

THE WEEKLY WRAP UP

A report from Town Administrator Lisa Wong

MEETINGS

SELECTBOARD, 7 p.m.
Hybrid @ Senior Center

Tuesday, August 12
(6pm)

Tuesday, Sept 2

Tuesday, Sept 16

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

VOLUNTEER

Find out about
vacancies,
including a School
Committee
position (deadline
Aug 25)

[https://southhadley.
org](https://southhadley.org)

ROAD DEBATE



The Senate is debating a historic increase in funding for the Chapter 90 program, which is the primary source of annual road and infrastructure funds for the town. Funds could double from previous years, which had been stagnant and unable to keep up with inflation. Final votes are not likely to take place until September. The Town received just under \$500k in FY25.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Limited Resources and Priorities Discussion

The Capital Planning Committee voted on August 5, following extended debate, to recommend an additional \$175k (or more) to regrade the new pickleball courts. The courts were designed to be under 2% grade. However community members have petitioned to withhold \$91k in privately raised money towards expenses already incurred, and only use those funds for the rebuild to bring the courts to a slope of 1% maximum, an issue that was not raised at the time of design nor required for recreational use. This project will be supported by an additional \$50k in grant funds. However this ultimately means that the project, which was slated to come in UNDER budget will now be over budget by more than \$100k. The project will only turn back \$400k instead of over \$500k that needs to be used to address operational deficits and other capital projects for the town and schools. The town is facing a \$1m deficit due to health insurance increases and may lose over \$1-2m more this year with further state aid and grant funding cuts.

Layoffs and service cuts are inevitable. The Selectboard will discuss this at on August 12.