



# Town of Hinsdale Newsletter

February 14, 2018

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Hi Everyone:

Happy Valentine's Day!

I hope you are well and finding a way to enjoy the beauty of winter in Hinsdale, despite the cold and ice. I enjoy this time of year, particularly at sunset, seeing daylight grow longer. It reminds me that spring will be here before we know it.

Here is what we are working on:

## Website Construction

Regular visitors to the [www.Hinsdalmass.com](http://www.Hinsdalmass.com) site will notice significant changes. We are working to streamline the site to be more user-friendly for residents, businesses, and visitors. Thank you for your patience as we work to improve it, and suggestions are welcome. Just email me at [Town.Administrator@hinsdalema.gov](mailto:Town.Administrator@hinsdalema.gov).

## Special Town Meeting

We have another Special Town Meeting on:

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

7:00 PM

Town Hall, Community Room  
39 South Street

At this meeting, Residents will vote on three articles. The first is about financing the Plunkett Gate Valve Project. The project, which the Town agreed to fund at previous Town Meetings, is underway and expected to be completed this spring. After receiving financing options and a recommendation from Treasurer Diane Sturtevant, the Finance Committee and Select Board endorsed paying for this out of the Town's Stabilization Account. However, the residents need to approve any action involving the Stabilization account, and this is why we are having the February 28, 2018, Special Town Meeting.

The second article is about starting and paying for Phase I-b of State Mandated Inflow and Infiltration study we are required to complete by December 31. Phase I-a is complete, and if the Residents approve this Article, we can finish Phase I-b ahead of our original schedule.

### Inflow and Infiltration

This study is about extraneous water from I and I sources reduces the useful life and the capacity of sewer systems and treatment facilities to transport and treat domestic and industrial wastewaters. Infiltration enters a sewer system through defective sewer pipe joints, breaks, or utility hole defects, and occurs when existing sewer lines and utility holes undergo material and joint degradation, as well as when sewer lines are poorly designed and constructed. Inflow

normally occurs when rainfall enters the sewer system through direct connections such as roof leaders, yard drains, catch basins, sump pumps, defective utility hole covers, and frame seals, or indirect connections with storm sewers. The mitigation of I an I by sewer system rehabilitation and inflow source removal, combined with an on-going operation and maintenance program, is essential to protect the environment and the significant capital investment in sewers and wastewater treatment facilities made by cities, towns and the Commonwealth. (Source: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/laws/i-thru-z/iiguidelines517.pdfsewe>)

The third article is to fund Town Collector Polly Wheeler's replacement. Polly is retiring this May after many years of service to the Town. (I know many Town Residents will want to thank her for her service over the years and I hope you do so before the end of May. It won't be the same here without her.) If Residents approve this article, we can run a search and hire Polly's replacement before May, allowing for some overlap with Polly before she ends her tenure.

The Special Town Meeting Warrant will be posted tonight, and the meeting will be in two weeks. I hope many of you attend.

### **Plunkett Gate Valve Update**

If you live near Plunkett Reservoir, you may have noticed the contractor and scuba divers at the dam last week. The scuba divers ventured into the lake to take pictures and exact measurements of the existing valve. The next steps involve making the replacement valve, which takes several weeks. I expect a more detailed completion schedule from the contractor and will share it next month.

### **FY 2019 Budget Proposals and Annual Reports**

All department heads and committee chairs are working on budget proposals and their respective annual reports. The Town Hall is full of activity as we plan for and document the projected expenses of the work proposed for the next the fiscal year. Having been on the job for six months now, I have a better understanding of the collaboration needed to get things done. I look forward to productive spring and appreciate everyone's on-going help and advice.

### **Annual Town Meeting – May 16, 2018**

Mark your calendars, the Select Board has scheduled this year's Annual Town Meeting on:

**Wednesday, May 16, 2018**

7:00 PM

Kittredge School Auditorium

80 Maple Street

### **Town Elections – May 19, 2018**

Elections will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2018. The election will run from 10am-6pm in the Town Hall Community Room that day.

### **Mission and Vision Plan**

The Mission and Vision Plan developed last fall will be available on the website in early March, and then copies of the executive report will be available in the Town Hall at that time. I will share more about this in the March Newsletter.

### Projects Out for Bid

We have three projects going out for bid in the next two weeks. They are:

1. The Cemetery Arch Project
2. Vocational Transportation
3. Mowing

### Domestic Violence

Twelve years ago, to support victims of domestic violence, the Berkshire County District Attorney's office partnered with Verizon Wireless on the *HopeLine* phone recycling project. The *HopeLine* project collects no-longer-used wireless phones and accessories. The equipment is then refurbished and resold or recycled. Verizon Wireless uses the funds to purchase new phones complete with airtime which are donated to victims through partnerships with social service agencies, law enforcement, and non-profit agencies.

Verizon also provides financial grants for programming and services to organizations that serve victims of domestic violence. Here in the Berkshires, both the Elizabeth Freeman Center and Elder Services of the Berkshires have been chosen as grant recipients, and the funding awards have greatly assisted their programming initiatives.

The **Hinsdale Police Department** along with many other agencies will be assisting with this project. At this time the Department has a specially-marked collection box at the station. We welcome any and all donations of wireless phones and accessories. Thank you.

### Gun Safety

The Hinsdale Police Department will be sponsoring a gun safety course. The course will cover handgun safety, MA gun Laws, fingerprinting, and passport photos (Utah) as a complete package. **Please stop at the station to sign up!**

Saturday, April 14, 2018  
Hinsdale Police Department  
Community room  
39 South Street



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MASSACHUSETTS LTC/FID course	\$ 70.00
Utah course (permit covers 31 states)	125.00
Utah combo with MA	150.00

# Historical Commission Treasure



Shown is a page from an astonishing album of Hinsdale history. Sisters Eva and Leona Fassell, who were lifelong Hinsdale residents, cut out and saved engagement and wedding notices from the Berkshire Eagle announcing Hinsdale and Dalton nuptials over the course of seven decades—from 1917 through the '80s. After Eva's death, Vivian Mason completed the collection (the last two decades of clippings were left in grocery bags in the attic) and indexed it for easier access. Flipping through the pages is a walk back through time where locals can see their grandmothers' pictures and read about the wedding ceremonies. The Historical Room in Town Hall is open during the Town Administrator's Office Hour's upon request. Stop by and see this and other Hinsdale treasures.

In closing, I hope you able to attend the Special Town Meeting, stay warm, and get ready for mud season.

Sincerely,

Bob