

# **SOUTH HADLEY BUDGET TASK FORCE**

LEARN MORE ABOUT



**Budget Deficits**  
**Service & Staff Cuts**  
**Property Tax impact**



**MONDAYS 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17**

**6PM HYBRID @ SENIOR CENTER**

**SELECTBOARD@SOUTHHADLEYMA.GOV**

# FY2016 - FY2025

## **Summary of School Cuts Over 10 years**

System-wide therapist  
Reading Specialist  
Professional Development Specialist  
Guidance Counselor - MESM  
3.9 - Plains School Teachers  
4.1 - Mosier School Teachers  
9.6 - MESM School Teachers  
5.5 - High School Teachers  
Math and Reading Remediation Program - MESM  
AIC College Program - HS  
French Program - HS  
Elimination of a bus route  
Literacy and Math Tutor - Mosier  
3 - Custodians district-wide  
Library Para reduction - Mosier and Plains  
Curriculum Director  
Facility Director  
Assistant Principal - MESM

## **Summary of Town Cuts Over 10 years**

Clerical - Assessor, Collector/Treasurer, Inspections, DPW  
Tree Warden  
Custodians - all public buildings  
Parks & Highway - 3  
Solid Waste - 1  
Council on Aging - Assistant Director, Community Programs

# **FY2026 - Current**

**After a balanced budget was passed for FY2026 at the May Town Meeting, an additional 20% increase in health insurance was voted on by the trust the town belongs to effective October 1, 2025 - creating a \$900k gap.**

## **Summary of School Cuts to balance FY2026**

19 teaching positions cut  
Additional busing fees  
Reduction in custodial staff  
Reduction in extracurricular activities

## **Summary of Town Cuts to balance FY2026**

Council on Aging - Community Programs  
Clerical - Clerk  
Tree Warden stipend

## **Other measures**

Use \$700k more in Free Cash\*  
Save \$1m by bringing special education transportation in house

\*to be approved at November 2025 Town Meeting

# FY2027 - Outlook

**A “Level” Budget would yield a \$4m deficit.**

## **Revenue Drivers - add \$900k**

Taxation - increase by \$900k  
State Aid - project \$250k decrease  
Local Receipts - increase \$300k

## **Cost Drivers - add \$5m**

Health Insurance - increase by \$1.5m  
Schools - increase by \$2.65m  
Retirement/Benefits - increase by \$425k  
Town - increase by \$200k

## **Projected School Impacts (add 700k, 2m below level)**

Administration - 3 positions  
Student Facing - 20 positions  
Cut sports  
Cut all extracurricular activities  
Reduction in electives at middle/high school  
Reduction in transportation options and/or increase in fees

## **Projected Town Impacts (cut 700k, 1m below level)**

Library - close Gaylord, lose ability to borrow statewide  
Senior Center - reduce staff and close Fridays  
Town Hall - reduce staff and close Fridays  
Health and Building - reduce inspectors  
Police - reduction of dispatch and police (school resource)  
Public Works - reduce maintenance

**Capital - use \$1m free cash for operations instead of capital**

# FY2028 & beyond

A “Level” Budget would yield a increase the deficit more every year due to expenses rising faster than revenue = \$5.5m in FY28, \$7.3m in 29, \$8.6m in 30 and \$11m in 31

The cuts in FY2027 would still yield future deficits projected at = \$300k for FY28, \$1m for 29, \$1.5m in 30 and \$2.5m in 31.

Further cuts are outlined below:

## **FY28 Deficit Outlook - Schools**

Further evaluation of staffing and programs would be needed

## **FY28 Deficit Outlook - Town**

Support staff would need to be eliminated

Further building closures would be evaluated

Public Safety and Public Works would lose staff through attrition or layoffs

Town Hall staff would need to examine further combining positions, reducing the service level

Capital and maintenance would be deferred

## **Override**

Min of \$3m is needed to prevent FY28 cuts until FY31 or beyond

Minimum of \$10m needed for level service until FY31

***This assumes no major changes in State Aid. There is a possibility the state may lose federal funding and pass that along to towns in the form of “Cherry Sheet” cuts.***

## **Considerations (all ideas welcome, in formation)**

### **New Revenue**

Business development - home rule petition for liquor licenses,  
rethink marijuana, fund redevelopment authority

Annual fee review

Stormwater Fee

Fundraising

Community Preservation Act

### **Capital**

If capital defunded, rethink debt exclusion asks  
Enhance maintenance programs to compensate

### **Advocacy**

Health Insurance reforms - MMA meeting

Retain state and federal funding sources

Show support for non municipal programs that support our  
residents and businesses

### **Regionalization**

Look at grants to study

Education, public safety?

### **Overall impact on town**

**Though these are separate government entities, the  
following are still impacting the same residents:**

New SHELD Building

District increases