

THE WEEKLY WRAP UP

A report from Town Administrator Lisa Wong

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SELECTBOARD, 7 p.m.
Hybrid at Senior Center

Tuesday, March 4
Budget/Rate hearing

Tuesday, March 18
Budget vote

View all agendas:
[www.southhadley.org/
agendacenter](http://www.southhadley.org/agendacenter)

SCHOOLS

The School Committee will hold a Budget Hearing on Tuesday, March 11 at 6pm hybrid at the Senior Center.

Their budget vote will be March 20.

COMMUNITY MEETING



The Appropriations Committee, School Committee and Selectboard held a Tri-Board meeting to discuss town operations, projects and the budget outlook for the next fiscal year.

Budget Materials: <https://southhadley.org/679/Budget-Town-Meeting-Documents>

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Upcoming Rate Hearings during the March 4 Selectboard meeting

Wastewater

Current Rate: \$450/year

Proposed Rate: \$500/year

The Town is currently in the process of a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) assessment, which will give it a thorough understanding of the best way to make upgrades and improvements to the sanitary sewer system, pump stations, and wastewater treatment plant to most effectively collect and process the Town's sanitary sewer needs for the next 20 to 30 years. The Wastewater Treatment Plant was upgraded around 1980, along with the Main Street Pump Station, and there have been a few significant projects in the past 45 years to keep the system performing appropriately, but the majority of the plant and pump stations are experiencing the same issues concurrently: parts are very difficult to get (if not obsolete), processes have improved over the years to become more efficient, and costs to maintain the existing infrastructure has proved to be exorbitant.

Trash/Recycling

Current Rate: \$225/year + Bag Fee

Proposed: \$225/year + NO Bag Fee, Consider \$250/year

FY26 will change from manual collection with Green Bags to automated with wheeled carts and no Green Bags. An increase will be needed for FY27 to cover contractual obligations. The recent fund appropriation of \$740,000 for cart purchases obviously has reduced the end of year balance, but no significant projects or needs are expected in FY26. The elimination of the Green Bag Program also eliminated a revenue source, as the program was part of the reason for a Pay as You Throw Program incentive for residents (to pay for what you produced), and a per bag revenue source to keep the annual fee lower (ex. \$125 + bag costs). Without the bag cost, residents are now "limited" to a 65 gallon cart of bagged trash every other week, and overflow (amount that is produced that does not fit into the cart with the lid closed) is either held until the next collection day, or can be disposed of at the Recycle Center, with a current Recycle Center sticker (part of your annual fee), an appointment time (online at southhadley.org on Bookeyo), and associated convenience fee and per bag fee. This is the incentive to produce as little trash as possible: the more you need to dispose, the more it will cost you to dispose.

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