balance.

The Advisory Committee voted 12-0 and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town vote to rescind its vote under Article 34 of the 1944 Town of Hingham Annual Town Meeting by which the Town accepted M.G.L. c. 31, § 48 applying Civil Service laws, rules and regulations to the regular or permanent members of the Town of Hingham Fire Department, provided that said revocation shall not affect the existing Civil Service rights of any of said members employed as of the date of this vote, and appropriate and transfer from Unassigned Fund Balance a sum of money not to exceed \$390,000 to compensate said members for said removal from Civil Service, all in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Hingham and The Hingham Permanent Firefighters Association IAFF – Local 2398.

ARTICLE 25 POLICE CIVIL SERVICE

Will the Town vote to rescind its vote under Article 33 of the 1943 Town of Hingham Annual Town Meeting by which the Town accepted M.G.L. c. 31, § 48 applying Civil Service laws, rules and regulations to the regular or permanent members of the Town of Hingham Police Department, provided that said revocation shall not affect the existing Civil Service rights of any of said members employed as of the date of this vote, and transfer from available funds a sum of money to compensate said members for said removal from Civil Service, all in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Hingham and The Hingham Police Patrolman's Association and a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Hingham and The Hingham Police Superior Officers Union, MCOP, Local 405, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: Civil Service (codified at M.G.L. c. 31) dates back to 1871 and has been used since that time as a public employment system for hiring, promotion and disciplinary action based on test scores, rather than political patronage. The 1943 Annual Town Meeting voted to adopt civil service for the Hingham Police Department, and it has been in place since that time.

The Civil Service hiring process is arduous, protracted, and lacks recruitment flexibility. The traditional process relies on a statewide exam that is held infrequently and it can take multiple years from the time a candidate studies for the test to when they are actually hired. In addition, Hingham must hire from a strictly ranked list provided by the Civil Service Commission based on test scores and statutory preferences. This structure often limits the Police Chief's ability to select candidates who are the best fit for Hingham's specific needs.

In recent years, there has been a sharp, statewide decline in the number of applicants to police departments, leaving such departments struggling to fill vacancies from the same small pool of candidates. As these vacancies remain open, the Police Department must still meet required minimum staffing levels to ensure public safety. This has resulted in substantial overtime costs to the Town. Police officers are frequently required to work extended shifts to maintain coverage, contributing to fatigue and increasing the risk of burnout. Continued reliance on overtime is not a sustainable long-term staffing strategy and places both operational and financial strain on the Department.

Rescinding Civil Service would return full hiring control to Hingham. Job postings, test administration, hiring and promotions will be conducted by the Town. Applicants will pay for a Hingham-approved test administrator and interview directly with Hingham Police Department personnel. This would allow the Town to expand its size and diversity of its candidate pool. Preference could still be given to veterans, Hingham residents and other characteristics desired by, and unique to, Hingham's needs in keeping with fair hiring laws. Revocation will create greater operational efficiency and help Hingham become a first-choice employer.

A vote in favor of rescission does not change the employment rights and protections of Police Department personnel. First, existing Police personnel remain covered by Civil Service. New union members will be afforded protections through their Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA") with the Town, Peace Officers Standards and

Training Commission ("POST"), and Just Cause termination standards. Eliminating Civil Service does not move Hingham to at will employment. In short, the safety net for the employee remains, but the red tape for the Town is reduced.

An affirmative vote at Town Meeting is the first step in the process to exit Civil Service as agreed to the Memorandum of Agreements ("MOAs") between The Hingham Police Patrolman's Association and The Hingham Police Superior Officers Union and the Town. Final CBA language governing promotions, layoffs and discipline will be drafted with the Unions and the Personnel Board and will require approval by the Select Board and the Unions. Once approved, a one-time payment of \$7,500 will be made to each police officer who is a member of either Union at the time the contract terms are ratified. While the exact amount will not be known until after the Town Meeting vote, it is not to exceed \$360,000 and will be funded through Unassigned Fund Balance.

The Advisory Committee voted 12-0 and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town vote to rescind its vote under Article 33 of the 1943 Town of Hingham Annual Town Meeting by which the Town accepted M.G.L. c. 31, § 48 applying Civil Service laws, rules and regulations to the regular or permanent members of the Town of Hingham Police Department, provided that said revocation shall not affect the existing Civil Service rights of any of said members employed as of the date of this vote, and appropriate and transfer from Unassigned Fund Balance a sum of money not to exceed \$360,000 to compensate said members for said removal from Civil Service, all in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Hingham and The Hingham Police Patrolman's Association and a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Hingham and The Hingham Police Superior Officers Union, MCOP, Local 405.

ARTICLE 26 WEIR RIVER WATER SYSTEM – PFAS FUNDS

Will the Town vote to appropriate a sum of money from the PFAS Fund (Town of Hingham Fund No. 2709) to be expended by the Weir River Water System for any required expenditure under the PFAS settlement agreements and/or any legal purpose allowed under Massachusetts General Law, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted at the request of the Board of Water Commissioners)

COMMENT: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals commonly referred to as "forever chemicals." They are found in a wide range of consumer and industrial products and have been detected in water, soil, and food. Scientific studies have linked exposure to certain PFAS compounds to adverse health effects, leading regulatory agencies to establish limits on their presence in drinking water and other sources.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) currently regulate six PFAS compounds in public water supplies. MassDEP requires water systems to conduct quarterly sampling. Current standards require that the combined maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) of these six compounds not exceed 20 parts per trillion (ppt). Since 2021, the Weir River Water System's (WRWS) average MCLs is 5.12 ppt, well below the current regulatory limit.

The EPA has adopted more stringent standards that must be met by 2031. It has established MCLs of 4 ppt each for two of the six specific PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS. Since 2021, WRWS PFOA levels have averaged 2.89 ppt, with quarterly readings ranging from "none detected" to 4.38 ppt. PFOS levels have averaged 1.39 ppt, with quarterly readings ranging from "none detected" to 3.31 ppt.

As owner of the WRWS, the Town participated in a nationwide class action lawsuit related to PFAS contamination associated with certain foam products. In 2025, the Town received three settlement payments totaling \$2,667,956. Consistent with guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, the Town established a separate account for these settlement revenues (Town of Hingham Fund No. 2709, the PFAS Fund). Funds in this account must be used by the WRWS for PFAS-related expenses, and their expenditure requires Town Meeting authorization.

This article requests authorization to expend funds already received to support compliance with the new PFAS regulations, which will begin with a PFAS mitigation study. The results of this study will provide greater insight into the scope, cost, and recommended solutions, and will support future planning and design work.

The Town anticipates receiving additional annual settlement payments over the next several years. Additional proceeds from these payments, as well as from any other claims the Town may file, will be deposited into this separate revenue account and will remain subject to future Town Meeting authorization.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town appropriate \$2,667,956 from the PFAS Fund (Town of Hingham Fund No. 2709), to be expended by the Weir River Water System for any required expenditure under the PFAS settlement agreements and/or any legal purpose allowed under Massachusetts General Law.

ARTICLE 27 WEIR RIVER WATER SYSTEM - CAPITAL PROJECTS

Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to pay for the costs of designing, engineering, constructing, reconstructing, repairing and/or improving the Weir River Water System, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted at the request of the Board of Water Commissioners)

COMMENT: When the Town purchased the Weir River Water System ("WRWS") in 2020, it committed to an ongoing annual program of capital improvements to address the system's aging infrastructure. To date, capital improvements total \$12.1 million, with an additional \$2.8 million expended on system repairs and upgrades.

This capital spending request would fund additional system upgrades, including water main replacements, the installation of new fire hydrants, system repairs, and other improvements focused on enhancing water quality, reducing "unaccounted for water," and improving overall system reliability and operations.

The major FY27 project is the replacement of approximately 9,650 linear feet of water main along Route 3A/Summer Street, from Rockland Street to Broad Cove Road/Otis Street. This work is being undertaken in coordination with, and in advance of, a Massachusetts Department of Transportation roadway reconstruction project along the same corridor.

The existing water main, which is more than 100 years old, consists of sections 6- to 12-inches in diameter and is made of cast iron or asbestos/concrete. The entire water main will be replaced with new 12-inch ductile iron water main. Design work is currently underway, permits have been applied for, and bid documents are being prepared.

As an Enterprise Fund, WRWS finances capital projects through debt, with water ratepayers responsible for payment of debt service. Accordingly, this project will **not** impact the Town's tax levy. The project will be financed with the issuance of 30-year debt. At a 4.25% interest rate, annual debt service payments are expected to average approximately \$300,000 per year, or \$21 per ratepayer. This expense has already been incorporated into the proposed water rate increase (3% rate + \$65 annual capital assessment), the first in five years.

All WRWS expenditures such as these require approval by the Board of Water Commissioners, the Select Board, and Annual Town Meeting.

Approval of this Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote by Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town appropriate an amount up to \$5,000,000 for the costs of designing, engineering, constructing, reconstructing, repairing, and/or improving the Weir River Water System, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer,

with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. c. 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town.

ARTICLE 28 HINGHAM MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT (HMLP) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Will the Town of Hingham vote to borrow, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 8(8) and all other applicable laws, a sum necessary up to Seventy Million Dollars (\$70,000,000), together with the costs of borrowing, for the purpose of extending and enlarging the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant's transmission and substation distribution facilities, or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted at the request of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant)

COMMENT: The Hingham Municipal Light Plant ("HMLP"), one of 41 municipal lighting plants in Massachusetts, was authorized by the Town in 1893 under Massachusetts General Laws ("M.G.L.") c. 164, § 55, to provide electrical service to the Town and as such, to assess the condition of the electric utility infrastructure to insure it can reliably provide the electrical energy needs of Hingham.

HMLP has completed a comprehensive analysis and determined that the current infrastructure is vulnerable because the existing two transmission lines are double circuit towers carrying two lines on 22 single poles along the Greenbush Railroad line. If even a single pole goes down, both lines would be out of service, and the entire Town could lose electrical power for an extended period.

The current transmission infrastructure was installed in 1986 and no longer meets the reliability standards for new construction set by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC"), the Independent System Operators – New England ("ISO-NE"), and the Northeast Power Coordinating Council ("NPCC"). Since construction, the potential for failure and major disruption of electrical service has increased for several reasons: the Greenbush Railroad that had not been in service since 1959 is now restored, increased challenges to above ground transmission systems from severe weather due to climate change, and heightened security concerns for all infrastructure. The additional transmission line is not mandated currently; however, undertaking the project now addresses existing vulnerabilities and is a first step toward eventual expansion of capacity.

To address this vulnerability, HMLP proposes to build a new underground 115 kV transmission line from Weymouth to Hingham and a second substation to be located along the eastern edge of the Hingham Transfer Station on a parcel transferred to HMLP by the Select Board pursuant to the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, Article 26. The new transmission line will be fed by two sources of electric power from the grid rather than only one, thereby again increasing protection against failure and prolonged outages. This project will provide redundancy, align with industry standards, and provide a critical component required to support the future electrical demand associated with the Town's clean energy goals. Although extra capacity is not needed at present, the new line prepares for the Town's Climate Action Plan, as the proposed substation site will be large enough to accommodate an additional transformer required for such expansion.

Installation of the new transmission line is under consideration for one of two routes beginning in Weymouth at a new Eversource Tap Station off Broad Street to be built as part of this project, traveling beneath roadways in Weymouth (2.1 miles) and Hingham (1.1 miles), and terminating at the proposed new substation on Hobart Street. The Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board ("EFSB") will determine the precise route and is expected to select one of the routes this summer.

Once the EFSB issues the permit to proceed, it is expected to include conditions requested by the Hingham's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as to be subject to the permitting processes of the Hingham and Weymouth Conservation Commissions.

The cost of this project is estimated to be between \$100 million and \$110 million to cover the costs of installing the underground line, the new Tap Station, and the substation. These expenses will be paid for by HMLP using funds already saved in anticipation of the project, along with long term borrowing to be repaid by rate increases that have already occurred. HMLP developed a model to fund the costs of this project through a three-year rate increase of 6% annually beginning in 2023. However, due to a legal restriction on the amount of the light plant's yearly earnings, the

planned increases could not be fully implemented, thus the increase over last three years has in fact totaled just 6.91%.

HMLP anticipates no additional rate increases specifically to pay for this project, although there may be future rate adjustments as HMLP periodically analyzes the costs of providing electric service. All bonded expenditures will be paid through electric rates over 20 years and not from property taxes. In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the amount borrowed to fund the HMLP Reliability Project must be repaid through electric system rates and charges and will not count against the Town's statutory debt limit.

Therefore, to provide the funds for this work, HMLP seeks authorization from Town Meeting to borrow up to \$70 million. Borrowing will only occur up to the amount needed to complete this project.

Approval of this Article requires a two-thirds vote by Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, § 8(8) and all other applicable laws, up to Seventy Million Dollars (\$70,000,000), together with the costs of borrowing, for the purpose of extending and enlarging the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant's transmission and substation distribution facilities, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. While a general obligation of the Town, in accordance with the General Laws, it is expected that any borrowing undertaken pursuant to this vote shall be paid from the rates of the Hingham Municipal Light Plant.

ARTICLE 29 TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE COST SUBSIDY

Will the Town transfer from available funds a sum of money to the FY27 Group Insurance Budget for the sole purpose of allowing the Town to temporarily increase the employer paid portion of health insurance premiums from fifty percent (50%) to sixty percent (60%) of the total health insurance premium costs during FY27 only, and further will the town transfer from available funds a sum of money to complete a study regarding the Town's options for funding health insurance premiums in future fiscal years, or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This article would authorize the transfer of \$1,400,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance for two purposes: (i) to increase the Town's share of employee health insurance premiums from 50% to 60% for Fiscal Year 2027 only; and (ii) to fund a study regarding the Town's options for funding health insurance premiums in future fiscal years.

Hingham currently contributes 50% of employee health insurance premium costs, with employees responsible for the remaining 50%. Employees have sought to increase the Town's share of health insurance costs during collective bargaining negotiations, but the Town has been unable to make any such change until there is an override budget into which such a cost increase could be funded. While Hingham is one of only two of its benchmark communities to maintain a 50/50 cost sharing structure, it has attempted to make up for that by offering other compensation benefits in collective bargaining negotiations. The benchmark communities that have improved the health insurance cost sharing aspect of their compensation packages have done so by, among other things, increasing the employer share or doing so if employees select lower-cost health plans.

This article is intended as a one year offering to improve employee morale, recruitment, and retention; it does not permanently change the Town's health insurance cost-sharing structure. A long-term solution is still required, which is the purpose of the proposed study.

The Personnel Board voted to (i) support the one-year stipend (although it has acknowledged that once the increase to 60/40 is given, it will be difficult to take it back) and (ii) to undertake the study described herein.

The Select Board and those that support this article believe it is a necessary show of good faith, outside of collective bargaining negotiations, as a bridge to when a more comprehensive long-term strategy to address the competitiveness and structure of the Town's health insurance offerings can be funded in an override.

Members of the Advisory Committee that do not support this Article have expressed a variety of reasons, including:

- It is difficult to provide a compensation benefit for one year without having to do so the next year, making this proposal akin to a multi-year commitment.
- Even if a one-year subsidy could be funded from Unassigned Fund Balance, it should not be done without a dedicated funding source to continue to fund the stipend until there is an override.
- Any increase in the 50/50 split, to 60/40 or otherwise, should be done on a comprehensive, ongoing basis, based upon a study and analysis of the Town's offerings as compared to those of the benchmark communities, should be included in the annual operating budget and should be done in the context of collective bargaining negotiations.
- A one-year stipend will not solve the structural problem or support a competitive offering to employees, nor will it help with recruiting or collective bargaining, since no assurance can be made that the increased share is permanent.
- The proponents of increasing the Town's share of premium costs are not aware of any benchmark communities that have instituted a one-year stipend such as the one being proposed.
- The Town's Financial Policy provides that when Unassigned Fund Balance exceeds 20% of Total Annual Expenditures, the excess above 20% may be used to fund: capital expenditures, tax relief (e.g., funding a tax mitigation and/or a capital stabilization fund), retirement of debt, or unfunded long-term liabilities. The Financial Policy implicitly suggests that expenditures like the proposed subsidy should not be paid from Unassigned Fund Balance.
- Unassigned Fund Balance is not intended to be used to fund recurring Operating Budget items, such as Group Insurance, as doing so leads to long-term structural deficits.

The Advisory Committee voted 12 to 1 in favor of the Recommended Motion.

The Select Board voted unanimously in favor of the original Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town appropriate and transfer \$100,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to be expended under the direction of the Personnel Board for expenses, including those of a consultant(s), associated with a study, to be led by the Personnel Board (via a task force made up of members and liaisons determined by the Personnel Board), of the Town's policies governing the health insurance options provided to Town employees, including not only the Town's share of the health insurance premiums but also the scope of the offerings, to be completed as soon as reasonably possible, so as to deliver the findings, and discuss them with stakeholders, no later than November 30, 2026. Among other things, the study (and its results) shall include an analysis of the offerings of the Town's benchmark communities, a recommendation and cost analysis of what a competitive package should include, and a recommendation of how and when to implement the recommended package.

ARTICLE 30 ROUTE 3A PROJECT

Will the Town vote to: (a) authorize the Select Board and any other board or officer having custody of certain parcels of land described herein to grant and/or acquire by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board (and such other board or officer, if applicable) deems appropriate, the fee to and/or permanent and temporary easements in, on, under and over certain parcels of land abutting and/or near Route 3A for the reconstruction, installation, inspection, maintenance, improvement, repair, replacement and/or relocation of the roadway, rights of way, sidewalks, drainage, utilities, driveways, retaining walls, guardrails, slopes, grading, rounding and landscaping and other structures and/or appurtenances to enable the Town and/or MassDOT to undertake the Route 3A Project and for any and all purposes and uses incidental or related thereto, all as approximately shown on plans entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of Route 3A/Summer Street/Rockland Street in the Town of Hingham Plymouth County Preliminary Right of

Way Plans” revised 12/19/25, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, as said plan may be amended from time to time; (b) transfer the care, custody and control of the portions of the Town-owned properties or property interests shown on the aforesaid plans from the board or officer having custody of the same for the purposes for which such properties are currently held to the Select Board for said public way purposes, and, if applicable, authorize the Select Board (and such other board or officer, if applicable) to submit a petition to the General Court to permit the aforesaid use under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution; and (c) authorize the Select Board (and such other board or officer, if applicable) to enter into any and all agreements and take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing purposes, including, but not limited to, dedicating the Town-owned parcels to the foregoing purposes; or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted at the request of the Route 3A Task Force)

COMMENT: The Route 3A Improvement Project represents the culmination of more than a decade of analysis, public engagement, and inter-agency coordination aimed at addressing longstanding safety, mobility, and accessibility issues along the Route 3A/Summer Street/Rockland Street corridor. Beginning with early safety reviews and rotary analysis in 2009, the Town, MassDOT, and residents have worked collaboratively to evaluate alternatives, collect data, and advance a design that meets community needs while improving critical infrastructure. These efforts included a 2013 Road Safety Audit, a 2014–2016 MassDOT corridor study requested by the Town, and a 2018 pilot “road diet” to assess traffic operations under a reduced-lane configuration. MassDOT held a Live Virtual Design Public Hearing in 2022, and in 2023 formally assumed responsibility for all design and construction costs through project completion.

The project supports multiple goals of the Town’s Master Plan, including improving neighborhood connectivity from Crow Point to Downtown, activating the Harbor area, and increasing accessibility for all users. Key design elements include roadway and right-of-way improvements, new sidewalks, drainage upgrades, utility work, and safety enhancements at intersections and along the corridor. As of December 2025, the project reached the 100% design milestone with relatively minimal comments from MassDOT, and no significant changes anticipated. The current 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program provides full funding for the project in Federal FY27, with an expected advertisement date of February 2027, and a Total Program Cost of \$35.4 million.

Because portions of Town-owned properties, some under the care, custody, and control of the Conservation Commission and the Trustees of the Bathing Beach, are required for the installation of permanent and temporary easements, the project triggers review under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. Both the Conservation Commission and the Trustees of the Bathing Beach have already voted to transfer the necessary property interests to the Select Board for project purposes. Town staff are actively reviewing mitigation options in accordance with Article 97 requirements, including possible acquisition of land, interest in land, or conservation restrictions in private land or transfer of care, custody, and control of Town-owned parcels. Mitigation funds, once final appraisals are provided by MassDOT, will be directed toward these purposes or deposited into the Town’s conservation fund.

Approval of this article will authorize the Select Board to acquire and grant the easements shown on the current version of the Right-of-Way plans which are currently with DOT for review and approval, to petition the Legislature as required for Article 97 purposes, and to take all actions necessary to allow MassDOT to proceed with construction. It is anticipated that these plans will be reviewed by MassDOT prior to Town Meeting, and that the Advisory Committee will make its recommendation based upon the most recent version of the plans in a supplement to be provided at Town Meeting. Adoption is essential to maintaining the project schedule and securing the full State and Federal funding currently programmed.

RECOMMENDED: The Advisory Committee will make its recommendation at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 31

CITIZEN’S PETITION: ESTABLISH A YOUTH COMMISSION

Will the Town accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8E, to establish a Youth Commission, or act on anything relating thereto?
(Inserted at the request of Henry Randolph Buckley and others)

COMMENT: The petitioners request that the Town establish a Youth Commission that will provide a forum for youth to be involved in Town government and ensure their views are considered. The Commission would also sponsor an awards program to recognize youth achievements in civic activity. The petitioners recognize that opportunities exist currently through various Town committees such as the Hingham Public Schools and Recreation Department, but maintain that increased coordination of these activities would be beneficial. The Advisory Committee concluded that a Youth Commission could be constructive for the Town, but before a decision is considered, additional discussion with the relevant stakeholders is necessary to ensure a clear understanding of the problem to be solved and the goals and objectives of such a commission. Additional concerns about the proposed commission related to the burden on Town staff to support it, and the coordination necessary with existing Town volunteer boards and groups.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously to take No Action.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town take No Action on the Article.

ARTICLE 32 CITIZEN'S PETITION: TRANSFER A PARCEL OF LAND

Will the Town take all actions as may be necessary to transfer the care, custody and control of the parcel of land referred to as the Replacement Land in the Town's Article 97 Petition relating to its proposed Center for Active Living (EEA File No. A97_017 _ 131), where such Replacement Land consists of 6.847 acres of a parcel of land located at 200 High Street (Parcel ID 124-0-32), to Hingham's Conservation Commission even if the Town's Article 97 Petition is withdrawn and/or not acted on as a result of the decision not to proceed with the proposed Center for Active Living on Bare Cove Park Drive, or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted at the request of Anita Ryan and others)

COMMENT: A 6.847-acre parcel of land on High Street, located behind Plymouth River School (the "Replacement Land"), is currently under the care, custody, management, and control of the School Committee. In a Memorandum of Understanding dated March 24, 2025, the School Committee determined that the Replacement Land had limited potential for school development and could be used as replacement conservation land to offset the proposed construction of a new Hingham Center for Active Living ("HCAL") on approximately five acres of conservation land (the "Site") off Bare Cove Park Drive.

Consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding, the School Committee voted on April 28, 2025, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 15A, that the Replacement Land was no longer needed for educational purposes, contingent upon its transfer to the Conservation Commission in connection with construction of the proposed HCAL. Later that same day, the 2025 Annual Town Meeting voted to authorize the Select Board to seek special legislation, in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution ("Art. 97"), permitting use of the Site for the HCAL and, in connection therewith, to transfer control of the Replacement Land to the Conservation Commission.

On February 6, 2026, the Legislature approved the requested special legislation allowing a change in use of the Site to allow construction of the HCAL, in consideration of the transfer of the Replacement Land to the Conservation Commission.

This Article asks whether the Town should transfer the Replacement Land from the School Committee to the Conservation Commission even if the Art. 97 petition tied to the proposed Center for Active Living is withdrawn or not acted on, which would occur if the Town does not approve the construction of the proposed HCAL at the Site.

In analyzing this Article, the Advisory Committee considered the conditions attached to the School Committee's vote and the legal authority that governs how land under its control may be used or transferred. Under M.G.L. c. 40, § 15A, the authority to determine the disposition of land under the care, custody, and control of the School Committee requires a vote of the School Committee in addition to a Town Meeting vote. The School Committee's April 28, 2025 vote declaring the Replacement Land surplus pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 15A was expressly conditioned on, and directly tied to, the construction of the proposed HCAL at the Site and the associated Art. 97 approval. It was not an unconditional determination that the Replacement Land should be transferred for conservation purposes under all circumstances.

More broadly, decisions regarding the disposition and change in use of Town-owned land — particularly land previously held for educational purposes — are complex and nuanced, often involving multiple boards, statutory requirements, and long-term planning considerations. The Advisory Committee was therefore not comfortable supporting, through a citizen's petition, a proposed change in the use and control of Town-owned land outside the Town's normal and established review process.

The Advisory Committee and Select Board voted unanimously to take No Action.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town take No Action on the Article.

ARTICLE 33 CITIZEN'S PETITION: AMEND NOISE BY-LAW

Will the Town amend Article 42 of the Town's By-laws, recognizing that Town employees work outside, children play outside, residents enjoy the use of their property, and residents value the tranquility of passive recreation in our open spaces, to add the following: Section 7(f) Pickleball. No new public pickleball courts shall be constructed where none currently exist, unless and until it can be demonstrated that the sound generated by pickleball ("Pickleball Noise") is effectively mitigated through sound-attenuation measures, such as enclosure, sound barriers or soundproofing, such that the Pickleball Noise is not plainly audible beyond 100 feet or does not infringe on the legitimate rights of others, which is the standard in Section 6(a) of this By-law, or act on anything relating thereto? (Inserted at the request of Hillary Tutko and others)

COMMENT: This Article asks the Town to amend the Town's noise control ordinance, Article 42 of the Town of Hingham By-laws, to establish noise control standards specifically for new public pickleball courts. The proposed standards, if adopted, would apply to all new pickleball courts throughout the Town, including the Recreation Commission courts at Bare Cove Park Drive that were approved under Warrant Article 20 of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. The proposed noise control restrictions are subjective and demanding, particularly the requirement that noise not be plainly audible beyond 100 feet. It is possible that these restrictions would effectively prevent the construction of any new outdoor pickleball courts anywhere in the Town. Furthermore, the standards of measurement and infringement incorporated into the proposed amendment are not well defined; both the Board of Health and the Hingham Police Department have expressed concerns about their ability to enforce the provisions of the proposed amendment. Finally, there is a concern that singling out noise control requirements for a particular sport or activity, rather than objectively regulating the quality or quantity of the noise itself, could be deemed inequitable or otherwise discriminatory.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously to take No Action.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town take no action on this Article.

ARTICLE 34 ELECTRONIC VOTING DEVICES

Will the Town raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Select Board in consultation with the Moderator to be used to pay for electronic voting devices and associated equipment for use at Town Meeting, or act on anything relating thereto? (Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The purpose of this Article is to pre-authorize an amount up to \$100,000 exclusively for the potential acquisition, configuration, and implementation of electronic voting (e-voting) equipment for the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.

Hingham last evaluated electronic voting between 2013-2015, and in 2014 the Town voted to amend Section 8, Article 3 of the General By-laws to allow for e-voting at Town Meeting. At that time, statewide adoption was limited and costs were relatively high, leading the Town to defer implementation. The decision to defer e-voting at that time

was particularly driven by the relatively small number of standing and ballot votes at previous meetings. Since then, voting technology has advanced significantly, costs have moderated, and more than 70 Massachusetts Open Town Meeting communities have adopted electronic voting.

Communities currently using e-voting for Open Town Meeting report several benefits, including:

- Improved voter privacy, as votes are recorded anonymously; the system produces aggregate totals
- Accurate vote counts, quorum tracking and calculation of majority or two-thirds thresholds
- Every vote is counted equally – no reliance on voice volume
- Verification that only registered voters are voting
- Improved meeting efficiency in place of standing and paper ballot voting
- Improved accessibility for voters with mobility or other challenges
- Allows for the continued use of voice votes as determined by the moderator

Some issues that have been raised include; reliability, comfort with new technology, and participation fluctuations during long meetings. These concerns have been documented and would be considered as part of the evaluation process.

Support for electronic voting has been expressed by both the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Hingham.

If this Article passes, the Town Administrator will appoint a Task Force to include the Moderator, the Town Clerk, a Select Board liaison and up to three town residents. The Task Force will research municipal experiences, vendors, equipment options, procurement methods, training needs and cost estimates. The Task Force will not require any expense funding from this pre-authorization. The findings would be shared with the Town Administrator who would then present them to the Select Board, who need to approve a recommendation by October 2026, to allow sufficient time to consider implementation for the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.

The requested pre-authorization of up to \$100,000 reflects the experience of other communities and provides flexibility to accommodate Hingham's size and needs. Only funds required for the selected solution would be expended. Following a successful initial implementation, ongoing costs would be incorporated into the Town's operating budget through the normal budget process.

Without this pre-authorization, any recommendation could not be acted upon until the 2028 Annual Town Meeting.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Town appropriate and transfer a sum of up to \$100,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to be expended under the direction of the Select Board in consultation with the Moderator to be used to pay for electronic voting devices and associated equipment and services for use at future Town Meetings in accordance with Article 3, Section 8 of the Town of Hingham General By-laws.

ARTICLE 35

AMEND ZONING BY-LAW: "HEIGHT, BUILDING" DEFINITION REFERENCE CORRECTION

Will the Town amend the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Hingham, adopted March 10, 1941, as heretofore amended, as follows:

- Item 1 By replacing the reference to "Section IV-C, 8" under the definition of Height, Building in Section VI to "Section IV-C.9"

or act on anything related thereto?

(Inserted at the request of the Planning Board)

COMMENT: The intent of this article is to correct a section reference to the height exceptions under Section IV-C in the definition of “Height, Building” under Section VI.

Approval of this Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote by Town Meeting.

The Planning Board and the Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town amend the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Hingham, adopted March 10, 1941, as heretofore amended, as follows:

By replacing the reference to “Section IV-C, 8” under the definition of “Height, Building” in Section VI to “Section IV-C.9”.

ARTICLE 36 AMEND ZONING BY-LAW: SITE PLAN REVIEW UPDATES

Will the Town amend the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Hingham, adopted March 10, 1941, as heretofore amended, as follows:

- Item 1 Amend Section I-I.2.a. by deleting subsection (i) “All Special Permits A2 and Special Permits A3 or any modification of a Special Permit A2 or Special Permit A3” in its entirety and resequencing subsections (ii) and (iii) to (i) and (ii) respectively;
- Item 2 Replace Section I-I.2.b.(i) in its entirety as follows:
 - (i) land disturbance or an alteration of drainage patterns over the lesser of:
 - (A) an area of 5,000 square feet or more (but less than 20,000 square feet); or
 - (B) 75% of the total lot area.
- Item 3 Replace Section I-I.4.g. in its entirety as follows:
 - g. Prior to performing work subject to Site Plan Review, evidence of recording of the Site Plan Review decision shall be provided to the Community Planning Department unless the Planning Board’s review (including any extensions thereto) has expired without any action by the Planning Board.
- Item 4 Replace Section I-I.5.k. in its entirety as follows:
 - k. Such other materials necessary to enable the Planning Board to make a positive determination on the proposed project; and
- Item 5 Replace Section I-I.9.c. in its entirety as follows:
 - c. The Planning Board may, by a majority vote of the Board, establish an administrative process for Site Plan Review of certain Minor Site Plans and/or minor modifications pursuant to subsection 9.b. above. Pursuant to administrative review, the Planning Board may delegate to the Community Planning Director and/or to a designated staff or Board member the authority to determine whether a project constitutes a minor modification. The Planning Board designee may refer any Minor Site Plan or minor modification application to the Planning Board for its review in lieu of administrative review if, in such designee’s discretion, the scope of the project merits review by the Board. In addition, any applicant may request Site Plan Review by the Planning Board in lieu of administrative review at the time of application, or any applicant aggrieved by a Minor Site Plan Review decision of the designee may reapply for Site Plan Review by the Planning Board and such review shall be considered a new

application for Site Plan Review, except that a separate fee shall not be required.

or act on anything related thereto?

(Inserted at the request of the Planning Board)

COMMENT: This article proposes several amendments to the procedures set forth in Section I-I of the Zoning By-Law to clarify applicability, improve administrative efficiency, and correct existing inconsistencies. First, it would eliminate the automatic requirement for Site Plan Review when a project is associated with a Special Permit A2 or Special Permit A3, unless the project independently meets the established land disturbance thresholds. Second, it would require Minor Site Plan Review for any project that disturbs 75 percent or more of the total lot area, regardless of the total square footage of land disturbance, thereby ensuring appropriate review of projects with substantial site impact. Third, the article would require submission of evidence of recording of a Site Plan Review decision for all projects subject to Site Plan Review, rather than limiting this requirement only to projects that also require a building permit. Finally, the article would authorize the Planning Board to establish an administrative review process for minor modifications to previously approved site plans, including the ability to delegate review authority to the Community Planning Director or staff, while retaining discretion to refer matters to the full Board when warranted. The Planning Board already has the authority to establish an administrative process for Site Plan Review of certain Minor Site Plans. In addition to these substantive changes, the article includes related formatting revisions and removes an incorrect reference in subsection k. of the Submittal Requirements

Approval of this Article requires a two-thirds vote by Town Meeting.

The Planning Board and the Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town amend the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Hingham, adopted March 10, 1941, as heretofore amended, as follows:

- Item 1** Amend Section I-I.2.a. by deleting subsection (i) “All Special Permits A2 and Special Permits A3 or any modification of a Special Permit A2 or Special Permit A3” in its entirety and resequencing subsections (ii) and (iii) to (i) and (ii) respectively;
- Item 2** Replace Section I-I.2.b.(i) in its entirety as follows:
 - (i) land disturbance or an alteration of drainage patterns over the lesser of:
 - (A) an area of 5,000 square feet or more (but less than 20,000 square feet); or
 - (B) 75% of the total lot area.
- Item 3** Replace Section I-I.4.g. in its entirety as follows:
 - g. Prior to performing work subject to Site Plan Review, evidence of recording of the Site Plan Review decision shall be provided to the Community Planning Department unless the Planning Board’s review (including any extensions thereto) has expired without any action by the Planning Board.
- Item 4** Replace Section I-I.5.k. in its entirety as follows:
 - k. Such other materials necessary to enable the Planning Board to make a positive determination on the proposed project; and
- Item 5** Replace Section I-I.9.c. in its entirety as follows:
 - c. The Planning Board may, by a majority vote of the Board, establish an administrative process for Site Plan Review of certain Minor Site Plans and/or minor modifications pursuant to subsection 9.b. above. Pursuant to administrative review, the Planning

Board may delegate to the Community Planning Director and/or to a designated staff or Board member the authority to determine whether a project constitutes a minor modification. The Planning Board designee may refer any Minor Site Plan or minor modification application to the Planning Board for its review in lieu of administrative review if, in such designee's discretion, the scope of the project merits review by the Board. In addition, any applicant may request Site Plan Review by the Planning Board in lieu of administrative review at the time of application, or any applicant aggrieved by a Minor Site Plan Review decision of the designee may reapply for Site Plan Review by the Planning Board and such review shall be considered a new application for Site Plan Review, except that a separate fee shall not be required.

ARTICLE 37 AMEND ZONING BY-LAW: NORTH FIRE STATION ZONING DISTRICT

Will the Town amend the Zoning Map Part A of the Town of Hingham to rezone the property located at 230 North Street (Assessors Map 60, Lot 119) from the "Official and Open Space" district to the "Business A" district, or act on anything related thereto?

(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: This Article seeks to rezone the property, also known as the North Fire Station or Torrent, Station 2, to the "Business A" district. The parcel was originally in the "Business A" district before being rezoned to the "Official and Open Space" district, a municipal facility designation, in 1977. In addition, the parcels flanking 230 North Street are currently located in the "Business A" district. This Article would bring 230 North Street in line with those adjacent properties, back to its original district classification, and broaden the parcel's range of use for potential sale by the Select Board, as considered in 21, which would authorize but not require the Select Board to sell the property and buildings at 230 North Street.

Approval of this Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote by Town Meeting.

The Planning Board and the Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town amend the Zoning Map Part A of the Town of Hingham to rezone the property located at 230 North Street (Assessors Map 60, Lot 119) from the "Official and Open Space" district to the "Business A" district.

ARTICLE 38 ACCEPTANCE AND GRANTING OF EASEMENTS

Will the Town authorize, but not require, the Select Board to grant and to accept grants of easements for streets, water, drainage, sewer and utility purposes or any public purpose on terms and conditions the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town, or act on anything relating thereto?

(Inserted by the Select Board)

COMMENT: The Town benefits from many easements over private property throughout Hingham. From time to time, the Town, particularly its Department of Public Works, requires new easements in order to complete roadway and other public works projects. Under Massachusetts law, Town Meeting approval is required for the Select Board to accept or grant such easements. The Select Board has annually been provided authorization by Town Meeting to accept grants of easements necessary to complete public projects such as roadways, water, drainage, sewers and utility facilities. At the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, Town Meeting approved new language that allowed the Select Board to both accept AND GRANT such easements – adding the power to grant easements when needed for the purpose of completing public projects such as roadways, water, drainage, sewers, and utility facilities. This Article would allow the Select Board to grant or accept such easements during the coming fiscal year, avoiding potentially expensive delays and inconvenience to projects that benefit the Town. Easements granted to the Town

covered by this Article are intended to be voluntarily granted to the Town, not allowing the Select Board to accept easements that require funds to acquire them.

Furthermore, the authority conferred by this Article is limited in time; it is limited to the specific fiscal year referenced. If continuing authority is required, the next Annual Town Meeting may be asked to approve it.

The Advisory Committee and the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of this Article.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town authorize, but not require, for a period through the end of FY27, the Select Board to accept grants of easements for streets, water, drainage, sewer, and utility purposes, or any public purpose, and to grant easements for the limited purpose of streets, water, drainage, sewer, and utility purposes, or any public purpose, on terms and conditions the Select Board deems in the best interest of the Town.

REPORT OF THE CAPITAL OUTLAY COMMITTEE

I. WHAT WE DO

The Capital Outlay Committee (“COC”) is charged with:

- A. Ascertaining the capital outlay requirements of various Town departments, boards, and committees over the next five years. Capital assets considered by COC typically have a useful economic life of more than five years and cost more than \$15,000, or are otherwise classified as fixed assets on the Town's financial statements.
- B. Analyzing and evaluating proposed capital expenditures for all Town departments, boards, and committees and making recommendations to the Select Board and the Advisory Committee (“Advisory”).

COC recommendations are developed as follows:

1. Departments submit requests for the next five years.
2. COC reviews requests with the department heads, boards, and committees through an interactive process including meetings, site visits, and requests for more information.
3. COC determines which capital needs are most urgent for the Town and discusses possible alternatives for funding needs.
4. COC makes its recommendations to Select Board and Advisory Committee.
5. Select Board accepts, alters, or rejects COC's recommendations and forwards them to Advisory Committee.
6. Advisory Committee makes the final capital recommendations to Town Meeting.

COC reviewed the capital requests from the various Town departments for Fiscal Year 2027 (“FY27”). Herein the COC submits its recommendations for FY27, as well as general projections of capital needs for the subsequent four fiscal years.

COC's recommendations for FY27 are based on the assessment of need. Capital items, for the most part, consist of the Town's infrastructure and the equipment to support that infrastructure. Over the long run, most capital spending on infrastructure is not discretionary. The Five-Year Capital Plan includes most proposed capital projects, including buildings and capital equipment that may require funding via borrowing or other sources.

At the start of the budget process, each department was requested to produce a realistic five-year capital outlay plan. The plan was compared to the prior year's Five-Year Capital Plan and departments were asked to explain significant changes. Our budgeting software system, ClearGov, provides efficiency benefits for the current and future budgeting cycles, facilitates transparency across town departments, and increases clarity on prior year capital funded spending.

II. WHY INVESTMENT IN OUR TOWN IS IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY

Capital funding is required for operating assets, building infrastructure subsystems, and new buildings and facilities:

- Operating Assets: The primary funding source for the Five-Year Capital Plan included with this report is the Tax Levy, which comes from the Operating Budget. Since these funds are limited, historically, the Five-Year Capital Plan has focused on operating assets such as information technology, security, vehicles, equipment, public safety, and some building infrastructure (major repairs, replacements, and upkeep).
- Building Infrastructure Subsystems: Based on the COC's recommendation, the Town established a working group to begin to study and provide an inventory of all key components in existing Town

buildings and facilities, identifying the current age and condition of each subsystem, which will result in a long-term replacement plan of 10 to 20 years. This will provide Town management and citizens a more proactive quantitative and qualitative approach to the Town's capital requirements. Some of these subsystem replacements are included in operating asset funding, but this is usually when the component is experiencing significant failure and in need of replacement. COC realizes that some of this is due to budget limitations, but the Town must identify and plan for these expenditures.

- **New Buildings and Facilities:** Funding for larger building and infrastructure capital projects is typically requested through a Warrant Article since project amounts exceed the COC's operating funding capacity. They are funded by sources other than the Tax Levy (Borrowing, Available Reserves, etc.) and require separate approval at Town Meeting. Over the last few years, as several major projects have been proposed, COC determined that the best practice for reporting and disclosure is as follows:
 - If a project is at the Feasibility Study stage, then only the study amount will be included on the Five-Year Capital Plan with a footnote about the project since including the actual project presumes it will proceed.
 - If a project is at the Design & Bid stage, then an estimated project cost will be included, if reasonably determinable, on the Five-Year Capital Plan. A footnote may be included to provide additional information.
 - If a project is at the Renovation/Construction stage, then the project cost will be included on the Five-Year Capital Plan. A footnote may be included to provide additional information.
 - If a project is being contemplated but it is, too premature for estimates, then a footnote will be included describing the project and the amount will be "To Be Determined".

Note: All large-scope projects of this nature would likely be accompanied by a Warrant Article and subject to approval at Annual Town Meeting.

COC was able to fund the majority of departments' top self-identified needs (see the Five-Year Capital Plan for full detail by department). For FY27, the COC capital recommendations total \$8.8M* and are summarized below by department and funding source:

COC Recommendations (Including Unassigned Fund Balance Warrant Articles)	FY27	Percent of Total	Capital Outlay Allocation	Capital Stabilization	Unassigned Fund Balance	Municipal Waterways Fund	Recreation Revolving
Education	\$4,408,295	50.1%	\$1,032,858		\$3,375,437		
Library	\$1,649,620	18.8%	\$164,375		\$1,485,245		
Public Works	\$792,640	9.0%	\$792,640				
Police	\$524,885	6.0%	\$524,885				
Transfer Station	\$390,000	4.4%	\$390,000				
Fire	\$300,960	3.4%	\$300,960				
Harbormaster	\$300,000	3.4%		\$50,000		\$250,000	
Town Hall	\$177,060	2.0%	\$168,690				\$8,370
Information Technology	\$145,000	1.6%	\$145,000				
Bare Cove Park	\$58,000	0.7%	\$58,000				
Building	\$47,139	0.5%	\$22,592	\$24,547			
Total Proposed Funding Sources	\$8,793,599	100.0%	\$3,600,000	\$74,547	\$4,860,682	\$250,000	\$8,370

* Includes several Warrant Articles to be voted at Annual Town Meeting.

Note - In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 34, the capital appropriations made to the School Department in Article 6 are under the School Committee's authority and can be allocated to capital expenditures at the Committee's discretion. As such, the COC's capital recommendations for the School Department can be reallocated to other capital expenditures as ultimately determined by the School Committee. However, COC firmly believes that funds should be allocated to items identified as priority one in the first instance.

This year COC once again recommended that the town utilize Unassigned Fund Balance to address department requests in excess of the Capital Outlay Allocation through the tax levy of \$3.6M. Approval of the proposed warrant articles related to capital expenditures in the chart above, will allow the Town to meet the needed capital expenditures of departments for FY27.

Capital Outlay Committee Allocation, as a percentage of the Operating Budget, continues to be close to the low end of stated Financial Policy range of 3-6%. While the Town is fortunate to have the ability to propose leveraging Unassigned Fund Balance for FY27, it is worth noting that there are no guarantees that this funding source will be available in future years for capital projects. However, the proceeds from any potential sale(s) of Town owned properties proposed at ATM 2026, as outlined in the Warrant, would increase the Capital Stabilization Fund, and be available exclusively for investment in capital projects.

The chart below summarizes the Five Year Capital Plan: FY27-FY31 split between those capital costs for self-supporting Enterprise Funds and those capital costs for Municipal Departments and Schools that will be borne by the taxpayer.

Five-Year Capital Plan	FY27 Proposed	FY28 Projected	FY29 Projected	FY30 Projected	FY31 Projected
	\$57,140,522	\$61,303,607	\$22,528,932	\$19,841,733	\$33,636,021
School and Municipal Department Requests					
Capital Outlay Allocation (taxes)	\$3,600,000	\$9,972,507	\$4,797,182	\$3,996,447	\$4,240,521
Unassigned Fund Balance **	\$4,860,682				
Non-School Borrowing*	\$29,927,423	\$5,000,000	\$7,071,000	\$1,652,000	\$22,000,000
School Borrowing *	\$8,613,500	\$28,209,580		\$3,645,786	
Taxpayer Funded	\$47,001,605	\$43,182,087	\$11,868,182	\$9,294,233	\$26,240,521
MSBA Grants *	\$3,691,500	\$12,089,820			
Capital Stabilization Fund	\$74,547				
Grants		\$487,000			
Municipal Waterways Improvement Fund	\$250,000		\$2,929,000		
Community Preservation Act Funds	\$343,500				
Excess Ambulance Receipts		\$595,000		\$654,500	
Other Funding Source - Recreation Department		\$350,000	\$1,975,000	\$3,400,000	\$2,900,000
Recreation Revolving Fund	\$8,370				
Alternate Funding Sources	\$676,417	\$1,432,000	\$4,904,000	\$4,054,500	\$2,900,000
Enterprise Fund Requests					
Water Enterprise Fund	\$5,000,000	\$3,325,000	\$3,470,000	\$3,790,000	\$3,280,000
SSCC Enterprise Fund	\$35,000	\$408,500	\$1,458,500	\$1,878,500	\$388,500
Sewer Special Revenue Fund	\$736,000	\$866,200	\$828,250	\$824,500	\$827,000
Total Enterprise Fund Requests	\$5,771,000	\$4,599,700	\$5,756,750	\$6,493,000	\$4,495,500

* Includes borrowing authorization for the HCAL project to be voted at ATM 2026 and future Town Meeting authorizations (including Special Town Meetings) for School accelerated repair projects (FY27 and FY28) and other municipal projects (FY28-FY31). The Town expects MSBA grants for the HHS Roof/Mechanical, South Roof, and PRS Roof projects in the range of 30-40%.

** Includes several Warrant Articles to be voted at this Annual Town Meeting.

While these planned expenditures are significant, there are mitigating factors that will affect funding for these projects. Federal and State grants are available, especially for the dredging and harbor projects, which may pay a substantial amount of the costs. Reimbursement from the state for the school projects are conservatively estimated here and could be materially higher. Additionally, funds from Excess Unassigned Fund Balance and/or the Capital Stabilization Fund may be used to offset some of the cost. While borrowing will be necessary, the Town has sufficient capacity to safely borrow while remaining

within the Town's Financial Policy guidelines. Capital borrowing is typically financed over an extended period of time, which means that as the Town borrows new funds the Town is also paying off older borrowings, which mitigates the total debt service cost to taxpayers.

The Town is addressing some of its more urgent capital projects. However, there are additional significant projects in future years. The COC would like to ensure Town Meeting is made aware of future capital outlays. Please see the Five-Year Capital Plan for specific details. Project scope and timelines are subject to change, which may impact overall estimated project costs. Some of the large capital projects the COC is aware of currently include:

- Hingham Harbor Resiliency Improvements
- HHS Roof Replacement / Mechanical System Replacement
- Hingham Harbor Dredging
- Athletic Field Improvements

III. WHAT DO WE THINK THE FUTURE HOLDS

Town By-Laws charge the COC with developing a comprehensive Five-Year Capital Plan for the Town. In order to accomplish this, the Committee reviews all capital spending requests, whether submitted via warrant article or through the capital budgeting process. The goal is to prioritize limited resources and meet the most critical needs of the Town. COC has a tax levy supported budget. If necessary, the COC will submit a warrant article to address critical spending needs beyond its budget.

Town wide capital spending can be divided into two distinct pieces. The first piece consists of ratepayer and/or user paid items. This includes water, sewer, light plant, and country club capital items. Capital spending in these areas is mainly to replace old or broken infrastructure or purchase equipment necessary to maintain new or existing service levels. This type of spending is necessary and is paid for by users through increases in usage rates or fees. Tax receipts are not used for these expenditures.

The second type of capital spending involves municipal departments such as Fire, Police, DPW, Recreation, and Schools. These departments provide basic, necessary, services to residents. The Financial Policy states that capital spending in these areas should be equal to 3-6% of the operating Budget. While the Town has increased the COC tax levy budget in recent years, it has historically funded spending at the low end of this range resulting in a significant backlog of unfunded items. The COC has consistently pushed for higher spending to address this backlog.

In addition to the items included in this year's capital spending proposal, the Town has a number of large projects under consideration or previously authorized by Town Meeting that may require borrowing. Previously approved projects include, for example, the Town Pool, a new fire truck, funds for the High School roof study, and phase one of the harbor resiliency plan. Funds for these projects total approximately \$17.5 million. While some of this amount may be funded without borrowing, it is likely that some amount of borrowing will be necessary.

The Town also has several short and long-term projects under consideration. Short-term projects include the Center for Active Living, the Town's share of the replacement of roofs at Plymouth River and South Schools and Town's share of the replacement of the High School roof and mechanical systems. Projected costs for these projects total approximately \$67 million (net of estimated state funding through the Accelerated Repair Program). Longer-term projects include dredging the harbor and phase two of the harbor resiliency plan.

Finally, with an increase in the Town's capital base, there will be a greater need to establish a formal system to track and monitor building assets and subsystems. It is critical for the Town to accurately identify and quantify the ongoing capital needs of all Town-owned assets, including facilities and their related subsystems, so that these expenditures can be anticipated and included in long-range plans.

COC continues to be concerned that expenses related to *all* capital assets of the Town have not been reflected in the Five-Year Capital Plan. This issue was first mentioned in the Report of the Capital Outlay Committee in the 2012 Warrant. Specifically, COC was concerned that major expenditures, such as the repair/refurbishment of all Town-owned real estate, were not in the capital budget. As a result, the COC recommended an externally prepared comprehensive multi-phase study of Town owned buildings and facilities and subsequently a Town Facilities Manager to oversee these assets. In 2025, the Town established a working group to begin the review of Town facilities. This review includes the possible sale of unnecessary real property with the proceeds dedicated to the Capital Stabilization Fund. That work is underway and the COC fully supports that effort.

IV. CONCLUSION

As stated in the Town's Financial Policy, "The capital assets of the Town comprise the Town's physical infrastructure, inherited from previous generations and intended to be passed on to future generations... it includes assets such as the roads and buildings we use, the harbor which must be dredged periodically, and the equipment needed by our Town staff. We are the current caretakers. It is our collective responsibility to maintain these assets responsibly and invest in the Town's future".

The Capital Outlay Committee thanks the Advisory Committee, Select Board, Town Administrator, Assistant Town Administrators, and department heads for their support. Their contributions are critical to the budget process, and we extend our appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

Michael Donovan, Chair
George Danis
Lyndsey Kruzer
David Leiphart, Advisory Committee
Steven Pohl, Advisory Committee

FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: FY27-FY31

Department/Request	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
	\$57,140,522	\$61,303,607	\$22,528,932	\$19,841,733	\$33,636,021
* NOTE: Includes several capital related Warrant Articles and HCAL project to be voted at Annual Town Meeting.					
Bare Cove Park					
Power for Bare Cove Park Green Dock House Museum	\$58,000				
New Roof for Building 80		\$360,200			
Total Bare Cove Park	\$58,000	\$360,200	\$0	\$0	\$0
Building					
Replacement Vehicles for Building Inspectional Staff	\$47,139				
Total Building	\$47,139	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Center for Active Living					
New Center for Active Living *	\$29,927,423				
Vehicle Replacement FY28		\$190,000			
Total Center for Active Living	\$29,927,423	\$190,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education					
District - Main Entrance Security Assessment - All Schools	\$30,000				
School Department Extraordinary Capital Needs*	\$770,000				
Transportation Depot - Energy (PV for Roof)		\$250,000			
Transportation Depot - Life Safety		\$68,000			
Transportation Depot - Building Envelope	\$50,000				
Transportation Depot - Electrical		\$50,000			
Transportation - SUVs	\$40,000	\$40,000		\$85,000	
Transportation - 14 Passenger Bus	\$125,000				
Transportation - Security cameras		\$28,700	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
South- Roofs - Major repair/replacement **	\$5,778,000				
South- Security - Build security entrance to front hallway			\$20,000		
South- Basketball Courts		\$140,000			
South- Gym - Ventilation - Ceiling Fans x4		\$8,000			
South- Door Hardware - Interior replacement		\$10,000			
South- Door Hardware -Exterior Replacement		\$30,000			
South- Painting of floors, hallways & gym			\$43,000		
South - Main Driveway Asphalt Paving			\$80,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
South - Lighting Update Interior Lighting to LED		\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
South - BACnet IP BMS Communication System Upgrades		\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
South - AC Unit 3rd Floor			\$11,000		
PRS - Ventilator Heating Improvements	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
South - Security cameras		\$15,000			
South - Repointing Masonry		\$134,550			
South - Replace Window Sealant and Backer Rod			\$126,750		
IT - ArubaNetworks L3 Core Switch				\$25,000	
IT - iPads K-1 sets		\$150,000			
IT - Workstations (Lang labs/admins)		\$75,000			
IT - iMacs (art teachers)		\$6,000			
IT Smart-UPS battery backups		\$15,000			
PRS - Synchronized Clock System Tie-in		\$10,000	\$10,000		

Department/Request	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
PRS - Roof Replacement **	\$6,527,000				
PRS - Emergency Generator		\$58,500			
PRS - Security Vestibule/Office/Library Redesign		\$150,000			\$150,000
PRS - Lighting - Update Interior Lighting to LED		\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
PRS - Garden Pathways to make ADA accessible			\$15,500		
IT - Server/Storage Hyperconverged					\$125,000
IT - HPE/ArubaNetworks ArubaCentral				\$80,000	
IT - UPS - EAS/PRS/SOU				\$12,000	
IT - UPS - HMS			\$18,000		
IT - Viewsonic Viewboards SOU		\$87,500			
IT - SOU WAP replacements (60 units)		\$37,500			
IT - Viewsonic Viewboards EAS	\$87,500				
IT - Laptop Refresh EAS/SOU/Central	\$125,000				
IT - UPS-HHS	\$12,000				
IT - Uninterruptable Power Supplies		\$16,000	\$18,000	\$12,000	
IT - HMS WAP replacements				\$75,000	
IT - Avigilon NVR Storage Server			\$60,000		
IT - Fortigate Firewall/UTM 601F (or equivalent)			\$30,000		
IT - Domain controller Secondary		\$5,000			
IT - EAS WAP replacements (60 units)	\$45,000				
IT - Domain controller			\$5,000		
IT - Core Switch		\$25,000			
IT - Aruba Networks			\$20,000		
IT - Admin Work Stations	\$20,000				
HPS - Roof Repairs throughout district	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
HPS - Sealcoating and safety painting		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
HPS - Mobile Phone Signal Boosters		\$150,000	\$150,000		
HPS - Safety and Security	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000		
HMS - PV Solar Array				\$3,645,786	
HMS - Lighting - Update Interior Lighting to LED		\$25,000			
HPS - Avigilon camera NVR			\$55,000		
HMS - Tech & Working Lab Slop Sinks		\$8,000			
HPS - Instructional Equipment / Furniture	\$30,000	\$44,214	\$44,214	\$44,214	
HPS - Copiers (2/year; 32 total units)		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
HPS - Area carpet/flooring (replacement plan)		\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
HMS - Boiler	\$97,993				
HMS - Field Drainage			\$120,000		
HHS - Woodshop - slop sink replacement		\$10,000			
HHS - Wrestling Room Floor Replacement		\$53,662			
HHS - Windows/Doors		\$30,000	\$30,000		
HHS - Safety and Security Store Front		\$250,000	\$200,000		
HHS - Sewer Grade Repair - Guidance Office			\$80,000		
HHS - Pavilion			\$500,000		
HHS - Mechanical Systems Replacement **		\$21,799,400			
HHS - Roofs - Major Repair/replacement **		\$18,500,000			
HHS - Lighting - Update Interior Lighting to LED		\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
HHS - Life Safety System *	\$1,745,437				
HHS - JV Softball Field			\$661,000		
HHS - Floors: Refinish all locker room floors		\$87,605			

Department/Request	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
HHS - Building: Envelope Repairs: Window Sealant		\$185,250			
HHS - Athletics and Grounds Storage	\$61,000				
HHS - Art Lab Countertop replacement			\$65,000		
Firewall		\$30,000	\$30,000		
East: Transport Depot - Replace Garage Door		\$47,000			
East - Stage Floor		\$25,000			
East - LED Lighting Upgrade		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
East - Sound Systems		\$12,000			
East - Generator Repair	\$62,682				
East - ERU Replacement *	\$860,000				
Districtwide - Floor Cleaners	\$101,683				
Districtwide - Director & Supervisor Vehicles		\$90,450			
District Wide - Vehicle		\$80,000			
Building 179 renovations (excludes sprinklers) - HPS		\$354,312			
Building 179 Boiler System		\$79,776			
Building 179 - Replace windows and doors		\$160,000			
Building 179 - Fire Suppression System		\$120,000			
Building 179 - Building Envelope		\$902,625			
Building 132 - General Repair / Maintenance		\$24,420			
Building 132 - FOB Entry		\$8,000			
Building 132 - Envelope repairs		\$45,000			
Building 132 - Envelope Supplies		\$45,000			
Building 132 - Building Envelope Roof Repairs		\$250,000			
IT - Server Backup Domain Controller			\$5,000		
Total Education	\$16,713,295	\$45,293,464	\$2,804,464	\$4,376,000	\$672,000
**NOTE: Includes borrowing authorizations for consideration at future Town Meetings. The Town expects MSBA grants for the HHS Roof/Mechanical, South Roof, and PRS Roof projects in the range of 30-40%. The PRS and South MSBA roof projects are not being					

Elections					
Tabulators		\$52,000		\$13,000	
Total Elections	\$0	\$52,000	\$0	\$13,000	\$0

Fire Department					
Fire boat community match		\$200,000			
SCBA Compressor			\$150,000		
SCBA Cylinders		\$125,000			
Utility Truck	\$90,000				
Station 1 Heating System Circulation Motor	\$20,000				
Ambulance		\$595,000		\$654,500	
Fire hydrants and fire hose	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
EMS Stat Training Manikin	\$10,960				
FD Administration Vehicle	\$75,000	\$80,000			\$90,000
Fire Turnout Gear	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$70,000
Total Fire Department	\$300,960	\$1,105,000	\$255,000	\$759,500	\$200,000

Harbormaster					
Police Patrol Vessel Acquisition: Safeboat 31 Replacement	\$250,000				
Drone as First Responder (DFR & Counter Drone System)	\$50,000				
Marine Vessel Engine Repower Safeboat 33				\$100,000	

Department/Request	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Marine Patrol Vessel Repower: Safeboat 25			\$45,000		
Harbor Dredging			\$10,000,000		
Total Harbormaster	\$300,000	\$0	\$10,045,000	\$100,000	\$0

Information Technology					
Annual Technology Upgrades	\$145,000	\$155,000	\$165,000	\$175,000	
Total Information Technology	\$145,000	\$155,000	\$165,000	\$175,000	\$0

Library					
Structural repairs to 2nd floor exterior balcony and AV room bump-out					\$100,000
Lighting replacement					\$80,000
Landscaping design and upgrades					\$50,000
Building renovation feasibility study			\$100,000		
Bathroom renovation/repairs		\$200,000			
Children's entrance stairway and walkway replacement	\$32,375				
Construction of parking lot expansion and front walkway replacement				\$1,652,000	
Carpet replacement	\$88,000	\$48,000	\$115,000	\$110,000	
Replace/repair/repaint exterior wood trim and windows as needed		\$400,000			\$400,000
Parking lot design, permitting and construction documents			\$110,000		
Furniture replacement	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Computers & Technology	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Cooling/Chiller System Replacement *	\$1,485,245				
Total Library	\$1,649,620	\$692,000	\$369,000	\$1,806,000	\$674,000

Police Department					
Police Enterprise Drone			\$88,000		
Police Firearms (Rifles)			\$40,000		
Body Armor (17)	\$21,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$23,000	
Rifle Plate Carriers			\$13,000		
Police Cruiser Radios	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000		
Electronic Control Weapons (Taser)	\$71,733	\$71,733	\$71,733	\$71,733	\$71,733
Live Scan Fingerprint Systems	\$55,000				
Virtra Simulator		\$337,000			
Police Motorcycles	\$30,000				
Police Vehicles (5)	\$332,152	\$354,510	\$378,985	\$379,000	\$382,000
Total Police Department	\$524,885	\$800,243	\$628,718	\$473,733	\$453,733

Public Works					
#41 (2018) Chevy 2500 HD P/U				\$75,000	
#40 (2011) IH 7400 Sand Truck w/ Plow				\$250,000	
#14 (2019) IH 7499 Dump w/ Plow & Sander				\$363,500	
WS-1 Wright Sentor Mower			\$10,000		
#25 (2018) Trackless sidewalk Tractor MT7				\$180,000	
#7 (2020) IH 7499 Dump w/ Plow & Sander					\$230,000
#WS1 Wright Sentor Mower (2008)		\$12,000			
#6 (2018) IH Dump 7400DP Plow & Sander					\$370,000
#21 (2017) John Deere Backho 410L		\$250,000			
#16 2017 IH 7000 Dump W/ Plow & Sander		\$230,000			

Department/Request	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
#36 (2017) BOMBARDIER SW-45				\$145,000	
#13 (2020) IH 7499 Dump w/ Plow & Sander				\$363,500	
#8 (2013) Intl HV5075FA Dump w/ Spread & Plow				\$363,500	
#39SB Snow Blower 4150-SB (2003)		\$15,000			
#46 2013 Stump Grinder 602 18 Ton		\$93,000			
#24 1993 Bombardier Sidewalk Tractor		\$175,000			
#43 2019 Chevy 2500 Quad Cab 4WD P/U w/ Plow			\$75,000		
#3 2020 Chevy Silverado 2500 w/ Plow					\$75,000
#37 2014 Chevy 2500 HD pickup w/ Plow					\$77,000
#39 (2013) Trackless Sidewalk Tractor					\$210,000
Skid steer		\$85,000			
#32 (2014) Toro Ground Master 4010D	\$91,000				
#30 2017 Groundsmaster 4000D Mower	\$91,000				
#49 2015 Leaf Sucker		\$4,000			
#4 (2016) Chevy 3500 HD 4 Wheel drive 1 Ton Dump w/ plow & sander	\$135,000				
#52 2002 Drum Roller 1.5 Ton		\$30,000			
#5 2016 IH 7400 Dump w/ Sander & Plow	\$366,000				
#54-(2017) Falcon Slip in Hot Box		\$15,000			
#18 (2013) Chevy 3500 HD 4 Wheel drive 1 Ton Dump w/ plow & sander	\$109,640				
Total Public Works	\$792,640	\$909,000	\$85,000	\$1,740,500	\$962,000

Recreation					
High School Track		\$400,000			
South School basketball Court					\$350,000
Powers Field			\$125,000		
Carlson Skate Park				\$500,000	
Accessibility improvements at Margetts Field				\$500,000	
Kress Basketball Court					\$350,000
Carlson Basketball Courts					\$600,000
Plymouth River Tennis Courts			\$1,500,000		
Bradley Woods Basketball Court and Accessible paths		\$350,000			
Plymouth River School: New Backstop, field layout, fencing, dugouts		\$365,000			
Accessibility improvements at Kress Field			\$175,000		
Accessibility improvements at Lynch Field			\$175,000		
Lynch Field				\$2,400,000	
Cronin Tennis Courts					\$1,600,000
Improve Accessibility and Safety at Hersey Field					\$333,788
Plymouth River Basketball Court	\$343,500				
Total Recreation	\$343,500	\$1,115,000	\$1,975,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,233,788

Select Board					
Hingham Harbor Resiliency Improvements		\$5,000,000			\$22,000,000
Total Select Board	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$22,000,000

Sewer					
Pump Stations	\$231,000	\$536,200	\$358,250	\$289,500	\$482,000
Major Repairs / Emergencies	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000
Infrastructure Upgrades	\$125,000	\$100,000	\$115,000	\$210,000	\$115,000

Department/Request	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Infiltration / Inflow	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$225,000	\$195,000	\$100,000
Total Sewer	\$736,000	\$866,200	\$828,250	\$824,500	\$827,000

SSCC- Bowling					
Plumbing and Electrical upgrades				\$150,000	\$150,000
HVAC system for the Bowling Alley		\$350,000			
Total SSCC- Bowling	\$0	\$350,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000

SSCC- Golf					
Irrigation			\$50,000	\$1,500,000	
Repaving cart paths, walkways and parking areas				\$150,000	
Golf Course Bathroom					\$150,000
Electric Golf Cart purchase			\$600,000		
Golf Cart Barn			\$750,000		
Golf Course Equipment	\$35,000	\$58,500	\$58,500	\$78,500	\$88,500
Total SSCC- Golf	\$35,000	\$58,500	\$1,458,500	\$1,728,500	\$238,500

Town Hall					
Replace Bathroom Fixtures		\$25,000		\$25,000	
LED Lighting Retrofit for Game Room and Town Hall Corridors	\$58,310				
Replace B&G Circulating Pumps	\$31,250				
Replace All Wooden and Metal Exterior Doors					\$100,000
Town Hall Main Roof Replacement					\$450,000
Cooling Tower Repairs				\$145,000	\$0
Replace Elevator Cars				\$150,000	\$150,000
Replace All Carpeting in Town Hall			\$175,000		
Exterior Painting of Town Hall			\$100,000		
Replace All Five York Roof Top Units			\$95,000		
Town Hall Partial Roof Replacement		\$300,000			
Installing Fobs on Interior and Exterior Doors		\$130,000			
Replace Two Burnham boilers at Town Hall	\$42,500				
Heat Pump Replacements	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Town Hall General Repairs/Renovations	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Total Town Hall	\$177,060	\$500,000	\$420,000	\$380,000	\$760,000

Transfer Station/Recycling					
L1 Chevy 2500 with utility body sander and plow					\$75,000
T6 - 100 Yard Closed top Compactor trailer (2014)		\$90,000			
#L-8 Kenworth LT-800 Tractor (2006)				\$100,000	
#L-32 244J John Deere Mini Loader		\$125,000			
Roll Off Truck		\$292,000			
L7 - 2011 Kenworth T-900 (Tractor for trailer)	\$250,000				
T4 - 100 yard Closed Top Trash Trailer	\$90,000				
#L2 Chevy 3500 1-Ton Truck with Plow	\$25,000				\$110,000
Trailer Tires and Undercarriage Repair	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Total Transfer Station/Recycling	\$390,000	\$532,000	\$25,000	\$125,000	\$185,000

Weir River Water System					
Water System Improvements	\$5,000,000	\$3,325,000	\$3,470,000	\$3,790,000	\$3,280,000

Department/Request	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Total Weir River Water System	\$5,000,000	\$3,325,000	\$3,470,000	\$3,790,000	\$3,280,000

Total Capital Projects	\$57,140,522	\$61,303,607	\$22,528,932	\$19,841,733	\$33,636,021
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Proposed Funding Sources	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Capital Outlay Allocation (taxes)	\$3,600,000	\$9,972,507	\$4,797,182	\$3,996,447	\$4,240,521
Capital Stabilization Fund	\$74,547	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unassigned Fund Balance **	\$4,860,682	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Borrowing *	\$38,540,923	\$33,209,580	\$7,071,000	\$5,297,786	\$22,000,000
Grants *	\$3,691,500	\$12,576,820	\$0	\$0	\$0
Municipal Waterways Improvement Fund	\$250,000	\$0	\$2,929,000	\$0	\$0
Community Preservation Act Funds	\$343,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Excess Ambulance Receipts	\$0	\$595,000	\$0	\$654,500	\$0
Other Funding Source	\$0	\$350,000	\$1,975,000	\$3,400,000	\$2,900,000
Recreation Revolving Fund	\$8,370	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Water Enterprise Fund	\$5,000,000	\$3,325,000	\$3,470,000	\$3,790,000	\$3,280,000
SSCC Enterprise Fund	\$35,000	\$408,500	\$1,458,500	\$1,878,500	\$388,500
Sewer Special Revenue Fund	\$736,000	\$866,200	\$828,250	\$824,500	\$827,000

Total Proposed Funding Sources	\$57,140,522	\$61,303,607	\$22,528,932	\$19,841,733	\$33,636,021
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** Includes borrowing authorization for the HCAL project to be voted at ATM 2026 and future Town Meeting authorizations (including Special Town Meetings) for school accelerated repair projects (FY27 and FY28) and other municipal projects (FY28-FY31). The Town expects MSBA grants for the HHS Roof/Mechanical, South Roof, and PRS Roof projects in the range of 30-40%.*

*** Includes several Warrant Articles to be voted at this Annual Town Meeting.*

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL BOARD

In anticipation of the 2026 Annual Town Meeting, the Personnel Board is pleased to submit this report of its activities since the 2025 Annual Town Meeting. As part of our report, we acknowledge and extend the Board's deep gratitude to David Pace for his decades of service on and leadership of the Personnel Board. We would also like to welcome Andy McElaney as the newest member of the Board.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Following the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, the Personnel Board concluded negotiations and the Select Board entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Hingham Police Patrolman's Association, the Hingham Police Superior Officers Union MCOP, Local 405, the Hingham Permanent Firefighters Association, IAFF, Local 2398 and the Hingham Department of Public Works Teamsters, Local 25. The Board shortly will begin collective bargaining agreement negotiations with the union representing the Department of Public Works Supervisors Unit, Local 25, whose agreement expires on June 30, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TEAMSTERS, LOCAL 25

On recommendation of the Board, the Select Board agreed to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Department of Public Works Teamsters, Local 25 (Rank and File Unit). This agreement provides that for its term, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028, a general wage increase of 3% annually, along with an equity wage adjustment to all positions except Foreman as follows: Grade PW1- 2.36%; Grade PW2- 2.1% and Grade PW3- 6.16%. The Sick Time Retirement Payout was increased starting at \$12 per day for 0-149 sick days; \$1,788 plus \$14 per day for 150-199 days and \$2,488 plus \$16 per day for each day over 199. The longevity incentive was modified to include an increase in annual Longevity payments as follows: At least 5 years but less than 10- \$550; At least 10 years but less than 15- \$950; At least 15 years but less than 20 \$1,050; At least 20 years but less than 25- \$1,150 and 25 years or more- \$1,350. The Clothing Allowance was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per year. The Class A License Stipend was increased from \$400 to \$700 and an Essential Employee Stipend of \$300 per year was added.

POLICE SUPERIOR OFFICERS UNION

On recommendation of the Board, the Select Board agreed to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Hingham Police Superior Officers Union. This agreement provides that for its term, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027, a general wage increase of 3% annually, along with an equity adjustment of the PS-5 Step 3 hourly wage to increase the hourly wage to \$55.0800, reflecting an increase of \$0.5595. Other wages in the salary scale for PS-5, PS-5AD, PS-6, and PS-6AD were adjusted accordingly. The addition of two steps at each officer grade at years 6 and 9 of service in the department (Steps D and E) were added that reflect a 5% increase over the prior step in such grade. Officers shall be placed at the appropriate step in their grade based upon such Officer's years of service. The Educational Incentive pay was modified to include payments made under the Quinn Bill to be included in base pay for the purposes of retirement and pension when required by law and for the purposes of determining overtime and shift differential pay. Sick Leave was modified to allow employees to use up to 5 sick days for the care of a sick child, spouse or parent. The Sick Time Retirement Payout was adjusted to include payout of \$12 per day for days 0-150 of accrual and payout for accrual of 401 or more days was increased from \$9,000 to \$10,000. The overtime rate for Police Details was increased to allow for an overtime rate equal to a Patrol Officer at Grade PS-2AD, Step C on the corresponding fiscal year's salary schedule with a bachelor's degree plus \$1.00 per hour. The Performance Evaluation Form was amended. A \$1,250 per year Stipend for a Drone Unit Officer was added. The Forced Overtime rate was modified. The Town agreed to establish a wellness program as determined by the Chief with the goal of

identifying and supporting employees at high risk for a cardiac event. Finally, the Union and the Town agreed to work together in good faith to withdraw the Town from Civil Service pursuant to the procedures outlined in M.G.L. c.31 and to negotiate provisions governing promotions, layoffs and discipline for inclusion in a future CBA. The Town agreed to use its good faith efforts to put the issue of Civil Service withdrawal before the 2026 Annual Town Meeting and to request Town Meeting approval for a one-time payment of \$7500 for each member of the bargaining unit employed by the Town as of the effective date of a CBA containing the aforementioned provisions. Note that the withdrawal from Civil Service and the corresponding one-time payment described above are contingent upon approval by Town Meeting and a corresponding CBA approved by the Town and the Hingham Police Patrolman's Association.

HINGHAM POLICE PATROLMAN'S ASSOCIATION

On recommendation of the Board, the Select Board has agreed to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Hingham Police Patrolman's Association. This agreement provides that for its term, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027, a general wage increase of 3% annually, a change in hiring grades for new Officers, and the addition of two steps on the salary schedule for Officers achieving 15 and 25 years of service. The Educational Incentive pay was modified to include payments made under the Quinn Bill to be included in base pay for the purposes of retirement and pension when required by law and for the purposes of determining overtime and shift differential pay. Sick Leave was modified to allow employees to use up to 5 sick days for the care of a sick child, spouse or parent. The Sick Leave Buy Back was increased starting at \$12 per day for 0-149 sick days; \$1,788 plus \$14 per day for 150-199 days and \$2,488 plus \$16 per day for each day over 199. The Clothing Allowance was increased from \$900 to \$1,000. The overtime rate for Police Details was increased to allow for an overtime rate equal to a Patrol Officer at Grade PS-2AD, Step C on the corresponding fiscal year's salary Scale with a bachelor's degree plus \$1.00 per hour. The Performance Evaluation Form was amended. Stipends for Evidence Room Officer, Drone Unit Officer, Childcare Safety Installation Officer and Assistant Fleet Maintenance Officer were added. The Forced Overtime rate was modified. The Town agreed to establish a wellness program as determined by the Chief with the goal of identifying and supporting employees at high risk for a cardiac event. Finally, the Union and the Town agreed to work together in good faith to withdraw the Town from Civil Service pursuant to the procedures outlined in M.G.L. c.31 and to negotiate provisions governing promotions, layoffs and discipline for inclusion in a future CBA. The Town agreed to use its good faith efforts to put the issue of Civil Service withdrawal before the 2026 Annual Town Meeting and to request Town Meeting approval for a one-time payment of \$7500 for each member of the bargaining unit employed by the Town as of the effective date of a CBA containing the aforementioned provisions. Note that the withdrawal from Civil Service and the corresponding one-time payment described above are contingent upon approval by Town Meeting and a corresponding CBA approved by the Town and the Hingham Police Superior Officers Union.

HINGHAM PERMANENT FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

On recommendation of the Board, the Select Board agreed to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the Hingham Permanent Firefighters Association. This agreement provides that for its term, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027, a general wage increase of 3% annually, along with equity wage adjustments effective July 1, 2024 as follows: Grade FS-1A- 2.39%; Grade FS-2- 1.91%; Grade FS-3- 1.25%; Grade FS-3A- 1.69%; Grade FS-5A- 3.57% and Grade FS-5B- 3.79%. A Stipend for all Paramedic Certified members of the bargaining unit was added in the amount of \$1,000 annually, effective July 1, 2024, \$2,000 annually, effective July 1, 2025 and \$3,000 annually, effective July 1, 2026. The Fire Prevention Officer Stipend was increased from \$250 per week to \$500 per week and a \$75 per week Stipend was added for members appointed to the newly created Fire Training Division. Finally, the Union and the Town agreed to work together in good faith to withdraw the Town from Civil Service pursuant to the procedures outlined in M.G.L. c.31 and to negotiate provisions governing promotions,

layoffs and discipline for inclusion in a future CBA. The Town agreed to use its good faith efforts to put the issue of Civil Service withdrawal before the 2026 Annual Town Meeting and to request Town Meeting approval for a one-time payment of \$7500 for each member of the bargaining unit employed by the Town as of the effective date of a CBA containing the aforementioned provisions. Note that the withdrawal from Civil Service and the corresponding one-time payment described above are contingent upon approval by Town Meeting and a corresponding CBA approved by the Town and the Union.

OTHER TOWN EMPLOYEES AND TOWN OFFICERS

The Board recommended a general wage increase of 3%, effective July 1, 2026, for employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Pursuant to the Board's authority in Section 12 of the Personnel Bylaw to approve requests to place new hires on the salary scale above Step 1, the Board approved the following Town requests for higher step placement: Heavy Equipment Operator for the Tree and Parks Division of the Department of Public Works at Grade PW1, Step 5 of the Salary Schedule and granted the Heavy Equipment Operator credit for prior years of service for his role at Hingham Public Schools for purposes of calculating vacation time and approved the granting of credit for earned, but unused sick time.

The Personnel Board also approved revisions to the job description of the Land Use and Development Coordinator.

The Personnel Board granted sick leave extension to three employees and approved eligibility of education incentive pay to two Police Officers commensurate with such officer's level of education.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE PERSONNEL BY-LAW

The Personnel Board recommends that the Town, at the 2026 Annual Town Meeting, amend the Personnel By-Law, effective July 1, 2026, so that, as amended and restated, it will be in the form on file in the Town Clerk's office immediately preceding Town Meeting.

To amend Sections 26.b; 26.c and 26.d of the Personnel By-Law to read in its entirety as follows:

SECTION 26. GENERAL

b. Bridge Provision – Salary Scale, Sick Time, Vacation Time Calculation and Longevity for Certain Former Employees of the Town and Town Affiliates.

(i) Salary Scale. Upon recommendation of the Town Administrator, the Personnel Board may authorize in writing rehiring a Former Town Employee or a Former Town Affiliate Employee (both as defined below) at a higher step in the grade for a new position with the Town, but not to exceed the additional steps that would have been credited based on the length of the former employment with the Town or Town Affiliate.

(ii) Sick Time, Vacation Time Calculation and Longevity. A Former Town Employee shall receive (A) credit for previously accrued but unused sick time existing as of the date of their prior termination from Town employment and (B) length of service credit equal to the number of years of their prior Town employment which shall be used to determine their eligibility for vacation and longevity benefits, which benefits will be credited consistent with the policies governing the new Town position. A Former Town Affiliate Employee shall receive (A) credit for previously accrued but unused sick time existing as of the date of their prior termination from employment with the Town Affiliate and (B) length of service credit equal to the number of years of their prior Town Affiliate employment which shall be used to determine

their eligibility for vacation and longevity benefits which benefits will be credited consistent with the policies governing the new Town position.

(iii) Definitions. The following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them below for purposes of this section of the By-Law:

Former Town Affiliate Employee. An individual formerly employed at a Town Affiliate working fifteen (15) or more regularly scheduled hours per week for purposes of vacation time calculations and twenty (20) or more hours per week for purposes of longevity calculations whose hire date by the Town is within two (2) years of the termination of prior employment with the Town Affiliate. The Town may request verification of a Former Town Affiliate Employee's employment status for purposes of these requirements. For avoidance of doubt, a Former Town Affiliate Employee shall also include employees hired directly from the Town Affiliate without a lapse of employment.

Former Town Employee. An individual who was considered to be a permanent, benefit eligible employee of the Town working fifteen (15) or more regularly scheduled hours per week for purposes of vacation time calculations and twenty (20) or more hours per week for purposes of longevity calculations whose rehire date by the Town is within two (2) years of the termination of prior employment by the Town.

Town Affiliate. Shall mean the Hingham Municipal Light Plant, the Hingham Public Schools and other employers performing services for the Town as may be agreed to in writing by the Select Board and the Personnel Board.

c. Exit Interviews. All employees who are separated from service with the Town, whether through resignation, retirement or termination due to a position elimination, shall be offered an exit interview conducted by the Human Resources Director, or their designee and to be conducted by an individual outside the supervisory chain of command for such employees. Additionally, department heads and any individual employed by the Town pursuant to an individual employment agreement shall be asked to participate in an exit interview with the Human Resources Director and/or a member of the Personnel Board as determined by the employee to ensure an available process outside the supervisory chain of command and the management team.

d. Effective Date. This subsection shall become effective as of July 1, 2026. Any retroactive application of this subsection to a current Town employee shall require the recommendation of the Town Administrator and the approval of the Personnel Board.

THE PERSONNEL BOARD

Jack Manning, Chair

Lynn Carroll

Karen Johnson

Andy McElaney

Courtney Orwig

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Warrant for the 2026 Hingham Annual Town Meeting contains three proposed amendments to the Hingham Zoning By-Law. The Planning Board initiated two of these articles and the Select Board initiated one article. The proposed amendments broadly fall into two categories: corrective changes and locally-identified changes.

The report of the Planning Board, submitted in accordance with MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5, is set forth below. The full text of each article and the Comments and Recommended Motions of the Advisory Committee is available in the body of the Warrant.

ZONING ARTICLE 35: “Height, Building” Definition Reference Correction

The Planning Board initiated this Article in order to correct a section reference to the height exceptions under Section IV-C of the Zoning By-Law in the definition of “Height, Building” under Section VI. As such, this article represents a cleanup of a previously approved zoning amendment that resulted in the erroneous reference.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of this article.

ZONING ARTICLE 36: Site Plan Review Updates

This article would amend Site Plan Review procedures under Section I-I of the Zoning By-Law by (i) eliminating Site Plan Review in association with a Special Permit A2 or Special Permit A3 unless the project separately meets land disturbance thresholds; (ii) requiring Minor Site Plan Review for projects that disturb 75% of total lot area regardless of total land area disturbed; (iii) requiring submission of a recorded decision for any project subject to Site Plan Review and not just those subject to a building permit; and (iv) enabling the Planning Board to establish an administrative review process for certain Minor Site Plans or minor modifications of approved site plans. This article also makes formatting changes related to the above and deletes an incorrect reference under subsection k. of the Submittal Requirements. The Planning Board mainly initiated this article to create permitting efficiencies by focusing the Site Plan Review process on projects that result in significant alteration of a property and potentially allowing administrative review of minor changes to a site plan.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of this article.

ZONING ARTICLE 37: North Fire Station Zoning District

The intent of this article is to rezone the property former North Fire Station located at 230 North Street (Assessors Map 60, Lot 119) from the “Official and Open Space” district to the “Business A” district. The Select Board initiated this amendment in order to encourage adaptive reuse of the building now that the fire department has relocated to the new Public Safety Facility.

The property was historically zoned for business uses, similar to those on adjacent properties, until the Official and Open Space District was created in 1977. The Zoning By-Law allows a number of commercial uses, including restaurants, retail stores, professional offices, and mixed-use buildings, in the Business A district, in addition to all the institutional uses allowed in the Official and Open Space district. The map amendment would also eliminate some of the currently existing dimensional nonconformities related to

the Official and Open Space district standards. The existing building fully complies with the Business A requirements.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend adoption of this article.

Full text of the proposed articles and recommendations of the Planning Board may be reviewed by the public in the Office of the Town Clerk and the Community Planning Department. Materials are also available to view online at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/679/Proposed-By-Law-Amendments>.

HINGHAM PLANNING BOARD

Tracy Shriver, Chair

Kevin Ellis

Gordon Carr

Crystal Kelly

Gary Tondorf-Dick

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Hingham School Committee remains committed to supporting a high-quality education that meets the needs of all Hingham Public School (HPS) students while maintaining responsible financial stewardship. We are proud to present the following report including a FY27 budget summary, capital facilities update, and highlights of the important work of our faculty, staff, district leadership, and our community partners in support of our students.

As has become the new norm, the 2025-2026 school year has included unexpected circumstances/challenges, including multiple snow days and school building repairs. We are grateful for the commitment of our dedicated staff and the support of the community to ensure unwavering focus on the academic achievement, personal growth, and wellness of all HPS students, even in the face of challenging circumstances.

Strategic Plan

As promised, the recently developed Portrait of a Learner outlining the skills and competencies students need to thrive in their academic journey and beyond was the “north star” for the development of the district’s updated three year Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. The implementation of the district’s strategic priorities is ongoing and emphasizes academic excellence, student well-being, belonging, and responsible management of district resources. These strategic priorities guide our decision-making and inform ongoing initiatives across the district.

The Committee worked closely with the Superintendent and district leadership to monitor progress toward these goals and to ensure that programs and services remain aligned with the evolving needs of Hingham’s students.

Among the areas of focus this year were:

- Continued support for high quality, aligned, research based curricula and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) across all grade levels
- Strengthening social-emotional supports and student wellness initiatives
- Enhancing communication and engagement with families and the broader community
- Ensuring facilities and structures are well-maintained to support safe, effective learning environments

FY27 Proposed Budget and Stewardship

The School Committee remains mindful of the responsibility to balance the educational needs of students with the financial capacity of the Town, adhering to the 3.5% operating budget cap agreed to in the FY24-FY27 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) following the 2023 override.

To meet the parameters of the MOU, the HPS FY27 budget proposal of \$72,847,183 includes \$431,736 in budget reductions, efficiencies and continued reliance on the implementation of fees for pre-school and kindergarten tuition, transportation, athletics, extracurricular activities, and student parking. These cuts and fees are necessary to meet our financial responsibility to the Town while sustaining core academic programs, student service supports, and addressing contractual and operational obligations, including salaries, utilities, and legally required special education services. Given the volatile and sometimes unexpected nature of legally required expenses, including out-of-district (OOD) tuitions, related transportation, and in-district specialized contracted services, the MOU provides for the school budget to request the Town to cover costs that are in excess of 2% of these expenses.

We appreciate the collaborative partnership of the Select Board, Advisory Committee, Town Administrator, other Town officials and the support of the community during the budget process.

Facilities and Capital Planning

HPS is actively working to address the urgent facilities issues, including roofs at Plymouth River School and South School, and the roof and heating, ventilation and air conditioning at Hingham High School. HPS is pleased to have been accepted into the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) accelerated repair program which can provide between 30 - 40% reimbursement for the cost of these crucial projects.

The 2025 School Building Committee established to oversee these projects is currently working with the MSBA assigned Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and designers on schematic design to determine the timing and final costs of these projects.

Maintaining and improving school facilities continues to be an important priority and the district has worked closely with town officials on capital planning initiatives intended to preserve the town's investment in school buildings and ensure safe, effective learning environments.

We are grateful for the collaborative work of the Capital Outlay Committee, the 2025 School Building Committee and the continued efforts of the 2017 School Building Committee in joining our efforts to responsibly maintain and repair and replace our facilities.

Community School Partnerships

Our schools continue to benefit from the strong tradition of volunteerism and the generosity of families, community members, PTOs, boosters, community groups, civic organizations, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, the Hingham Education Foundation, the Hingham Sports Partnership, and the Hingham Arts Alliance as well as the dedication of talented educators, staff, and administrators who work tirelessly on behalf of our students. Their efforts support a broad range of academic, athletic, artistic, and extracurricular opportunities and meaningfully contribute to the success and well-being of Hingham's students.

Acknowledgements

The School Committee extends its sincere appreciation to the Superintendent, district leadership team, faculty, staff, students, and families for their continued commitment to our schools and community.

We also thank the Select Board, Advisory Committee, Capital Outlay Committee, and all Town departments for their collaboration and support.

Finally, we thank the residents of Hingham for their continued investment in the education of our students and for their engagement in the important work of our schools. Your commitment to education is the cornerstone of excellence in our schools.

Superintendent of Schools, Kathryn (Katie) Roberts

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Jen Benham, Chair
Michelle Ayer, Vice Chair
Alyson Anderson, Secretary
Kerry Ni

Tim Miller-Dempsey
Matt Cosman
John Mooney

MUNICIPAL FINANCE TERMS

APPROPRIATION - An authorization by the Town Meeting to make obligations and payments from the treasury for a specific purpose.

ASSESSED VALUATION - A valuation set upon real or personal property by the Board of Assessors as a basis for levying taxes.

CAPITAL BUDGET - A plan of proposed capital outlays and the means of financing them for the current fiscal period.

CHERRY SHEET - A form showing all state and county charges and reimbursements to the Town as certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

DEBT SERVICE - Payment of interest and repayment of principal to holders of the Town's debt instruments.

FISCAL YEAR - A 12-month period, commencing on July 1, to which the annual budget applies.

FUND BALANCE - The unencumbered cash remaining in a fund at the end of a specified time period, usually the end of the fiscal year.

GENERAL FUND - The major Town-owned fund which is created with Town receipts and which is charged with expenditures payable from such revenues.

GRANT - A contribution of assets by one governmental unit or other organization to another. Typically, these contributions are made to local governments from the State and Federal government. Grants are usually made for specific purposes.

LINE-ITEM BUDGET - A format of budgeting which organizes costs by type of expenditure such as expenses, equipment, and salaries.

OVERLAY - The overlay is the amount raised by the Assessors to be used for potential abatement of property taxes. The Overlay Surplus is the portion of each year's overlay account no longer required to cover property tax abatements.

OVERRIDE - An override is a voter-approved, permanent property tax increase. It is designed to provide a community with the ability to generate sufficient revenues to fund recurring costs that are likely to continue into the future, such as annual operating expenses for educational and municipal services.

PROPERTY TAX LEVY - The amount produced by multiplying the assessed valuation of property by the tax rate. The tax rate is expressed "per thousand dollars" of assessed valuation.

RESERVE FUND - Money set aside by Town Meeting to be allocated by the Advisory Committee for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures.



OFFICE OF SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF HINGHAM

210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043-2757
781-741-1451 • 781-741-1454 (Fax)

TALENT BANK APPLICATION

Date _____

Name _____

Home
Address _____

Business
Address _____

Primary Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Occupation _____

Educational Background _____

Civic, Charitable, and Educational Activities

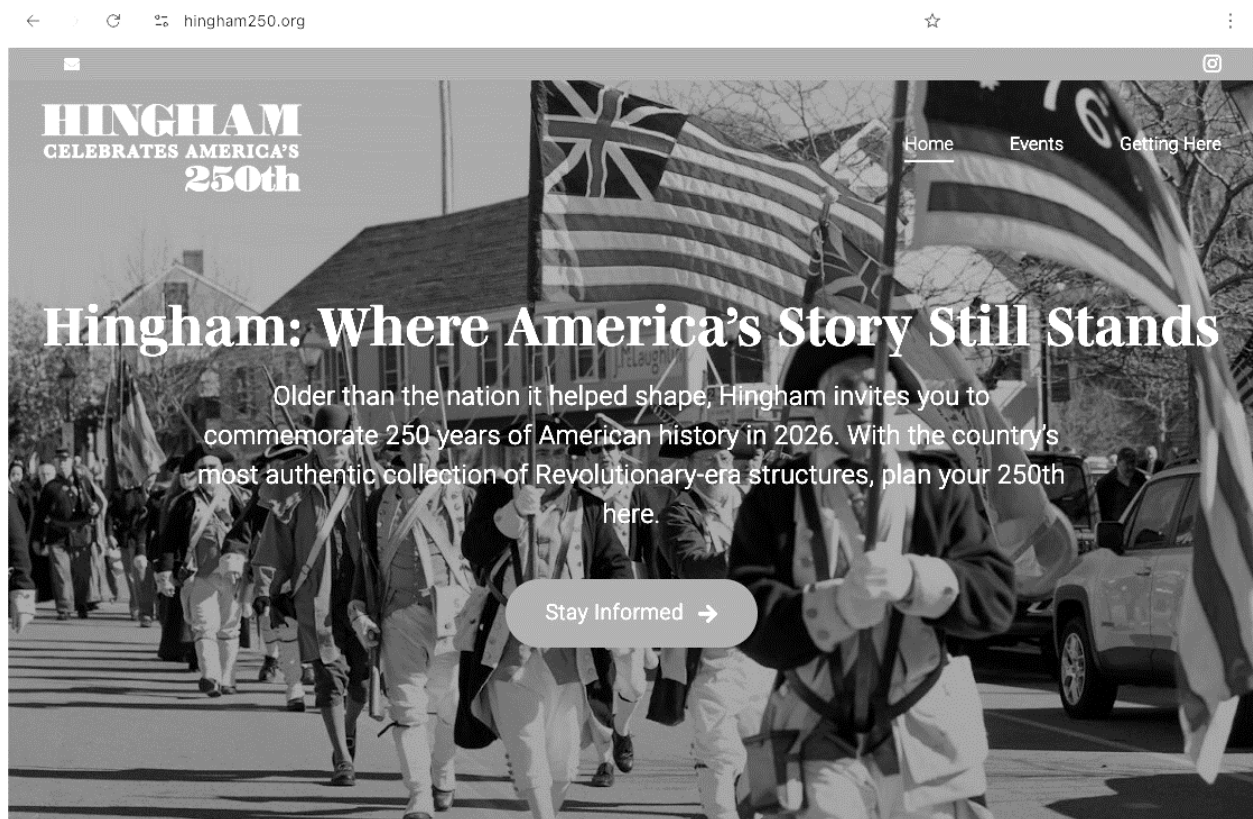
Town Committees or Offices _____

I am interested in the following Committees _____

Office of the Select Board
Town Hall
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043-2757

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