

Minutes of June 11, 2026, Town of Hingham Special Meeting regarding Sewer Rates and Town Council Meeting

June 2026 Hingham Town Council special meeting regarding sewer rate increase was called to order by Mayor Thomas Peterson on June 11, 2026, at 7:00 pm. Present: Thomas Peterson, Sandi Peterson, Roger Haas, Dave George, Jason Myers, and Dan Horinek. Also present at the meeting was patron Ray Lipp and Robert Braun. The first 30 mins of the meeting was to answer any questions from residents about the sewer rate increase and to vote on the following resolutions; 220 Certificate as to resolution and adopting vote to confirm sewer rate increase, 221 Certificate as to resolution and adopting vote relating to \$2,004,000 sewer system revenue bond, and 222 certificate as to resolution and adopting vote approving tax compliance procedures. Resolution 220-motion was made by Dave, seconded by Roger and the motion carried. Resolution 221-motion was made by Roger, seconded by Jason, and motion passed. Resolution 222-motion was made by Dave, seconded by Dan, and motion passed. All 3 resolutions were voted in favor by Roger Haas, Dave George, Dan Horinek, and Jason Myers. They were signed by Sandi Peterson and stamped with the Town of Hingham seal. There were no comments from the patrons present.

The normal town council meeting began at 7:30. The May minutes were reviewed. The treasurer's report was covered. Dan made a motion to approve both minutes and treasurer report, Jason seconded, and the motion carried.

HEARING OF PATRONS: Denise Strissel had requested to be present to speak. She was unable to be present but asked if Sandi would re-lay her concern. The town recently had a resident's child go missing and Denise thought that maybe there should be some kind of town alert system for emergencies that would alert the town to gather at the fire hall to organize a search versus the chaos that took place. The council felt this might be a good idea and would mean further discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lagoon Operator-tabled until wastewater/lagoon project is complete. Refuse Board-no updates. Rules and regulations are ongoing. Revisiting the town ordinances are ongoing. All curb stops need to be located and remapped. Digital signs-sheriff's office has passed the grant. (Sandi did mention that we had received a donation towards the signs from Mike at the HiWay Bar in honor of Doug Effinger and that when she spoke to Mike about the signs Mike said maybe the donation could go toward something for the park because Doug loved kids.) Also, during the digital sign discussion, it was brought up that the current sheriff wants to increase the interlocal agreement fee from \$500 to \$1500 per year. The council would prefer to go with \$1000 per year. One of the issues is when there is a problem within the town no one is notified there is no communication from the locale sheriff's office. Water loss will continue to be monitored. Jason talked about the fact that the town had been being double charged for the park. Mayor Peterson let him know that Sandi had spoken with her and we had the total amount that will be credited. Part of it was used to pay for parts supplied by HCWD to repair park sprinkler system. Replacement of street signs and vents in the firehall shed to be completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sandi informed the council out of the 20+ emails that were sent, we had only one CPA responded that was willing to complete the financial review that has been mandated by the state for FY2026. Many responses stated they could not take on new clients or did not have the staff, even though they are on the state's list. Mayor Peterson let the council know that this will be brought up at the summit meeting he and Sandi are attending on the 17th. The cost will be \$5800.00. Roger made the motion for the review to be completed by Nicole Noonan, Dave seconded, and motion passed. Sandi let the council know that we were able to find a local insurance agent to get the workers' Comp through it is comparable to MMIA but they do need much more information so she will get the application to Koefod Ins next week. Mayor Peterson talked about the park water and that it had been repaired and he went over the cost. He also informed the council that we had Frontier Lawn come out and

fix zone 2 because it would not shut off. He also talked about the fact that there has not been a need to turn the sprinklers in the park on with all the rain so he will turn them on next week. Mayor Peterson talked about the great job Randy did spreading the gravel at HEDA, the post office, the fire hall, and the dump. It was decided that we will see if we can use the gravel we have in town and use a tractor to spread it. Jason also brought up the potholes on 6th Ave. It was discussed to put a load on 6th. Mayor Peterson also wanted the council to know that Randy Wolery donated a lot of his time to help the town. Sandi will get a Thank You card for the council to sign and send. Mayor Peterson talked about our zoning make and some issues that we have had with Hill County treasurer giving the wrong information to new residents and a realtor selling a property in the town. Mayor Peterson spoke to Commissioner Strissel, and he spoke with the treasurer's office explaining that we are an incorporated town and we have our own ordinance that must be followed and our own zoning map. He also covered the fact that we had a person purchase the small property between JR Alex's shop and 340 3rd Ave. The gentleman wants to put some shipping containers on the property for storage. Mayor Peterson spoke with each council member over the past week, and everyone agreed if he complies with property offsets it was ok. The preliminary budget was discussed and will continue next month. During budget discussion the council talked about our road funds, and we should widen our streets. Possible ideas were to grade them or spray to kill weeds and grass that is encroaching. Sandi also reminded the council that per HCWD there will also be \$3.00 increase to monthly water.

DELINQUENCIES/NOTICE TO DISCONNECT: NA

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Peterson asks the council if we want to raise the late fee from \$5 to more because the \$5 seems to be ignored because it is so minimal. We have a few people that consistently have to be given a shut off notice and maybe if the late fee was more, they would be more inclined to pay on time. It was mentioned that it might make it more difficult. The big issue is the town is paying for the water purchased from HCWD, but the residents are not paying the town, essentially loaning money to the residents at a minimal fee. Mayor Peterson said we will add that to next month's agenda to discuss further. Mayor Peterson informed the council that he has a camper next to his house; it is the Sr Construction Technician from RPA. He is here to oversee the lagoon project, and in order to save the town money, he is letting him use his property and power. Mayor Peterson talked about the Pulse plant about dumping old products on 5th street. It has become a hazard and how should we proceed to handle it? Mayor Peterson spoke with the manager last year and he said he didn't realize it was happening, but the piles continue to grow, Mayor Peterson will speak with him one more time.

Claims for #6452-6466 were read, Dave a motion to accept the claims, Roger seconded the motion, and motion carried. Next meeting is **July 9th @ 7:30 pm**. Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk