

Revised
SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 7:00 P.M.
AGENDA

Note: Not all the topics listed in this notice may actually be reached for discussion. In addition, the topics listed are those which the chair reasonably expects will be discussed as of the date of this notice.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES *January 3, 2017 Regular Selectboard Meeting*
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OPEN FORUM
4. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE REQUESTS:
5. 7:15 p.m. – Public Hearing on an application for a new Section 15 Wine & Malt Beverage Package Store License for Resource Enterprises Corp. d/b/a Janjua Beer & Wine, 19 Bridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075, Vasantlal Shah, Manager.
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Set Date of Fireworks for July 3rd; Rain Date July 5th
 - B. Symposium of Understanding “First responders”
 - C. MSBA Request from Superintendent
 - D. MMA Resolutions for Winter Conference
7. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS
 - A. Resignation of George Francis as Full Member of the Golf Commission
 - B. Resignation of Jim Brough as Full Member of the Golf Commission
8. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Review of January 11, 2017 Town Meeting
9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
Rutland Fire Chief Interview, STM Information Session, January 11 Special Town Meeting, Bardwell Street Library, Valley Bike Share, FY 18 Budget, Western Mass Economic Development Meeting, MHC Meeting with Town Administrator, Hampshire County Health Insurance Trust Insurance Advisory Meeting, Professional Development Day, Town Hall Second Floor Roof Leak, General Code Discussion
10. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
11. OTHER BUSINESS
12. ADJOURN



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
 239 Causeway Street
 Boston, MA 02114
www.mass.gov/abcc

RECEIVED Print Form
 TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY
 SELECTBOARD
 DEC 30 2016

Meeting _____ Action _____
 Agenda _____ Ex Session _____
 How _____ Ord _____
 CV in Psy _____
 Consult/Dep't: C. J. P. M.

**RETAIL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE APPLICATION
 MONETARY TRANSMITTAL FORM**

APPLICATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED ON-LINE, PRINTED, SIGNED, AND SUBMITTED TO THE LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY.

ECRT CODE: RETA

CHECK PAYABLE TO ABCC OR COMMONWEALTH OF MA: \$200.00

(CHECK MUST DENOTE THE NAME OF THE LICENSEE CORPORATION, LLC, PARTNERSHIP, OR INDIVIDUAL)

CHECK NUMBER 0101

IF USED EPAY, CONFIRMATION NUMBER

A.B.C.C. LICENSE NUMBER (IF AN EXISTING LICENSEE, CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY) New

LICENSEE NAME Resource Enterprises Corp

ADDRESS 188 Sumner Avenue

CITY/TOWN Springfield STATE MA ZIP CODE 01108

TRANSACTION TYPE (Please check all relevant transactions):

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alteration of Licensed Premises | <input type="checkbox"/> Cordials/Liqueurs Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> New Officer/Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of License |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change Corporate Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Issuance of Stock | <input type="checkbox"/> New Stockholder | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of Stock |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of License Type | <input type="checkbox"/> Management/Operating Agreement | <input type="checkbox"/> Pledge of Stock | <input type="checkbox"/> Wine & Malt to All Alcohol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Location | <input type="checkbox"/> More than (3) §15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pledge of License | <input type="checkbox"/> 6-Day to 7-Day License |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Manager | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New License | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal to Annual | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | | |

THE LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY MUST MAIL THIS TRANSMITTAL FORM ALONG WITH THE CHECK, COMPLETED APPLICATION, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION
 P. O. BOX 3396
 BOSTON, MA 02241-3396**

Statement of Interest (“SOI”) for Core Program

Introduction

The Massachusetts School Building Authority’s (the “MSBA”) grant program is a non-entitlement, competitive program, and its grants are distributed by the MSBA Board of Directors based on need and urgency, as expressed by the district and validated by the MSBA. The MSBA completes an exhaustive review of available information regarding all districts that submit an SOI for the Core Program each year. The goals of this review include:

- To determine those schools that are the most urgent and needy relative to the pool of SOI submittals filed in that year. The MSBA considers many factors when looking at the totality of the SOIs including, but not limited to, the age of the building, the amount of space per student, the current and projected enrollment, the condition of the major systems of the school, the general environment of the building and the appropriateness of the building to the educational mission;
- To collaborate with districts on the potential project that they have identified as the priority school if they are filing more than one SOI for that given year;
- To understand if the MSBA is currently partnering with the district on another core project already underway; and
- To understand the range of options each district faces when planning for district wide educational facilities.

The following information provides an overview of the SOI process from initial opening of the SOI period each January until the Board of Directors votes to authorize invitations at a subsequent winter Board meeting.

The SOI Filing Period

The MSBA opens its Statement of Interest system annually for districts to file one or more SOIs for either the Core Program or the Accelerated Repair Program. The SOI is the process districts follow to identify the deficiencies and/or programmatic issues that exist in their facilities. Districts should submit one SOI per school for each school that they believe requires a project. An SOI should only be filed for a facility where a district has the ability to fund a project in the next two years. Over the last several years, the SOI system has opened in early January and closed in early April. SOIs are typically due for the Accelerated Repair Program in early February and for the Core Program in early April.

The MSBA has received approximately 100 to 125 SOIs for the Core Program annually. The number of invitations that the Board is allowed to authorize each year varies, and is contingent upon a number of factors. The MSBA has to operate within its annual statutory budget cap. The number of invitations varies based on the characteristics of the pool of applicants, including the number of elementary, middle or high schools that file, total square footage of the schools and

the reimbursement rates of the districts. Thus, competition for an MSBA grant is very competitive, and not every SOI can be invited into the grant program.

The Funding Cap

The Commonwealth irrevocably dedicated a 1% statewide sales tax, known as the School Modernization Trust fund ('SMART Fund'), to the MSBA's capital program. The sales tax collection informs the amount of the annual funding cap to which the MSBA can obligate funds for projects. The enabling legislation limits increases or decreases annually thereafter by the lesser of four and one half percent (4.5%) of the limit for the prior fiscal year or the percentage increase or decrease of the dedicated sales tax revenue amount over the prior fiscal year.

The SOI Due Diligence Process

The SOI process involves the filing of an electronic and print version of an SOI with the MSBA by the dates established, with MSBA staff readily available to address concerns, questions and issues during the filing period. Once the filing period has closed, MSBA staff commence the due diligence process for all SOIs. This is a 4-phase process, which includes:

1. Review SOI submissions for completeness;
2. Review SOI submissions and accompanying documents for content;
3. Conduct senior study visits, if required; and
4. Recommend SOIs for invitation into Eligibility Period

During this process, the MSBA may seek to obtain additional or clarifying information from districts. As the MSBA reviews the entire cohort of SOIs received, it will determine the appropriate level of due diligence that will be required for each SOI and will notify districts of next steps accordingly.

1. Review SOI submission for completeness:

Once the SOI system has closed, MSBA staff review each submission to check that all of the required materials have been received. The MSBA works with districts throughout the filing period to ensure that the SOI is complete. For all SOI submissions, the district needs to provide:

- A hard copy of the SOI with the required signatures; there are two separate certifications locations in each SOI where district officials need to sign;
- A hard copy of the closed schools information with the required signatures;
- Hard copies of the required local vote documentation that is detailed in the SOI; and
- Any supporting materials required to be submitted with the SOI.

Districts are expected to submit the hard copies of the materials and have them post-marked on or before the due date for the Program submission deadline. The district and the MSBA should discuss in advance of the filing date any extenuating circumstances or requests for exceptions to receipt of the hard copy material.

2. Review each SOI submission and accompanying documents for content:

Once an SOI is determined to be complete, MSBA staff review the information and any additional documents submitted by the district. MSBA Staff then compile the data necessary to assess which SOIs filed in that calendar year may be categorized as the most urgent and needy. Determining the most urgent and needy SOIs relies on many different data sources. MSBA staff use over 50 data points that include the SOI, the MSBA project management system, the MSBA's enrollment tool, the MSBA's 2010 Needs Survey, as well as information from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ("DESE") website. There are many factors that can impact the assessment of urgency and need in an SOI, such as increasing enrollment, overcrowding, building condition, general environment and program deficiencies. As such, it is important to assemble as much data as possible so that staff may gain as complete a picture of the submitted SOI as possible.

Due to the volume of SOIs submitted for the Core Program, the MSBA requests that each district identify a priority SOI for consideration. This enables the district and the MSBA to focus financial and staff resources on completing a project and ensures that an opportunity for a grant is possible for as many districts as possible. This narrows down the pool of potential projects if districts have submitted multiple schools within the district for consideration.

With its focus on the district identified SOI priority, MSBA staff then look at this smaller pool of submitted SOIs to assess urgency and need focusing on:

- Needs Survey rating of building condition;
- Needs Survey rating of general environment;
- Previous or ongoing project activity with the MSBA; and
- Section 8 of the statute

Consideration of these factors produces a smaller subset of the priority SOIs that appear to be more urgent and needy than the other SOIs submitted that year. With this assessment, a group of SOIs are identified for further consideration. This further review may or may not require a senior study visit. If the MSBA is familiar with the SOI, or if the SOI had received a senior study visit within the previous two years, a senior study visit may not be needed for that SOI. The MSBA may choose to re-visit a school within this two-year window if the SOI contains new information since the last visit.

3. Conduct Senior Study Visits, if required:

If MSBA staff determine that a senior study visit is needed to complete the due diligence process, MSBA staff, accompanied by its technical consultant, will visit the SOI facility identified. The senior study visit lasts approximately two hours and is an opportunity for the MSBA to further understand the issues identified in the district's SOI. MSBA Staff request that the district have someone familiar with the facilities and systems present, as well as someone who is familiar with the curriculum as it relates to the program offered. The district is requested to provide a copy of the SOI floor plans (emergency/evacuation plans are sufficient) ahead of the MSBA's visit.

The senior study visit starts with a meeting to review the SOI, the MSBA process and to hear district concerns. The discussion is followed by a tour of the main areas of the school, as well as typical general classrooms and specialty spaces.

Dependent upon the number of senior study visits that are required, this phase can take approximately 8 to 10 weeks, with visits typically scheduled from September through November.

4. Recommend SOIs for Invitation into Eligibility Period:

Once the content review and senior study visits have been completed, MSBA staff once again review the factors, noted above, that can impact the assessment of urgency and need in an SOI (increasing enrollment, evidence of overcrowding, building condition, general environment and program deficiencies), to understand the total impact of all of the factors on the overall need of the SOI. As the number of invitations that the MSBA can issue varies each year, and the number of SOIs received each year exceeds the MSBA's annual cap expenditure, MSBA staff compare the SOIs that were selected for further review to each other to determine a degree of urgency and need, ranging from minor to major, for each of the SOIs. MSBA staff then provide their findings to the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director/Deputy Chief Executive Officer, the MSBA's Facilities Assessment Subcommittee and the Board of Directors. Once the recommendations have been accepted, MSBA staff work with the districts to determine the optimum board meeting that the district would receive an invitation into Eligibility Period from the Board of Directors.



Published on *Massachusetts Municipal Association* (<https://www.mma.org>)

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Resolution Ensuring a Strong and Enduring Fiscal Partnership Between Cities and Towns and State Government in Fiscal 2017 and Beyond (2016) ^[1]

January 24, 2016

As adopted by the members on January 23, 2016.

Whereas, the residents and businesses of Massachusetts expect and deserve high-quality public services delivered by their local governments, and rely on those services to support and raise their families, build economic security, and live safely; and

Whereas, the continuing fiscal health of local government will rely on adequate, sustainable and predictable revenues to support local services and capital programs; and

Whereas, the prosperity and economic and social well-being of the residents and businesses of the Commonwealth are directly related to the fiscal health of cities and towns and the quality of municipal services and roads and buildings that communities provide; and

Whereas, cities and towns are more reliant on the tightly capped property tax to fund local budgets than any time in the past 30 years, and this overreliance on the property tax, coupled with unavoidable growth in basic local costs and future obligations, has limited the ability of cities and towns to respond to new challenges and opportunities; and

Whereas, the local government share of the cost of schools and public education under Chapter 70 has grown to a 15-year high, and the state share has dropped steadily even as costs have grown due to special education and other mandated obligations; and

Whereas, the governor and the Legislature have a long history of working collaboratively with city and town officials to constructively solve major public policy challenges, particularly since 1980, the year that Proposition 2½ was enacted by the voters; and

Whereas, to reduce today's overreliance on the regressive property tax and ensure that municipalities have the fiscal capacity to deliver the high-quality services that are essential to support local economies, families and businesses in every corner of the Commonwealth, it is imperative that cities and towns receive an adequate share of state revenues, have an effective municipal tax system, and receive protection from excessive state and federal mandates;

Therefore it is hereby resolved that the members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association support the following essential policy positions to ensure a strong partnership between cities and towns and the Commonwealth in fiscal 2017 and beyond:

In the Area of Municipal and School Aid:

- In fiscal 2017, unrestricted municipal aid should grow at least at the same rate as the growth in state tax collections, and be distributed without earmarks, conditions or restrictions to all cities and towns, so that local officials and residents can adequately fund public safety, public works, and all basic municipal and school services while avoiding overreliance on the property tax;
- The full share of Lottery and gaming revenue dedicated to help pay for municipal services should be used to help fund unrestricted municipal aid;
- Chapter 70 school aid revenue sharing should be increased in fiscal 2017 consistent with the Commonwealth's constitutional obligation to ensure adequate funding for all schools, including the "foundation budget" adequacy standard, as updated through the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission, the "target share" equity standard, and a reasonable amount of new minimum per student aid;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations and commitments to the Special Education Circuit Breaker Program, as provided by state law, should be maintained;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations and commitments to the program for payments in lieu of taxes for state-owned land, as provided by state law, should be included in the fiscal 2017 budget;
- Funding of the Commonwealth's obligations and commitments to reimburse the costs of regional school transportation, regular school transportation, out-of-district vocational education and the transportation of homeless students under the McKinney-Vento unfunded mandate should be included in the fiscal 2017 budget;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations and commitments, as provided by state law, to reimburse cities and towns for the loss of Chapter 70 school aid that is redirected to fund commonwealth charter schools should be included in the fiscal 2017 budget;
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's obligations and commitments to Chapter 40S "smart growth" reimbursements, regional and municipal libraries, anti-gang grants, innovation and regionalization grants, and other effective municipal and school aid programs should be included in the fiscal 2017 budget;

In the Area of Timely Notice of Local Aid for Good Planning and Implementation:

- To ensure orderly and efficient financial planning at the local level and implementation of balanced and adequate local operating and capital budgets, the governor and the Legislature should reach early agreement on unrestricted municipal aid and Chapter 70 school aid and local contribution amounts so that a consensus local aid resolution can be approved and reliable Cherry Sheets can be released by March 1;

In the Area of Local Taxing Authority and Other Revenues:

- Cities and towns should be granted new local-option flexibility to adopt local taxes and other revenues to help pay for municipal and school services and the construction and maintenance of local capital projects;
- Legislation should be enacted to provide cities and towns with local-option authority to develop local rules for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes by owners of tax-exempt property; and

In the Area of Transparency and Unfunded Mandates

- It should be a high priority for the governor and Legislature to avoid unfunded mandates imposed by state law, regulation or other action on cities and towns and to fully fund current mandates or

allow the requirement to be implemented at local option;

- The governor should require state agencies to prepare and publish municipal and school district fiscal impact statements for all new state regulations, amendments to state regulations, proposed agency guidelines, Executive Branch legislative recommendations filed with the Legislature, and acceptance of federal grants and all other actions, in a manner similar to Executive Order 145; and

In the Area of Capital Budgeting

- The governor and the Legislature should work together early in 2016 to ensure enactment of a multi-year transportation bond bill that provides at least \$300 million annually for local road projects, including notice of allocations for fiscal 2017 by April 1, 2016;
- The governor and the Legislature should continue to make the installation of high-speed Internet access in un-served and under-served cities and towns a high priority; and

It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the governor and members of the General Court of the Commonwealth.

Source URL: <https://www.mma.org/resolution-ensuring-strong-and-enduring-fiscal-partnership-between-cities-and-towns-and-0>



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Resolution Supporting a Strong and Enduring Local-State-Federal Partnership to Protect the Environment (2016) ⁽¹⁾

January 24, 2016

As adopted by the members on January 23, 2016.

Whereas, the cities and towns of Massachusetts are national leaders as environmental stewards, embracing renewable energy technology, protecting and preserving land and natural resources, and providing safe, clean and affordable drinking water, wastewater and stormwater management systems; and

Whereas, 155 municipalities have become Green Communities and 350 municipalities host renewable facilities, producing more than 985 megawatts of solar power, far exceeding the original solar goal of 250 megawatts by 2017, established in the 2008 Green Communities Act; and

Whereas, thanks in great part to the leadership of cities and towns, Massachusetts is now ranked number one in the nation in energy efficiency and ranked sixth for solar energy generation; and

Whereas, the dramatic increase in locally based and locally supported renewable energy facilities has occurred under existing property tax laws that enable cities and towns to appropriately collect revenues from private developers and protect the interests of local taxpayers; and

Whereas, cities and towns are among the largest consumers of energy in Massachusetts and 25 percent of the region's power resources are facing retirement, energy demand for electricity generation is expected to exceed capacity in the winter months; and

Whereas, an enhanced and diversified state energy portfolio that includes new technology such as energy storage capacity could provide safe, efficient and uninterrupted energy delivery to improve our economic growth and provide a high quality of life for our residents; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts Water Infrastructure Finance Commission has estimated a \$20.4 billion gap needed for water and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years, in addition to an \$18 billion shortfall in resources necessary to fund proposed federal stormwater regulations; and

Whereas, the federal government continues to impose costly environmental regulatory requirements on the cities and towns of Massachusetts without any additional appropriations; and

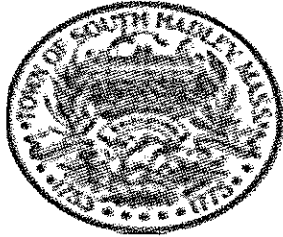
Whereas, the cities and towns of Massachusetts cannot continue to absorb these and additional unfunded mandates and the corresponding workload imposed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the federal government without reimbursement or relief, as these state and federal unfunded mandates undermine the ability of municipal officials to adequately safeguard the environment and maintain current services and programs;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved that the members of the Massachusetts Municipal Association support the following essential policy positions to ensure a strong local, state and federal partnership to protect the environment:

- The state Legislature, the governor, the Commonwealth's administrative agencies, the U.S. Congress, the president, and federal agencies should commit to a cooperative partnership with municipalities and should reject all proposals and policies that would undermine this partnership, either by imposing unfunded mandates or preempting municipal taxing authority in any way; and
- The state Legislature should pass legislation requiring the Executive Branch and the Legislature to provide a fiscal note as part of any proposal in order to clearly explain the benefits and costs imposed on municipal government and local taxpayers as a result of such legislation or regulation, including staff necessary to administer or implement said legislation or regulation and the benefits to be derived through such expenditure; and
- In the event there is a cost identified in a fiscal note, the Legislature or executive agency should refrain from enacting any legislative proposal or regulation until such time as an appropriation matching that amount is provided both initially and annually thereafter, or the enacted or promulgated proposal shall cease to have authority; and
- The state Legislature and the governor should approve a \$1 billion water infrastructure bond bill to fund water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure improvements and grant authority to cities and towns to establish drinking water, stormwater and sewer infrastructure banks to build, repair and maintain water-related infrastructure systems; and
- The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection should examine the feasibility, cost, advantages and disadvantages of obtaining delegated authority from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, otherwise known as primacy, over the enforcement of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System programs, as state primacy could possibly reduce the administrative burden for communities through improved science, new technology, and a more efficient permit process by integrating all aspects of watershed management and providing communities more flexibility in meeting permit requirements; and
- The state Legislature and the governor should develop a balanced, long-term energy plan with a range of energy sources to ensure a diversified and sustainable energy supply for residents, businesses and communities; and
- The state should lift the net metering cap on solar projects to allow all current and future municipal projects to go forward and should preserve a net metering credit at the full retail rate for municipal projects, with no surcharges or offsetting cost charged by utilities which could affect savings; and
- The U.S. Congress and the president should, at a minimum, restore funding for the Drinking Water and Clean Water state revolving fund programs to the fiscal 2010 level of \$1.38 billion and \$2.1 billion, respectively, in the fiscal 2017 Interior Appropriations Bill; and
- With the coastal waters and estuaries of Massachusetts threatened by pollution and sea-level rise, the state and federal government should work with coastal communities to provide more funding and expertise to help mitigate the aforementioned issues; and

It is further resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the governor, the members of the General Court of the Commonwealth, the members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, and the president of the United States.

Source URL: <https://www.mma.org/resolution-supporting-strong-and-enduring-local-state-federal-partnership-protect>



January 13, 2017

Honorable Selectboard,

Please accept this as an abridged account of initiatives and activities performed by myself and town hall staff since my last report. Please note, this report is inordinately brief, largely due to the fact I have been away for several days during the last two weeks.

Rutland Fire Chief Interview, on Thursday January 5th South Hadley hosted the first round of interviews for Rutland's (Massachusetts) next Fire Chief. Rutland is about 8,000 in population, is situated in north Worcester County. Rutland Town Administrator Margaret Nartowicz (former Sunderland TA) asked if I could participate in the vetting of their Fire Chief candidates, I received permission to participate from SB Chair Hine. Subsequently I was asked to host and was happy to do so, it is a small but yet another way to show how proud I am to be working in South Hadley.

The other panelists were Town Administrators and Fire Chiefs, a total of five including myself from various communities. It is a very interesting process design and helpful to see how other towns assess candidates for major positions. There was no cost or charges to South Hadley and I politely refused the honorarium offered by Rutland, in the hopes when we need a good turn another community will come to our aid.

The final round of interviews will be in Hatfield next week. I wish the Town of Rutland well in their search and greatly appreciate South Hadley accommodating my involvement. It certainly can appreciate and gain perspective about how to find less expensive ways to get the best result. Using non-traditional resources is a practice we certainly value in South Hadley.

STM Information Session; was well attended by Town Meeting Members with over thirty five in attendance on January 4. A number of attendees made comments in appreciation of the forum. A few mentioned they even liked the "cozy" setting.

The review was preceded by an Appropriations Committee (AC) hearing on the financial articles. The AC was fiscally diligent, as they always are, and made some suggestions and requests for additional information. It included taking the Article 3 appropriation from Golf Course Retained Earnings, as opposed to Unreserved Free Cash and asked and was provided additional information on Article 6 DPW Engineering.

The bulk of the conversation centered on the Articles 15 (Zoning Codification) and Article 22 (Gaylord Memorial Library). There was no shortage of opinion on either topic and at least it seemed people went

away with a better understanding of the material. It is hoped they will come prepared to make decisions at the STM due to the effort made by many to provide information.

January 11 Special Town Meeting, was well attended and as you are aware there was lively discussion. The discussion about the plastic bags was interesting as there were few questions asked leading up to the STM in respect to this article. It seemed people wanted a prolonged discussion over the, but I will keep you informed as to if the BOH is interested in proceeding and in what manner.

The other issue which drew a great deal of attention and discussion was the Gaylord Memorial Library, as the MOU was affirmed we will start to move forward on that project as well. Now that there are clear parameters we will be able to comport to those measures within the MOU and will do so in a manner which attempts to best control the cost to taxpayers.

During the Special Town Meeting there was several mentions about the proper use of Special Town Meetings, while I appreciate there are various opinions about what should come before Special Town Meeting or the Annual Town Meeting, I am of the opinion that Administration at the direction of the Selectboard acted and has acted prudently in calling for a STM in this instances and during my tenure.

There seems to be some historical perspective that ATM is the only place certain articles should be considered. In my experience here and in my previous post and in discussions with other communities, including Town Administrators, Selectpersons and representative Town Meeting Members from other towns provides me with a perspective that STM is an important tool and should be used when appropriate and to better serve the community.

Allowing a reasonable number of articles to go forward allows a number of advantages to TMM and to Administration. It allows TMM to take a more focused look at articles and to avoid having to research and absorb a laundry list of diverse warrant articles. This also allows the public practitioners to gather information as requested and disseminate the material more fluidly and effectively to TMM.

Bardwell Street Library, we continue to be diligent in respect have title to this property passed from our hands into the hands of Orange Park LLC. The latest request from one of the title insurance companies was to see if we could find the former owners who gifted the property. We may be able to find them, but I am suspicious they will be of any assistance in regards to the disposition of the property.

The process of transfer of title for 1 Canal Street should be quite a bit easier, I am assured that is in process as well. The condition of the Bardwell Library continues to deteriorate, as any abandon building does, it is very sad the process is so bureaucratic at the expense of such nice plan and beautiful building.

Valley Bike Share, there is not much of an update. The committee met this week Richard Harris represented South Hadley and there was no decision about how the sponsorship money issue will be rectified between NoHo and Ho'yoke. I understand the two mayors will be meeting soon to discuss next steps. I have not been ask to moderate the meeting☺. The \Regional Joint Transportation Committee approved an additional allotment on Tuesday which will cover some of the costs associated with the two kiosks in South Hadley and other needs.

In South Hadley I continue to discuss the program with potential sponsors and the BWC is engaged in where we may place the two kiosks. They have presented me with some spots to consider, but

truthfully I have not had time to review the report. BWC was happy to see Article 6 pass and looks forward to having a seat at the table for the planning process.

FY 18 Budget, the budget continues to be constructed for FY 18, there is the expected rolling debt, somewhat expected such as increases health insurance (see further down in report), the continued unknowns particularly in the area of facility repairs. We will see increase at the police department and as of this writing the future of the GML costs are still challenging my understanding.

On the revenue side we have some positive signs, growth looks very healthy, and fees are up (especially in the Building Department) and housing demands, particularly for condos are continuing to show unprecedented demand in SoHa. Unreserved Free Cash and other fund balances are stout as well.

It is my advice to continue to be cautious in adding full time staff in all departments, look for opportunities to use technology, encourage the public to cooperate in efforts to become more self-service and seek ways to work with employees, union and non-union, to pay them fairly, but maximize their use to the greatest extent possible. When allowed and sensible we also need to explore regional solutions and contract solutions to service delivery.

Western Mass Economic Development Meeting, I attendee EDP on Thursday morning and was present about all the exciting things happening in Springfield. While I have never been a big "casino" fan, there is little doubt it is having a positive effect on Springfield. The effects will be felt beyond the borders of Springfield and will provide other communities like South Hadley with opportunities to benefit from the wave. Small construction companies, new job opportunities and increased values are all things some surrounding towns are starting to feel.

It was also an opportunity Julie Cowan of MassDevelopment (Vice President of Business Development) to start a discussion about how they may be able to help finance some projects South Hadley is interested in moving forward. She has offered to meet with me and the RDA Chair Frank DeToma to discuss ideas and strategies. This is a great resource.

MHC Meeting with Town Administrator, I had a very positive meeting with Shannon Gurek and Kevin McCaffrey at MHC on January 12. We discussed their continued support of projects of mutual interest. Chief among them are the Valley Bike Share Program and the River to Range Trail Phase 1 Grant.

While these initiatives will greatly benefit the Town of South Hadley, MHC recognizes the projects will also have a value to the college. While I would love to have a PILOT, I greatly appreciate the cooperation MHC has shown on individual projects and initiatives in South Hadley.

Hampshire County Health Insurance Trust Insurance Advisory Meeting; the HCHIT Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) met in Deerfield on Wednesday January 11 to accept the 9.8% smoothed rate voted on by the HCHIT Executive Committee a few weeks ago. Upon approval there will be an increase set in place for South Hadley July 1, 2017 of 9.4% for the BC/BS HMO Plan and 10.8% for the BC/BS PPO. As the PPO is more expensive and more costly I continue to encourage the HCHIT to set rates which will encourage people to use the HMO.

Once again it was amazing to me there were communities looking to increase the rates even higher in order to over fund the trust holdings. The other frustration of these meetings is the conversations almost always focus on how it will affect the employees, with little consideration for the taxpayers. It

will not surprise you that I voiced my opinion on that subject and it is not just because I contracted away my right to health insurance ...it just plain bugs me.

The Trust continues to look at how co-pays and deductibles may be introduced or adjusted to stall the increases to premiums. This was also met with great concern from some of the various group representatives. We will be closing in on spending \$5 million dollars annually on municipal health insurance costs by FY 19 with about \$4.5 million slated for FY 18's budget increase. It is sensible at this juncture to begin discussions with unions about other less expensive alternatives, but I do not think there will be any appetite for change. The fact of the matter is, it is going up significantly for the municipality, but for the individual subscriber it is not seen as a difficult increase, or at least that is the sense I get from conversations. I imagine it is hard to get someone to move from a leased Mercedes to buying a Hyundai, but eventually what you can realistically afford will rule the day.

Professional Development Day, There is timely and interesting presentation planned for today's quarterly Professional Development Training on the changes to the laws relative to public records (950 CMR 32.00). Holyoke and some other surrounding communities had heard we were having this topical and important presentation and an invitation was extended to them to attend.

We have done a great deal of preparation for this change and seem to be slightly ahead of most communities on understanding the changes. Town Clerk Hamlin has the full list of RAOs up on our website, with a synopsis of practice and procedure and we have listed the Town Clerk and Town Administrator as "Primary Records Access".

We also are working to drive more and more information to our website, as the law allows us to refer requesting parties to the site to satisfy their request if the information resides on our website. We hope by March to start posting all contracts the town enters into and add standing contracts, including, mine, collective bargaining agreements, vendor agreements and others. I believe this will be a good step towards transparency.

General Code; the Clerk has already informed General Code of Wednesday night's STM results. I had previously spoke with our contact person about next steps. I will be expanding those discussions in the next several weeks to prepare for the May ATM.

I thank you all for your kind words in regards to this project, as well as the STM in general. Your support and guidance is crucial to moving forward as a community on so many different fronts. I hope it is a very progressive, productive and prosperous year for the Town of South Hadley in 2017!

Respectfully submitted

Michael J Sullivan
South Hadley, Town Administrator