

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

Lisa Wong  
Town Administrator

## Town Administrator's Report to Selectboard January 16, 2024

### Administration, Finance and Operations

- **State Budget:** The Governor announced mid-year cuts on January 8th in response to declining revenues. The \$375 million in cuts do not initially affect the municipal budget. Further changes may be needed to close the \$1 billion shortfall. The Town has requested that departments contact the Town Administrator before any hiring or spending above \$5,000 for approval.
- **Historic Commission:** Unfortunately the Town did not receive an invitation into the next round to apply for a grant for a historic study of the Falls. Mass Historic gave the town feedback that the project would cost \$25-30k, not \$15k as in our application. Town Meeting had previously approved funds for \$15k if the grant was obtained. The Town will reconsider applying next year. If more funds are required, then the Historic Commission will request an additional appropriation.
- **Chapter 90:** The State approved \$100 million for municipal roads and bridges approved in the fiscal 2024 state budget for municipalities funded through a voter-approved surtax on annual incomes above \$1 million, which must be spent on transportation and education programs. Program funding may be used for projects that are eligible under Chapter 90, including construction, preservation, and improvement of municipal roads and bridges. The apportionment is automatically incorporated into each municipality's existing Chapter 90 contract with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, with no further action required by the municipality. South Hadley will receive \$264,243.

### Community

- **Food bank:** The Senior Center is collecting unopened boxes of Cold Cereal for N2N in January.

### Planning

- **Master Plan Annual Forum:** The forum was held on January 12, 2024.

### Public Works

- **Wastewater:** South Hadley is included in the State's draft Intended Use Plan to receive the full \$250,000 asset management grant for our Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan project. Technically it is a 150K Grant with a 50K match and 50K in kind. MassDEP will hold a virtual public hearing on the Draft IUPs on Wednesday January 31, 2024, at 10 AM.

**Schools:**

- **High School Assistant Principal:** Congrats to Mary Bonavita who started Jan 2.
- **Security:** Grant had been received for \$139k. Re-keyed schools and now working on cameras.
- **Mosier:** The MSBA has given a timeline as follows:

**Town of South Hadley  
 Mosier Elementary School**

**MSBA Board of Director Meeting – December 13, 2023**

<b>Eligibility Period Commences –March 4, 2024</b>		
<b>MODULE ONE - Eligibility Period</b>		
<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Due Date and Status</b>
Initial Compliance Certification	30	April 4, 2024 Required
School Building Committee	60	May 3, 2024 Required
Educational Profile Questionnaire	90	June 3, 2024 Required
Online Enrollment Projection	90	June 3, 2024 Required
Enrollment Meeting Held	180	August 30, 2024 Required
Maintenance and Capital Planning Information	180	August 30, 2024 Required
Local Vote Authorization	270	November 29, 2024 Required
Feasibility Study Agreement	270	November 29, 2024 Required
<b>Eligibility Period Concludes – November 29, 2024</b>		

*Note: If the Town has concerns about meeting any of the following deadlines, please let the MSBA know by March 4, 2024. The MSBA will require districts that are unable to complete the preliminary requirements within the timeframes noted for each to withdraw its SOI and reapply when the Town has the financial and community support required.*