



January 29, 2015

Honorable Selectboard;

Please accept this as an abridged accounting of recent activities of the Town Administrator on your behalf and related to various projects and initiatives.

8 Graves Street Eviction: As you may recall the Town of South Hadley had taken possession for non-payment of taxes of this property back in September 2014. It was occupied and we did seek first through negotiations with the squatters, then through the Housing Court in November, we received a judgment from the court to evict after January 15th.

We worked with our attorney's from D'Ambrosio who specialize in takings and all matters in land proceedings. Attorney Aviv Shamash took us through the process pre-eviction and I have to say the cooperation and process went smoothly. Except for a spider bite to the Town Administrator, we were relatively unscathed. I would like to thank Sharon Hart, David Labrie, Charlene Baiardi, Jim Reidy for their excellent work on the matter. I would like to also thank the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office and District One (Chief Authier, Lt. Houle) also lent critical assistance and expertise to the process.

We also have had an additional condemnation for health code violations at 37 Bardwell Street, this was handled by the Health Director. These types of actions are incredibly time consuming and require coordination and a clear outcome to be executed. I am extremely proud how the staff performed, because these actions are heart wrenching and actions of last resort.

The living conditions were inhumane and a breeding ground for fire or other avoidable tragedies. It is hard to determine what the future of 8 Graves Street is, but I can assure you we will work on moving it back to the tax rolls and into code compliance as quickly as possible. This is yet another tool to attract reinvestment in the Falls. I will most likely recommend auction for this property, but will reserve final decision on the direction.

MMA Conference: It was great to see South Hadley so well represented at the MMA Conference. Four Selectmen, the ATA and the TA is an impressive turn out. It speaks to the desire of the town leadership to learn and explore innovations in the public realm. There was a number of interesting topics, so of which the SB members have culled out for further exploration.

Road Management systems, economic development practices and social networking polices have all been positioned for consideration. I imagine there will be other best practices which were viewed will

come to the forefront in the next few weeks I appreciate your engagement and interest in these matters.

FY 16 Budget: The necessary work is on-going on the budget and I greatly appreciate the assistance given by Lynn Roberts and Bill Sutton in accounting. It is a slow tedious process. We are making some presentation changes to the budget, to make it easier for the public to read with some simple changes.

You will be receiving the “working draft”, I would prefer not placing this document on the website at this time, as it would likely cause confusion internally and externally. I still have a few departments I have additional questions as part of the review process and I would like to speak with them before publishing the draft for general consumption.

I will be out for the next few days as you all know, but can be reached by phone in an emergency. Thank you all for kind expressions in this difficult personal time. I will be back at work next week and it may take me a couple of weeks to catch up, but I will do my best. Thank you again.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town Administrator, South Hadley