

## Minutes of July 10, 2025, Hingham Town Council Meeting

July 2025 Hingham Town Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas Peterson on July 10, 2025, at 7:30 pm. Present: Thomas Peterson, Sandi Peterson, Dave George, Roger Haas, Jason Myers, and Dan Horinek. Chris from First Bank of Montana, Commissioner Jake Strissel, along with patrons Ray Lipp and Robert Braun were also present. The June minutes were reviewed. The treasurer's report was covered. Dan made a motion to approve both minutes and treasurer report, Dave seconded, and motion carried.

### HEARING OF PATRONS: NA

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Lagoon Operator – tabled. Refuse Board- tabled. Rules and regulations – ongoing. Revisiting the town ordinances- ongoing. All curb stops need to be located and remapped. Digital speed limit sign-Per Commissioner Strissel the signs are in and will be installed soon he will call to verify. Water loss continues to be monitored. Roads/streets, culverts, and ditches – Ad for bids has been placed, closing on the bids will be August 31<sup>st</sup>. Lagoons/wastewater project-No new update since last month.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chris from FBMT (First Bank of Montana) was present discussing the town moving all funds into one bank. FBMT has offered 2.5% on the money market and they are also offering a check scanner so that there will be less trips to the bank for the clerk. They will do a buy back on unused checks and deposit slips. They will shred the old checks and deposit slips on site. Chris assured the council that our money will be insured. The council discussed it and decided it was the best thing for the town to move all funds into one bank. Motion was made by Dan to move all town funds to FBMT, it was seconded by Roger, and motion passed. Chris will get everything set up for the switch and call Sandi when they are ready. Jason had asked who all applied for the election and Commissioner Strissel informed us only three, Mayor Peterson, Roger, and Jason. There will be no primary. Mayor Peterson informed the council that PACE will be here tentatively Sept 29<sup>th</sup> to clean ½ of the sewers per our sewer maintenance. Mayor Peterson spoke about a complaint he received by a resident that someone was next to their property on a black side by side shooting a .22 towards the town. Mayor Peterson reminded everyone that we have an ordinance forbidding the discharge of firearms within the town. Mayor Peterson asked the council if anything had been planned to take care of the soft spot on the road between Hi-Line Ins and the old gas station. Ray informed the council that he had spoken with Ron Horinek, and he may have some stuff to help with the fill-in. Dan said he will talk to Ron and make some arrangements. Sandi informed the council that 301 2<sup>nd</sup> St has been turned over to the MT Dept of Commerce Housing. They will be paying the past due water/sewer bill and eventually the house will go to an auction. The main thing is what to continue to charge, the council discussed, and it was decided as we must continue to charge our fee for our grants. Sandi will inform the Dept of Commerce. Sandi let the council know that she spoke with Thad Burkhartsmeier and Matt at MMIA about the roof replacement caused by last year's wind damage. Thad plans to do the replacement of the roof before winter. Paperwork has been turned into MMIA, and they will be paying for half. Sandi also informed the council that questioned MT Dept of Commerce on our awarded funds on HB355 which we still have not received. (This was the grant we had applied for to replace the firehall heaters and rollup doors.) She received another email now asking for more forms to receive the money we have been awarded. She will get these filled out and sent. Upon discussion of water loss increases it was determined that the monthly fee per user will be increased to \$3 a month to offset the loss to the town. Once again, the council questioned how the town can lose so much water and not cause a consistent leak somewhere. Robert said that he is concerned that we will continue to add fees and it will be forgotten. Mayor Peterson informed him that will not happen because it will continue to be in old business to monitor it monthly. Mayor Peterson asked Jason if he spoke with HCWD about the town installing a bulk station using a well. HCWD said that we can, but it cannot be affiliated with HCWD. Mayor Peterson said the main thing is to help alleviate water restrictions. The preliminary budget was discussed and filled out. We will finalize the budget next month. The preliminary budget will be available at any time, please contact Sandi if you would like to view the budget. As from last year's meeting the council has decide the August Council meeting will be August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 am to make it easier for councilmen that will be harvesting.

**DELINQUENCIES/NOTICE TO DISCONNECT:** We have one that was sent to Hill County to be added to taxes and another will be given a notice to disconnect.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Peterson let the council know that he spoke with the resident that has a second house on their property and asked if someone was living in the house. He was told- only a cat.

Claims for June #6331-6348 were read; Jason made a motion to accept the claims, Dan seconded the motion, motion carried. Next meeting is August 15 @ 7:00 am. Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Roger seconded the motion, and the Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk