

Appropriations ~ School Committee ~ Selectboard

South Hadley Community Meeting

March 1, 2025

Tri-Board

The Tri-Board was resurrected in 2022. The purpose of this group is to enhance cross-board communication. The Executive Committee (chairs, vice chairs, town leadership, school leadership) have met 33 times since. The full Tri-Board convenes at least once annually.

Appropriations

Recommends to Town Meeting all articles involving expenditure, appropriation, raising or borrowing of money

Investigates the cost of maintenance and expenditures of the different Town officers pertaining to appropriations.

School Committee

Reviews and approves budgets for public education in the district

Establishes educational goals and policies for the schools in the district

Selects and oversees the superintendent

Selectboard

Forms and promulgates policy

Enforces bylaws, rules and regulations and Serves as licensing board

Selects and oversees the town administrator and town counsel, and Appoints various board members

Tri-Board Key Accomplishments

2022 Enhance Budget Process, Community engagement

2023 Agreement on Joint Building Operations

2024 Mosier selected for MSBA building process

2025 Green Communities Designation

2026 Community Needs Assessment

Important Dates

Meeting information can be found on the Town Website: southhadley.org. Go to the Calendar and Agenda Center to find the agenda, materials and meeting links. Budget materials can also be found on the school website: southhadleyschools.org

● Budget Hybrid Public Hearings

March 4 at 7pm - Selectboard
March 11 at 6pm - School /Committee

● Budget Votes

March 18 at 7pm - Selectboard
March 20 at 6pm - School /Committee

● Bylaw Review

March/April TBD - review bylaw recommendations

● Appropriations

February 25 & 26 - Preliminary budget meetings with school/town leadership
March/April TBD - Budget meetings and hearing

● Capital

March 4 at 4pm - Prioritize upcoming year projects
April TBD - Develop final recommendations and write report to Town Meeting

● Town Meeting

May 14 at 6pm - vote on budget, bylaws

Population

18,150

Town size

18.3 square miles or 11,712 acres

Conservation Land

1,100 acres

Miles of Roadway

State highway - 10
Town highway - 95

Sewer & storm drains

Storm drainage - 21 miles
Sanitary sewer - 80 miles

Homes, Condos & Apartments

5,942



Vital Stats ('24)

Births - 113
Marriages - 62
Deaths - 196

South Hadley Students

1,680

MHC students

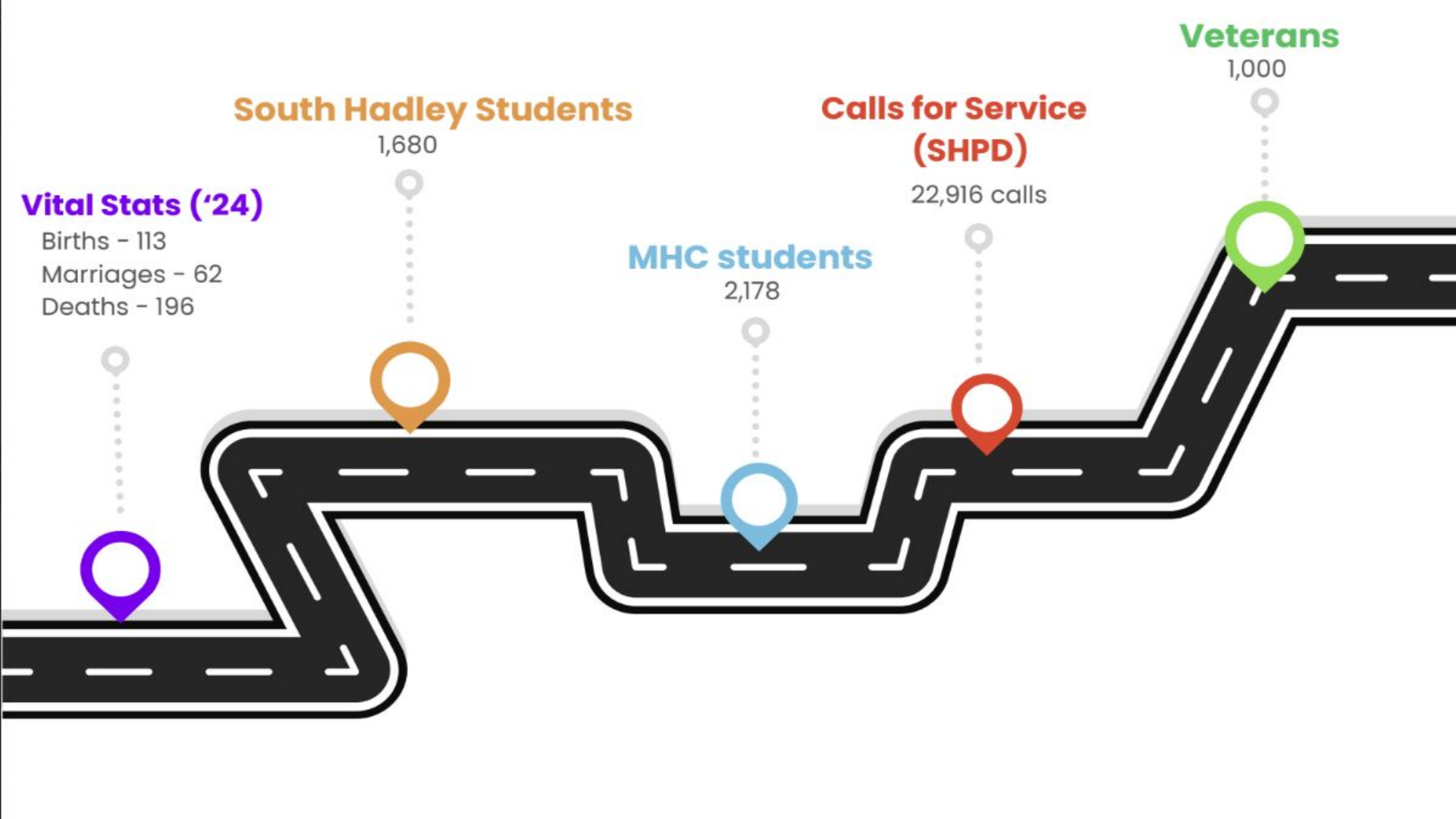
2,178

Calls for Service (SHPD)

22,916 calls

Veterans

1,000



Business Certificates

363

Registered Voters

13,394

Appointed & Elected positions

Appointed - 172

Elected - 42

Library check outs

163,492 items this year

Dog licenses

1,514

Municipal Departments

Administration

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCSjcx4sY3w&t=126s

The chief administrative officer under the direction of the Selectboard, overseeing the day-to-day operations of town government and the implementation of town policies.

The Assistant Town Administrator/ Human Resources Director promotes a safe environment for staff and customers, attract and retain a highly qualified workforce, and supports learning and professional development.

Accounting

www.mass.gov/info-details/the-role-of-the-accountant-auditor-in-municipal-finance

The department processes and reports Town related financial and/or financially related legal matters under the guidelines defined by Federal Law, State Statute, Town By-law, and Town policy.

Assessing

www.mass.gov/info-details/the-role-of-the-assessor-in-municipal-finance

Assessors are responsible for determining full and fair cash valuations and for classifying all property located within the community as of January 1 each year. Assessors prepare and maintain a property database that lists all taxable and non-taxable properties in the jurisdiction.

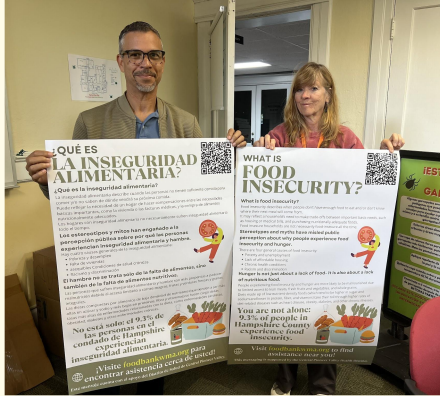
The department also administers the motor vehicle and boat excise taxes.

Treasurer

www.mass.gov/info-details/the-role-of-the-treasurer-in-municipal-finance

The Treasurer/Collector office manages and directs the tax collection process and the planning, coordinating, and directing of the Town's cash management. The department provide billing and collection services for Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle Excise, Trash and Sewer.

Municipal Departments



Public Health

To respond and act on any situation that may affect the health and safety of the general public.



Recreation

To provide a wide range of recreational programs and activities, and promote our athletic fields, parks and playgrounds



Public Safety

To provide the highest quality of police services, assisting in resolving problems, and promoting positive values through equitable and impartial policing.



Planning/ Conservation

To assist the community in efforts to achieve balanced growth, quality development and preservation of community assets.

Municipal Departments



Seniors

To support the well-being of the older adult community by providing services to support their nutritional, emotional, social and recreational needs.



Veterans

To advocate on behalf of all South Hadley Veterans and provide them with quality support services.



Library

To provide a safe community gathering space where all library patrons are welcomed with dignity and respect. The library's collections, programs, and services reflect both the town and the world at large.

Building

Building Permits are available online however we will be continuing to make an (including fee calculations) and may need further information than what is in reach out if necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

Apply Online

Mechanical/Sheet Metal Permit

Building Permit

Certificate of Inspection

Inspections

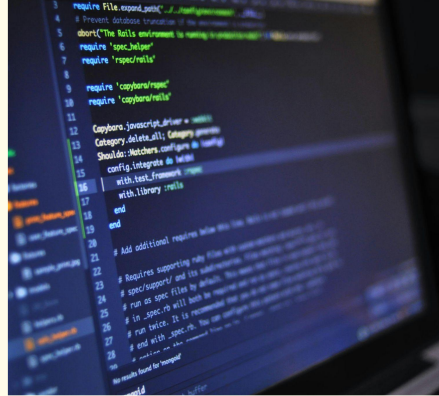
To administer and enforce state and local gas, plumbing, wiring, and building code s aimed at maintaining and improving the health and life-safety conditions of all local buildings.

Municipal Departments



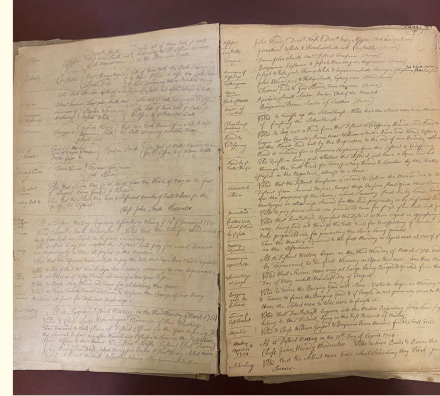
Cable

To provide Public, Education, and Government (PEG) programming to the South Hadley community on local cable channels 12 & 15.



Information Technology

To equip the town with the technology, tools and policies necessary to operate efficiently and in a cost-effective manner



Clerk/Elections

To serve as the Official Record Keeper for the Town, Chief Election Official, Registrar of Vital Records, Licensing Official, Public Records Access Officer, Conflict of Interest Liaison, and administers the Annual Town Census.



Public Works & Facilities

To provide the town with reliable infrastructure through the repair, construction and maintenance of public roadways, parks, sidewalks, signs, trees sewer and building facilities.

Schools



Plains

271

Plains is a safe and peaceful place where all children have the right to learn. It provides a nurturing environment where students feel safe, well cared for and respected by all our community.



Mosier

365

We believe in creating a thriving, robust learning environment that values each student's academic, social, and emotional well being



Middle

505

We strive to be inclusive, open-minded and curious value self-reliance, scholarship, honesty, and kindness. embrace challenges within a safe and welcoming environment



High

479

We cultivate a student centered community that offers varied academic and vocational experiences in a safe and supportive environment. SHHS strives for all learners to demonstrate perseverance, reflection, creativity and resourcefulness

Recent School Achievements

- SHHS received 2024 MIAA District I Sportsmanship Award.
- SHHS named a 2024 School of Recognition by DESE.
- Implemented first new elementary report card in 20 years.
- Implemented Social Emotional Learning and Anti Bullying curriculum K-12.
- Implemented a Ed literacy assessment (iReady) all grades
- Implemented new elementary literacy program - data shows significant and sustained improvements in reading.
- Project Lead the Way at Middle School (STEAM)

The PAST few years

New Senior Center opened	Master Plan developed	Human Rights Commission formed	Small Business support grants
Farmland preserved	Free rides for Seniors	Dementia Friendly town status	Showcase Arts launched
Purchase EV and hybrid vehicles	Judd Brook project complete	The Weekly Wrap-up	New Human Services Department
Traffic Calming Policy	Comfort Dog	Pickleball Courts	Wage & Classification

The NEXT few years

Buttery Brook Park improvements	Digitization of information and services	Wayfinders Housing Project	Center/Warner/Graves improvements
Main Street redevelopment	Frank DeToma Fund	Wastewater Management Plan	Ledges Master Plan
Community Needs Assessment	New Board and Committee handbook	Affordable Housing Trust launch	Trash/Recycling Cart program
Historic District	Elementary School project	Culverts & addressing Flooding	Upgrade Emergency Management, Hazard Mitigation plans

FY26 Budget Outlook



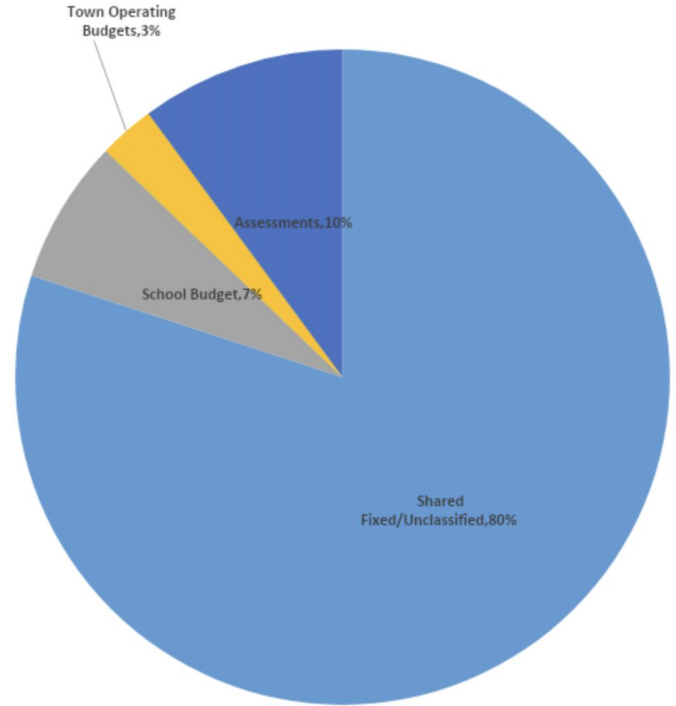
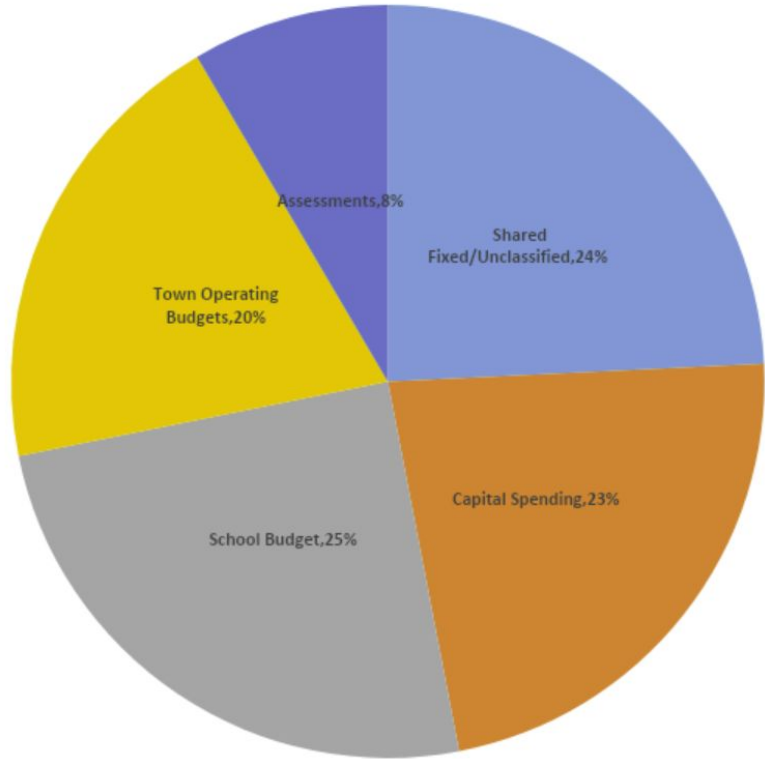
Revenue

- Flat State Aid
- \$1 million from taxation and new growth
- \$200k in local receipts

Expenses

- \$1.5 million increase in insurance, retirement
- 30% increase in utilities
- Contractual increases
- Increase transportation costs

FY25 v FY26



FY2026 Budget

The FY2026 projected operating budget will be just over \$58 million, a 3% increase over FY2025 budget of \$56.8 million

Town: some vacancies will not be filled, continue to invest in preventative maintenance

Schools: need to address high transportation costs, core curriculum needs are a priority

Ongoing Challenges

“Budget busters” create continued structural deficits as expenses surpass revenue

Unfunded mandates and complex needs of residents

Questions & Answers

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Contacts

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www.southhadley.org/679/Budget-Town-Meeting-Documents
