

**HYBRID SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023
MEETING MINUTES
SENIOR CENTER MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
7 P.M.**

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

CALL TO ORDER

Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

REORGANIZATION

The board reorganized with Miles as chair, Constant as vice chair and Casolari as clerk.

MINUTES

Cyr moved to accept the draft minutes of April 4, 2023. Sweeney seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Constant noted upcoming activities of the Friends of South Hadley Seniors, and a webinar on the accessory dwelling unit bylaw change on the annual town meeting warrant.

Sweeney thanked residents who voted in the annual town election, highlighting the 17 percent voter turnout. Miles informed the public she and Casolari were reelected for three-year terms.

CONSENT AGENDA

Constant motioned to accept to consent agenda as presented. Cyr second. All in favor. Unanimous. The consent agenda consisted of multiple one-day beer & wine license requests from Karen Franz for April 22, 24, May 2 and 3.

RESIGNATION

Cyr motioned to accept with thanks the resignation of George Francis as Veteran Grave Officer. Sweeney seconded. All favor. Unanimous.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

The Tree Committee asked the Selectboard to read the 2023 Arbor Day proclamation into the minutes, a requirement of the Tree City USA application.

Miles read, "Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and whereas, the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, and whereas, trees in our town increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, now therefore I, Andrea Miles, chair of the Selectboard of the Town of South Hadley, MA, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 28, 2023 as Arbor Day in the Town of South Hadley, MA, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our

trees and woodlands, and further, I urge all citizens to plant and care for trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations. Dated this 18th day of April the year 2023.

7:10 PUBLIC HEARING – White Wing Liquor Violation

Miles opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. and closed it at 7:30 p.m. The board heard from Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen, Rajendra Swadia of White Wing, and Arthur Pearlman representing Swadia. Pearlman noted his client did not deny the March 3, 2023 underage sales and noted his client has since purchased a scanner for IDs to accompany liquor sales. Gundersen noted the fake IDs were convincing and recommended the multiple incidents be considered a first offense by White Wing. The last violation occurred in 2015. Constant motioned to issue a warning to White Wing as a first offense for the liquor license policy violation. Cyr seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

7:30 p.m. INFORMATION SESSION – Wastewater Rates

The board was presented with information about the waste water treatment plant and its needs by Water Pollution Control Superintendent Melissa LaBonte, accompanied by Town Accountant William Sutton and Treasurer/Collector Donna Whiteley.

WASTEWATER RATES

Cyr motioned to raise the sewer rate an additional \$80 to \$360 for FY24. Casolari seconded. All in favor. Unanimous. The board will discuss changes to sewer abatements at a future meeting. Cyr noted the \$80 will be split between the two sewer billings.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM COLA OPTION

Sweeney motioned to approve Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 – An Act Relative to Cost-of-Living Adjustments for Retirees, and further direct the South Hadley administration to notify the Hampshire County Retirement System in writing of this vote. Cyr seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Sweeney motioned to approve the annual town meeting warrant as presented and authorize Wong to switch the order of warrant articles as needed. Cyr seconded. All in favor. Unanimous.

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Capital Planning Committee Chair Ira Brezinsky reviewed the latest Capital Planning Committee report.

SELECTBOARD POLICIES

Miles encouraged board members to review the Selectboard policies in preparation of their next two meetings where the board will discuss and vote on any potential updates.

TA REPORT

For the full town administrator's report, see the April 18, 2023 Selectboard meeting packet on the town website.

Respectfully submitted
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration