

Minutes of September 10, 2026, Town Council Meeting

September 2026 Hingham Town Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas Peterson on September 10, 2026, at 7:30 pm. Present: Thomas Peterson, Sandi Peterson, Roger Haas, Dave George, Jason Myers, and Commissioner Strissel. Patrons Rob Spicher and Ray Lipp. The August minutes were reviewed and at this time there is no financial they will be covered next month (this will be covered in new business). Jason made a motion to approve the minutes, Dave seconded, and the motion carried.

HEARING OF PATRONS: Resident Rob Spicher asked about his water/sewer hookups at Hingham Motors. Mayor Peterson explained the importance of not losing the income and that if there are hookups, we must charge. Rob asked what he would need to do to have the fees removed as he has not had any water usage in several years. It was discussed and decided that he will need to have the meter removed and the sewer must be permanently capped off. Rob said he will contact Hill County Water District to have the meter removed. It was also decided he will work with the mayor on the need to cap/plug the sewer line. Commissioner Strissel had 2 things for the council, one was the digital speed limit sign, and the other was the sheriff fee for the town. The speed limit sign should happen after the new sheriff is in place and the county sheriff office will leave the protection fee at \$500 for FY27, but then it will be raised to \$1500 for the following budget. Commissioner Strissel asked if anyone had anything for him. There was some discussion about county road grading.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lagoon Operator-tabled until wastewater/lagoon project is complete. Refuse Board-no updates. Rules and regulations are ongoing. The town ordinances will begin to be reevaluated. All curb stops need to be located and remapped. Digital signs-sheriff's office has passed the grant. Water loss will continue to be monitored. Continuing to monitor moisture in firehall shed, it may have to have an exhaust fan put in.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Peterson gave an update on the wastewater project, they are working on the metering manhole, and the land application has been slow and tedious. Dave asked about the good dirt being removed and that maybe the town could stockpile some for filling around some of the hydrants that have settled. Mayor Peterson said he will talk to the engineer. Roger once again questioned the need for 2 lagoons and Mayor Peterson reiterated all of this is out of our hands. This is all set by federal government regulations and DEQ regulations. Sandi will contact Hi-Line law to see if there is any legal course we can take if the town cannot keep this first lagoon full. Sandi also added that MCEP needs an acknowledgement of loss from the town. Roger made the motion, Dave seconded it, and the motion passed. Sandi will get it sent to MCEP. Mayor Peterson let the council know that he and Sandi replaced the one yield sign and 2 street signs. While driving around town it was noted that we need a couple more yield signs and after discussion the council agreed to order 6 more yield stickers. Mayor Peterson also let the council know that we need the actual holders for at least one street sign. Sandi will order some of those also. There is 1 pole in town by Wilbur Ellis that needs replacing. Roger stated that the one by his shop is twisted and he said he would take care of it. Sandi talked about the closing of last month's books and how the new banking rules have caused so much stress. She was unable for the first time in the six years she has been the clerk she has not balanced for the month. She spent several nights at the office trying to figure it out. She has Cali at FBMT helping her. As soon as it is figured out, she will close August and will give the council that sheets at next month's meeting. While talking with Cali it was decided to reopen the savings account and that should help with the sweeps account that is causing the problem. Cali got approval for the town to get the same interest in our savings account as our checking. It was decided we will open a savings account with \$75,000 and take the stress off Sandi dealing with the sweep account in the checking. While talking about the checking issues she let the council know that we received a check from Hill County for \$47,000 to help with the lagoon project. \$10,000 went to Bear Paw Development and the other \$37,000 went to RPA. She thanked Commissioner Strissel. Mayor Peterson talked about the security cameras at the fire hall. He noted that we have an individual that has been seen several times entering the fire hall and helping themselves to the pop in the fridge. The beer will stay for the VFD, but the Coke was removed. Mayor Peterson and Sandi have been supplying beer and Coke for the past several years, along with a few patron contributions. It is for meetings

not for someone to just come to help themselves anytime they need one. Mayor Peterson also talked about the fact that we had a few people come in and look around the clerk's desk, this is the biggest reason the cameras were installed. Nothing was taken or messed with, but if someone needs information or is looking for something, please call Sandi. Sandi once again stressed to the council that it is extremely important that she know what an invoice is for because it needs to be budgeted properly. If it is for a fire truck she needs details. The final budget was discussed along with the resolutions. Resolution 224 for Mill Levy to stay at 73 Mill, motion made by Jason, seconded by Dave, and motion passed. Resolution 225 to adopt the FY27 budget, motion made by Roger, seconded by Dave, and motion passed.

DELINQUENCIES/NOTICE TO DISCONNECT: 1 will receive a shut-off notice.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Peterson spoke about the shutoff from last month and said that the resident still refuses to get a PO Box to receive his water/sewer bill and has told Mayor Peterson he will get us an email for his invoice to be sent to which has not happened yet. Mayor Peterson said that while he spoke with the resident it was brought up about HB542 that has to do with property tax and that there is a different tax for a lot with a house and a lot without. He wants to combine the small lots into one, and Mayor Peterson explained to him that he would have to have the property surveyed at his expense and then apply to have the property rezoned. Mayor Peterson informed the council he has spoken with Randy about grading the roads, he will definitely get to them before the winter. Mayor Peterson spoke to the fact that he and Commissioner Strissel talked about data centers coming into the state and what it could mean for the county. No one approached anyone and Commissioner Strissel stated if there is anything about data centers there will total transparencies to the public. Commissioners Strissel also took the time to apologize to HEDA for not being able to get the county to agree to continue to support the HEDA pool.

Claims for #6494-6503 (note that 2 were added to last month 6492 & 6493) were read, Jason motion to accept the claims, Dave seconded the motion, and motion carried. Next meeting is October 8th @ 7:30 pm. Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Roger seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk