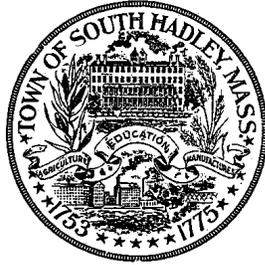


TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY

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IRA J. BREZINSKY
Member
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Member



MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
Town Administrator
Telephone (413) 538-5017
Fax (413) 534-1041

SELECTBOARD OFFICE
116 Main Street, Suite 109, South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075-2896
selectboard@southhadley.org

May 16, 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;

Annual Town Meeting; I have been forewarned by numerous citizens of South Hadley that there will be days like this, but not all of them when considering the most recent Annual Town Meeting. It was well attend with only a scant few members were not able to be at the meeting. The message about the warrant and the underlining decision making process seemed to be sound, as members were well informed prior due to the efforts of the Selectboard, Appropriations, Board of Assessors and other departments, committees and agencies who worked tirelessly to get information out to Town Meeting members.

It is commendable and should be seen as victory of communications and interaction. Having 42 articles pass unanimously is a feat of epic proportion. With the exception of article 43, the harmonious discussions about town business was outstanding. Town Meeting members hit on a number of issues and observations which should be part of our framework going forth, especially being cautious about staffing increases as pointed out by Town Meeting Member Rondeau. The Annual Town Meeting also left us with a number of exciting opportunities which a few are already in full swing.

I would also like to thank Assistant Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz and Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler for their efforts to make everything go so smoothly. Town Accountant William Sutton's assistance leading up to the event and the information he provided at the Annual town Meeting was outstanding, I am very lucky to have been allowed to join this team.

CEDC; The CEDC met recently to discuss the issues related to economic and community growth in South Hadley. Progress was made in bringing focus to the long list of needs. Applying for CDBG money to focus on the needs of the Falls and re-tooling to create a Urban Renewal Plan and move closer to creating a Redevelopment Authority were the center of discussions. I am excited that there will be a succinct effort to bring a clear and cohesive plan to the plethora of ideas for the Falls area and by doing so strengthen South Hadley overall.

Senate Ways and Means; I did send a copy of a MMA article that addresses the legislative position of the Senate in regards to the budget. It seems that there will be some compromises in regards to the cuts to local aid, we certainly like the House budget in that regard. It has been indicated by our legislative leaders there is an agreement in the wind between the two entities which I hope restores the House increase. The indications were that is likely to happen.

WWTP, Ledges GC; Tough week for municipal buildings in South Hadley. You were informed about the electrical fire at the Ledges which to a greater degree was a minor miracle that someone was not injured or worse. The incident was definitely driven by craftsmen error and losses associated with the mishap will be the responsibility of the contractor's insurance. If there is any change to this thinking I will let you know as soon as I hear.

The course was fully functional including the Ledges Clubhouse within four hours of the occurrence. I would like to commend Doug Juhasz and his staff for working with D2Fire and Building Commissioner cooperatively and for keeping guests safe and aware of the incident. The photo in *The Reminder* was again, a file photo and not from the scene.

The WWTP was the site of a sign of the times crime during the week of June 14 where copper flashing was stolen from the roof of the facility. The Chicopee Police have opened an investigation and our insurance carrier has been informed of the incident. The "copper lining" in this case is the fact the roof is scheduled for reconstruction this year ...I advised the Superintendent that we should use a less precious material in the roofing process, he agreed.

Police Department Window Cleaning; With a coordinated effort of the ATA Jennifer Wolowicz, Police Chief David Labrie and Clean Rite (our new janitorial service) we had the exterior and interior windows cleaned at the PD. They also cleaned the arched entrance ways where cobwebs and airborne debris had made itself at home for over five years. We also will be removing the Town Hall Auditorium curtains as they are not fire retardant as required by code. The ATA is investigating the most effective and economical solution to the window treatments and we will move forward in the next fiscal year on this project, as funds are available.

Also, at the PD the installation of the new energy efficiencies is starting to be completed and the ATA will be gathering all the systems information (i.e. model numbers, warranties, maintenance protocols) so we may place it in the Facilities Dude software module. We will be doing the same with the older COA equipment and seeking other information as we go along. This is excellent opportunity and a sizable task, I would like to thank the ATA for jumping in with enthusiasm and vigor. This will produce benefit to the taxpayers and the municipality short term as well as long term.

DM Towing; Recently I met with two of the neighbors of DM Towing, along with the Building Commissioner and Planning Director to discuss the "does and don'ts" of businesses in this industrial zone. I believe all parties went away with a better feel for the justifiable limitations of the municipality in respect to land use and business operations. That is not to say that we were insensitive to the dilemma presented to those who live in close proximity of a twenty four operation. All parties committed to working cooperatively, I will be stopping by DM Towing in the next couple of weeks to seek cooperation any way they can and also let them know we appreciate and value their operating their business in South Hadley.

South Hadley-Granby Chamber of Commerce: I was honored to be a participant in this forum and pleased to sit alongside the towns esteemed Representative John Scibak and Senator Stanley Rosenberg. Selectmembers DeToma and Ishler were on hand as well to convey the needs and hopes for the Town of South Hadley. The discussion covered a wide array of topics, but my area of greatest concern was in regards to the budget. It was conveyed that the Senate/House joint budget committee would meet this week and it is likely that much of the

cuts to local aid will be restored. This is very important to our budget as the Senate adjustments could cause as much as a \$30,000 School/Town shortfall. Let's place our calls and ask that the House budget for local aid be restored. We are blessed that our Representative and Senator are very well aware of that need after Friday's legislative breakfast.

FallsFest; Planning for this event continues to make progress. The organizers have met with Town Counsel to strategize in respect to the event and to ensure that the "Town" is protected against any unnecessary exposure to risk. This exciting and positive event is shaping up nicely and will be a big step towards people from beyond the "Falls" to see the potential that has been recognized locally.

Thank you for your attention and support, please contact me if there are any areas you would like to have clarified or added to my next report.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator, South Hadley