

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 17, 2026 – 7 P.M.**  
**HYBRID ON ZOOM AND SOUTH HADLEY SENIOR CENTER**

*Present in person were Chair Jeff Cyr, Vice Chair Nicole Casolari, Clerk Carol Constant, members Andrea Miles and Renee Sweeney, Town Administrator Lisa Wong and Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Cyr called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Constant noted the March 28 community meeting on the FY27 town and school budget happening at 9:30 a.m. at the South Hadley Senior Center and on Zoom. Casolari congratulated the South Hadley girls basketball team on winning the state championships. Sweeney reiterated April 3 is the last day to register to vote in time for the April 14 town election. Wong highlighted upcoming office hours (posted on the website) she is holding to discuss the FY27 budget.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Stockton of 325 Hadley St. highlighted the No Kings standout march happening March 28 at the town common.

Jack Kulp of 65 Woodbridge Terr., Sandra Zieminski of 50 Lyman Terr., James Buckley of 116 Mosier St., John Manly of 8 Shadowbrook Estates, Brenda Warren of 45 Woodlawn St., and Carol White of 27 Hadley St. spoke during public comment about funding Gaylord Library, the Proposition 2.5 override ballot question, the tax calculator on the town website, fire districts and water, sewer and SHELLED fee increases.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Miles motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Sweeney seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

The consent agenda consisted of a One-Day Beer & Wine License Request from Kim Prough for May 21 at the Senior Center, a One-Day All Alcohol License Request from Bridget Carroll for April 18 at MHC, and a Multi-Date All Alcohol License Request from Steven Lachowetz for May 1, 15, 16, 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION WARRANT**

Constant motioned to approve the April 14, 2026 Annual Town Election warrant as presented. Miles seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

**FY27 BUDGET APPROVAL**

Wong presented her FY27 budget. Selectboard members acknowledged the difficulty of the budget process and expressed dissatisfaction with the current proposal and its cuts. Miles said

she did not approve of the budget as it stands. Several members agreed but said it's a matter of semantics. Miles asked to clarify whether voting to "approve" the budget meant endorsing it or simply advancing it to Town Meeting. It was clarified that the Selectboard's role is to forward the budget and issue a policy statement, while the Appropriations Committee and Town Meeting ultimately review and adopt it. The group discussed alternative language to reflect forwarding the budget without endorsing it, agreeing this would allow the process to move forward. Additional comments highlighted concerns about staffing comparisons and rising costs, including health insurance increases.

Constant motioned to forward the town administrator's FY27 budget to the Appropriations Committee. Miles seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING POTENTIAL ARTICLES**

Wong reviewed a draft list of articles for the May annual town meeting, including finance articles relating to expanding the operating budget, capital, use of Senior Center Stabilization Fund, adding to Special Education Stabilization Fund, Hero Act and/or other exemptions, and the Redevelopment Fund; Planning Board Articles such as sign bylaw amendments and floodplain bylaw amendments; and a citizen petition to allow non-town meeting members to speak at Town Meeting.

### **REGIONAL DISPATCH**

Wong explained that the town is looking at executing an intermunicipal agreement among the South Hadley police and fire districts and the City of Westfield for a regional dispatch. It is currently under active negotiations. South Hadley town counsel and the districts' legal teams are working it out. It is intended to bring the agreement back to the Selectboard in April.

### **PETITION SUBMISSION REGARDING SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT**

A citizen's petition was submitted to the town clerk's office on March 16 requesting the Selectboard hold a Special Town Meeting to ask Town Meeting members to compel the Mosier school building committee to eliminate options 4 and 5 of 7 layout options for a new building. Wong said 200 signatures were submitted, but the town clerk's office could not feasibly verify in time for tonight's Selectboard meeting that all signers are registered voters, so the petition remains unverified.

She also noted that calling a Special Town Meeting would incur costs. Town Meeting Members have no authority over the Mosier School Building Committee, and even a unanimous vote in favor of the petition would not give them formal control over the committee's decision. The town's legal counsel advised that the Selectboard is not required to act on the petition, and that petitioners have other, more appropriate avenues to compel the committee to consider alternative options.

The building committee, formed in 2024, has held events, open houses and formal meetings over the past two years and has followed MSBA guidance. Concerns about Options 4 and 5 appear to come primarily from neighbors closest to the school property. The committee will hold an additional public meeting tomorrow night to discuss these concerns and review design options.

Cyr motioned to not act on the citizen's petition. Constant seconded.

Constant, Cyr and Sweeney were in favor. Miles and Casolari were not. The motion passed 3-2.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Romboletti explained in the last month there have been several developments regarding health insurance for FY27. On February 25, 2026, the HCGIT Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) voted to approve a 12.5% rate increase along with plan design changes, effective July 1, 2026. The decision followed the rate-setting process and recommendations presented by the HILB group. With the IAC vote complete, the Trust is finalizing FY27 informational materials. Once available, the town will communicate the updates to staff and union groups as necessary. The town has reached out to unions to begin impact bargaining related to the upcoming changes and will schedule an IAC meeting soon to discuss further. The town is also obtaining quotes from outside vendors to evaluate high-deductible plan options. Romboletti expects to have preliminary information within two weeks.

Joel Prough of 8 Silverwood Terr. asked questions about municipal health insurance and the override ballot question.

### **REPORTS**

The full town administrator's report can be found here:  
<https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/1119?fileID=60092>

### **ADJOURN**

Miles motioned to adjourn. Sweeney seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Maher  
Executive Assistant to Administration**