

Andrea Miles, Chair
Jeff Cyr, Vice-Chair
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Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator

January 7, 2020

Honorable Selectboard,

I apologize for the tardiness of this report, it is a very brief accounting of activities we have been engaged at Town Hall in since my report....last year. Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who reached out to me with kind words of encouragement as I try to navigate my new health reality!

Snow and Ice: we have expended about \$87,000 of the Snow and Ice budget \$100,000 budgeted for FY 20. I think we would all agree there is a great deal left in this winter, so it would not come as a big surprise if we exceeded the appropriation. Keeping our collective fingers crossed does not cost us anything.

While we still have some sidewalks which have not been addressed, we would like to thank the vast majority of citizens who have cooperated in clearing their sidewalks, helped neighbors and removed snow and ice from storm drains and around hydrants. This type of citizen assistance goes a long way!

Police Contract; The South Hadley Police Union (MASSCOP Local 428) has accepted the terms of the memorandum of agreement developed through negotiations and Mass DLR Mediators.

The Selectboard will be considering the agreement this evening as part of an Executive Session related to the bargaining. As the MOA seems to be within the parameters set by the SB and negotiated by administration I am hopeful we will be able to put this year old process behind us. Thank you to all involved in the process including the union members who were respectful in the process.

When the contract is signed we expect there will be a shortfall in the budget, but we will do everything to make the impact as small as possible. This inevitable result was predicted and should not be seen as catastrophic for tis budget or FY 21. This has also affected our "Legal" budget as we had more need for advice of counsel during the mediation process.

Opioid "Safe Haven"; I would like to thank Health Director Sharon Hart for developing this idea and for the cooperation and participation from Fire District #1 Chief Robert Authier, District #2 Acting Chief Todd Calkins, Holyoke Medical Center Community Outreach Director Kathy Anderson, Work Connection Director Pat McIntyre.

All the parties met recently to discuss what role they or their agency may play in this initiative or at this point this "idea". The goal would be to have a clear path to services for individuals who may be suffering from addiction, particularly addiction to opioids.

The idea is to avoid including directly law enforcement with the process, as the fear is it would hinder participation by people seeking help. The South Hadley Police Department will be made aware of the project once it has been fully formulated.

One of the common misnomers continues to be that this is solely a “youthful” epidemic, while the truth of the matter is has become a blight for all ages. If this project develops as we hope it will allow the first responders to be able to access HMC services more easily and directly.

IGM Meeting; GM Mike Fontaine and Vice President Steve Gano meet with Rec Director Andy Rogers and I recently to discuss the past golf season. I believe from all perspectives it was a success, which is not to say there is not some kinks to work out.

Mr. Fontaine will be before the Selectboard on January 21st to discuss the 2020 golf season rates and some of the improvements which have been made and are being considered. We also discussed garnering IGM’s input on the capital needs at the Ledges to be presented to the Capital Finance Committee.

There may be a small seasonal discrepancy (\$20K or less) which would be corrected at the end of the season. However, there is an equal likelihood that with a good to robust spring this situation will correct itself. All in all if you add in costs historically not included in the calculus for Ledges (i.e. UI, employment taxes, and liability insurance) we will be better off financially than previous years. Get those fingers crossed again.

Town/Gown Safety Committee; Chief Gundersen, Acting DPW Director Viv Price and I traveled up to MHC yesterday to discuss progress on the crosswalk discussion. We reviewed the data provided by the PVPC related to their traffic analysis related to College Street along MHC.

The data actually provided a positive look at driver and pedestrian awareness as compared to professional statistical data. I will be work with Kevin McCaffrey from MHC to produce a report over the next several weeks which the Selectboard will be provided with copies as soon as the report is completed.

Respectfully submitted;

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator, South Hadley