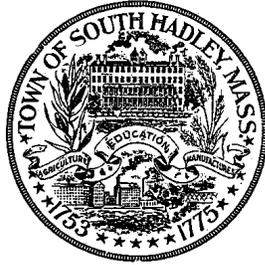


TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY

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FRANCIS J. DETOMA
Vice-Chair
SARAH ETELMAN
Clerk
IRA J. BREZINSKY
Member
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April 15, 2013
South Hadley Selectboard
116 Main Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts

Honorable Selectboard;

Please accept this as an abridged accounting of administrative activities during the recent weeks in South Hadley Town Hall;

Town Sanitary Landfill; As you are aware this is an evolving issue where all the various complex components and equally multifarious possible strategies going forward are being modeled, explored and evaluated. These issues are very technical and have layers of legal considerations from a variety of land use, environmental and contractual perspectives. All these contemplations must be melded with public opinions to find the best solution or solutions to present to the Selectboard.

Superintendent Reidy and I have taken a tour of the facility and have met with Advance Disposal's on site staff as they prepare to excise themselves from operating the facility. Chris and his staff seem very engaged in making the transition scheduled for next March as smooth and professional as possible.

I have also had initial discussions with Town Counsel in an attempt to understand the responsibilities of all parties, as well as the post closure accountabilities if necessary. This will likely not, as you know, have any easy or quick solution. Administration will continue to look at the possibility of another operator, operating it internally, operating under a management contract hybrid and the possible closure. It is quite early to make well informed judgment on the best strategy(s), we will continue to inform you of any new developments and will keep this a s priority until there is a reasonable solution(s) to offer the Selectboard. It will be critical to understand the Board of Health's position on the process and the future of this situation, I have discussed with the SB Chair considering reaching out to the BOH Chair to gain some perspective.

Compost Outpost; We continue to work with legal counsel assigned to this issue and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to find a non-monetary resolution which will satisfy regulators, produce a better public understanding of composting, including its environmental importance and expand citizen awareness on how we can more to efficiently lower yard waste and debris.

There is no assurance that we will be able to reach a "no cost to the tax payers" fine, but that is our goal. We have scheduled meetings with legal counsel and DEP officials to discuss the consent order legally required to be levied.

Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC); I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Linda Young and four other dedicated members of the MPIC. During the discussion the importance of the "Falls" to the future of the whole of South Hadley was readily evident. In the conversation I committed to helping in any way I can to achieving the goal of improving the viability and livability of the "Falls" in respect to the Master Plan.

I believe the library investment, the deconstruction of Fibremark, Crack of Dawn and the early exploration of adaptive reuses of the present library are positive steps towards the goal of revitalization. We also discussed having a public event that celebrated the present Town Halls 100th birthday and reminded residents about the challenges of aging buildings.

Budget Report; Chairman Hines was supplied with a more detailed report of the budget recommendations and the additional responsibilities that I have outlined that must be accepted by administration. I am very reluctant to recommend any new positions until we finalize the Treasurer/Clerk and Collector changes and until I have a more complete understanding of the work place responsibilities of those requesting additional staffing.

I will also be directing changes in respect to the Plumbing Inspectors management and oversight under the building code and Massachusetts General Law. This change does not significantly change the cost of operation, but brings it in line with state standards and best practices. Furthermore, I am scheduled to meet with HRS Associates to discuss the recent wage and salary study on April 30th, as the first available date in their schedule. I have some parts of the study I need to understand the underpinning dynamics more fluidly.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve South Hadley, please contact me if there is any need for expansion of these items as reported above.

Respectfully,

Michael John Sullivan
Town Administrator, South Hadley