

Andrea Miles, Chair
Carol Constant, Vice-Chair
Nicole Casolari, Clerk
Jeff Cyr
Renee Sweeney

Lisa Wong
Town Administrator

Town Administrator's Report to Selectboard November 21, 2023

Administration, Finance and Operations

- **Personnel:** The Town did not move forward with any of the applicants for the Council on Aging director. The Town will explore an interim option and then resume the search upon the completion of the Wage and Classification study. The new wage range may help attract candidates.
- **Tax Classification Public Hearing: Will be held on** Tuesday, December 5 at 7:05pm at the Senior Center and is a Joint Selectboard, Board of Assessors, District 1 and 2 Prudential Committees meeting. The purpose of this annual meeting is to set the tax rate. The Assessor will present information . The Selectboard will vote on the town rate, and each Prudential Committee will vote on their own district rates.

Community

- **Toys for Tots Drive:** Drop off new and unwrapped toys for children of all ages to the South Hadley Police Department, 41 Bridge Street between November 13 and December 4.
- **Fraud:** On Wednesday, November 29th at 6 pm the FBI CyberCrime Division of Boston/ Springfield will give a talk on Fraud Trends at the Public Library.

Facilities

- **Ledges Pump Replacement:** Bid opening was Nov 16 of the two bids received, one meets the minimum requirements. The project is within the funding allocated over two previous Town Meetings for this project.

Planning

- **The Master Plan Annual Forum:** Scheduled for Friday, January 12th from 8:45am - 1pm. Board and committee members, and staff should already have received an email link to register.
- **Housing Production Plan:** To be held on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:20pm at the Senior Center. This is a Joint Selectboard, Planning Board meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the newly updated Housing Production Plan that encompasses strategies and public input about all types of housing for the next 5 + years.

- **Elmer Brook Project:** The Town had recently received \$50,000 in FY24 funding from the Department of Ecological Restoration (DER) to continue work on the culvert replacement on Pearl St (Elmer Brook). This round of funding will go towards construction documents, specifications, and Mass DOT Chapter 85 bridge review. This brings the total DER grant award to \$197,500. DER contacted the town to indicate that an additional \$25K will be available to us in December but still needs to go through the budget allocation process with the state. The additional award would match what was in the town's application and be used to complete all the design work in FY24.

Public Health

- **Pollinator Regulation:** The Board of Health is considering a Regulation for the Protection of Pollinator Species and Enhancement of Pollinator Habitat

Public Safety

- **JAG Grant:** The State announced on Nov 16 that 130 police departments from across the state have received Edward J. Byrne Justice Assistance Grants. This is a federal grant program. South Hadley will be receiving \$24,080 for technology and equipment. This includes a wellness app specifically designed to assist first responders with stress.

Public Works

- **Paving:** All paving and crack sealing has been completed. The asphalt plans will likely close next month for the winter.