

**Town of South Hadley
Special & Annual Town Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2012**

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Town Moderator, Mr. Edward Ryan, Jr. in the town hall auditorium. There were 88 town meeting members present. Greetings were delivered by the Moderator. The Special Town Meeting adjourned at 9:17A.M. The members pledged allegiance to the flag. George Crocke received the Lion's Club Citizen of the Year Award. Tom Sullivan received the Recreation Award for volunteer of the year. All newly elected Town Meeting Members were sworn in. A review of the how the meetings would proceed was reviewed and Mr. Ryan appointed Chris Gagne and Dale Johnson as tellers. Lisa Gebhardt, Steve Hamlin and Priscilla Mandrachia were appointed to serve as Appropriation Members for another three year term.

2012 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE 1.

There was no motion offered to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of an RFP for Management and/or Maintenance of Ledges Golf Club.

2012 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

ARTICLE 1.

The Town authorized the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 4 and to renew any note or notes as may be given in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 2.

The Town authorized the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to enter into compensating balance agreements with bank offices having their principal offices in the Commonwealth during Fiscal Year 2013, as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 (F).

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 3.

The Town authorized the Selectboard to defend all suits that may be brought against the Town during Fiscal Year 2013 and to prosecute all suits on behalf of the Town, to engage counsel for same, and to settle such suits as they deem advisable.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 4.

The Town authorized the Selectboard to apply for and accept such federal or state grants or monies as may be available and to authorize the Selectboard to expend any funds received there from in accordance with the terms of said grants.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 5.

The Town accepted the sum of \$511,732.00 for highway improvements under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 and other applicable law; and to further authorize the Selectboard to borrow and expend in anticipation of state aid for such projects.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

FISCAL YEAR 2013 OPERATING BUDGET

ARTICLE 6.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,500.00 to constitute a Reserve Fund, transfers from which may be voted by the Appropriations Committee.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 7.

The Town voted to fix the salary and compensation of the following elective officers of the Town of South Hadley for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012 as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended: Moderator, Selectboard Members, Clerk/Treasurer, Assessors, Collector as follows:

Moderator	\$ 1.00	per year
Selectboard:		
Chair	\$ 2,000.00	per year
Vice-Chair	\$ 2,000.00	per year
Clerk	\$ 2,000.00	per year
4 th Member	\$ 2,000.00	per year
5 th Member	\$ 2,000.00	per year
Clerk/Treasurer	\$ 59,366.00	per year
Collector	\$ 58,547.00	per year
Board of Assessors:		
Chair	\$ 2,500.00	per year
Clerk	\$ 2,500.00	per year
3 rd Member	\$ 2,500.00	per year

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 8.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,636,976.00 for the support and maintenance of its schools for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012.

Majority Vote
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 9.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,974.00, and transfer from Landfill Enterprise Fund Receipts the sum of \$2,640.00, and transfer the sum of \$4,682.00 from Waste Water Treatment Plant Enterprise Fund Receipts, and transfer the sum of \$1,316.00 from the Cable Studio Account, said sum totaling \$56,612.00, for the purpose of funding wage and merit increases for non-unit employees for Fiscal Year 2013, including the Clerk/Treasurer and Collector pursuant to Article 7 above, and to reflect and implement said wage and merit increases in Personal Services for covered employees and the Stipend Administration Plan.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 10.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,573,545.00, transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$18,100.00, and transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of \$61,400.00, for a total of \$1,573,545.00, for the purpose of funding Personal Services and Expenses of General Government for FY 2013 as follows:

Moderator	Personal Services	\$1.00
Appropriations Committee	Other Expenses	\$450.00
Internal Service Account	Other Expenses	\$20,000.00
Selectboard	Personal Services	\$245,438.00
	Other Expenses	\$64,975.00
Youth Commission	Personal Services	\$25,481.00
	Other Expenses	\$4,700.00
Human Resources	Personal Services	26,894.00
	Other Expenses	\$18,750.00
Accountant	Personal Services	\$142,813.00
	Other Expenses	\$885.00
Clerk/Treasurer	Personal Services	\$154,793.00
	Other Expenses	\$31,005.00
Tax Collector	Personal Services	\$100,044.00
	Other Expenses	\$19,224.00
Assessors	Personal Services	\$138,633.00
	Other Expenses	\$10,250.00
Election & Registration	Personal Services	\$29,060.00
	Other Expenses	\$17,750.00
Town Hall	Personal Services	\$0.00
	Other Expenses	\$153,985.00
Fibermark Building	Other Expenses	\$20,000.00
Town Counsel	Personal Services	\$2,600.00
	Other Expenses	\$25,000.00

Office of Management Information/IT	Personal Services	\$107,742.00
	Other Expenses	\$94,161.00
Technology Committee	Other Expenses	\$5,000.00
Planning Board	Personal Services	\$72,587.00
	Other Expenses	\$4,350.00
Board of Appeals	Other Expenses	\$675.00
Conservation Commission	Personal Services	\$39,411.00
	Other Expenses	\$2,324.00
Recreation	Personal Services	\$72,779.00
	Other Expenses	\$1,285.00
Total General Government		\$1,653,045.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 11.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,424,194.00 and transfer the sum of \$91,700.00 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund, totaling \$2,515,894.00 for the purpose of funding Protection of Persons and Property for FY 2013 as follows:

Police	Personal Services	\$	2,052,992.00
	Other Expenses	\$	340,213.00
Emergency Mgt.	Personal Services	\$	5,000.00
	Other Expenses	\$	7,395.00
Forest Warden	Personal Services	\$	500.00
Building Commissioner	Personal Services	\$	63,823.00
	Other Expenses	\$	1,800.00
Wiring Inspector	Personal Services	\$	22,627.00
	Other Expenses	\$	1,180.00
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Personal Services	\$	6,215.00
	Other Expenses	\$	350.00
Dog Officer	Personal Services	\$	11,839.00

	Other Expenses	\$	1,760.00
Parking Collection	Other Expenses	\$	200.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 12.

The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$7,500.00 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Fund, for the purpose of funding the Police Line of Duty Self-Insurance Trust Fund Account for FY 2013.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 13.

The Town voted to transfer the sum of \$23,041.00 from the Cable Studio Account to the General Fund for FY 2013 for the cable studio's share of indirect costs.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 14.

The Town voted to authorize expenditure of an appropriation to fund the cost items of a new collective bargaining agreement negotiated with the Department of Public Works employees.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 15.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200,867.00 and transfer the sum of \$1,102,657.00 from Landfill Enterprise Fund Receipts, and the sum of \$1,174,355.00 from the Waste Water Treatment Enterprise Fund Receipts, totaling \$3,477,879.00 for the purpose of funding the Department of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2013 as follows:

Administration	Personal Services	\$ 93,004.00
	Other Expenses	\$ 17,539.00
Construction & Maintenance	Personal Services	\$ 300,668.00
	Other Expenses	\$ 119,000.00
Sanitary Landfill	Personal Services	\$ 196,185.00
	Other Expenses	\$ 906,472.00

Parks	Personal Services	\$ 311,641.00
	Other Expenses	\$ 119,600.00
Tree Services	Personal Services	\$5,000.00
	Other Expenses	\$74,600.00
Water Pollution Control	Personal Services	\$607,817.00
	Other Expenses	\$566,538.00
Vehicle Maintenance	Personal Services	\$48,815.00
	Other Expenses	\$111,000.00

Majority Vote
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 16.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,006.00 for the purpose of providing for the removal of snow and ice from town streets, sidewalks and public ways for Fiscal Year 2013 as follows:

Personal Services	\$ 20,380.00
Other Expenses	\$ 79,626.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 17.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$316,961.00, for the purpose of funding the Council on Aging for Fiscal Year 2013 as follows:

Personal Services	\$ 251,701.00
Other Expenses	\$ 65,260.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 18.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$215,300.00 for the purpose of funding Veterans and Soldiers Benefits in FY 2013 under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 19.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$497,595.00 and transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from the Dog Revolving Fund, and transfer the sum of \$7,925.00 from State Aid to Libraries, totaling \$515,520.00, for the purpose of funding the South Hadley Library for Fiscal Year 2013 as follows:

Personal Services	\$ 351,655.00
Other Expenses	\$ 163,865.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 20.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,350.00 and transfer from free cash the sum of \$19,403.00 totaling \$31,753.00totaling \$31,753.00totaling \$31,753.00 for the purpose of funding Gaylord Library for Fiscal Year 2013.

Majority Vote
Motion Carries

MODERATOR RECESSED FOR LUNCH FOR ONE HOUR

ARTICLE 21.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,500.00 for the purpose of auditing the Town's accounts for Fiscal Year 2012 and for engaging a consultant to perform an actuarial study for compliance with the federally mandated Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) for health insurance for retirees.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 22.

The Town voted to transfer from available funds in the Cable Studio Account the sum of \$95,445.00 for the purpose of funding Cable Studio Personal Services and Expenses for Fiscal Year 2013 as follows:

Personal Services	\$ 65,795.00
Other Expenses	\$ 29,650.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 23.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,890,259.00, for the purpose of funding FY 2013 Unclassified Accounts as follows:

Retirement Fund	\$	1,999,775.00
Unemployment Compensation	\$	95,000.00
Street and Traffic Lights	\$	101,955.00
General Liability Insurance	\$	250,000.00
Employee and Retiree Group Health Insurance	\$	4,089,767.00
Memorial Day Markers & Flags	\$	2,800.00
Damage to Persons & Property	\$	10.00
Town Report and Meeting Materials	\$	3,500.00
FICA/Medicare	\$	343,326.00
Old Firehouse Museum	\$	4,126.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 24.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,321.00, for the purpose of funding Health and Sanitation for FY 2013 as follows:

Personal Services	\$	112,421.00
Other Expenses	\$	2,900.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 25.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,065,978.00 and transfer the sum of \$33,478.00 from Landfill Enterprise Fund Receipts, and transfer the sum of \$582,694.00 from Waste Water Treatment Plant Enterprise Fund Receipts, and transfer the sum of \$422,375.00 from Free Cash totaling \$3,104,525.00 for the purpose of funding its Maturing Debt and Interest Account for Fiscal Year 2013.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 26.

The Town voted to transfer from available funds in the Boat Excise Fund the sum of \$5,500.00 for the purpose of funding the Connecticut River Channel Marking and Safety Committee for Fiscal Year 2013.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 27.

The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$151,828.00, and transfer from Ledges Golf Club Enterprise Fund Receipts the sum of \$744,025.00 totaling \$895,853.00, for the operation of the Ledges Golf Club for FY 2013 as follows:

Personal Services	\$127,662.00
Other Expenses	\$768,191.00

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 28.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$900.00 for the purpose of funding the Canal Park Committee for Fiscal Year 2013.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 29.

The Town voted raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of funding the Conservation Land Acquisition Account.

Majority Vote
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 30.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for the purpose of conducting a mandated revaluation of the Town's real and personal property.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 31.

The Town will review to vote this amendment at the Special Town Meeting on June 19, 2012. The Town will look at the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, clause 41C, relating to the exemption of real estate taxes on property of elderly persons, effective for fiscal 2013 as follows:

Increase income limits to \$17,500 for single persons and \$20,000 for married couple..

Motion Defeated

ARTICLE 32.

The Town will decide to vote to amend its Town By-Law Article II, Section 200 by adding the following paragraph at the June 19, 2012 Special Town Meeting:

“Notwithstanding the above, in any year where there is a Presidential Primary Election, the annual town election shall be held on the same date as that election, but the term of any newly elected Town officer shall only become effective commencing on the first Tuesday in April of that year. “

Motion defeated

ARTICLE 33.

The Town reauthorize the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53 1/2 to establish in the Town Treasury a revolving fund, which shall be kept separate and apart from all other monies by the Treasurer, and in which shall be deposited the receipts received that may be spent by the Selectboard or its designee, without further appropriation during FY 2013 for the continued support and maintenance of Buttery Brook Park, and in an amount not to exceed \$28,000.00 from the receipt of all fees and charges during Fiscal Year 2013 for the purpose of providing for programs, activities, maintenance and related administrative costs related to the Park's operations.

Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 34.

The Town voted pursuant to the consent vote by the School Committee, that the *care, custody, management and control* of the following land known as the George Hahn/Edwin Warner Arboretum, being a portion of Map 38 Parcel 1, is hereby transferred from the School Committee & Selectboard to the Conservation Commission for the conservation purposes set out under G.L. Ch. 40 §8C.

The Town Moderator informed the body that a two thirds majority vote was required to pass the article. Voice vote was called for. Moderator was satisfied with voice vote.

Majority Vote
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 35.

The Town did not vote by a 2/3rds majority vote to amend the Zoning Map by changing the designation of a 0.5165+/- acre parcel of land situated at 187 East Street (west side of East Street) and generally identified on Tax Assessor's Map #32 as Parcel #78 from the present zoning designation of Business A-1 to Business A (any portion of the subject property currently zoned Residence A-1 is to remain in its present zoning designation of Residence A-1).

The Town Moderator informed the body that a two thirds majority vote was required to pass the article. Voice vote was called for. Moderator was satisfied with voice vote.

Majority voice vote to defeat
Motion Failed

ARTICLE 36.

The Town voted to authorize the School Committee, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Sections 3 and 4, to enter into a lease (upon such terms and for such length of time as the School Committee deems proper) of surplus building and ground space at the South Hadley High School facility (identified as 153 Newton Street – Assessor's Map #17 - Parcel #15) for an initial term of at least 5 years and with successive renewal periods, the cumulative of which are not to exceed 25 years for the purpose of leasing said space to one or more commercial cellular communications/wireless carriers for the installation and operation of one or more commercial wireless communications facilities (antennae components of said facilities to be affixed to the existing structure with supporting equipment located in close proximity to the existing structure) and to provide, to the extent allowed by Massachusetts General Laws, that revenues received from such leases are to be placed into a School Building

Revolving Fund or similar account and appropriated annually by the School Committee for School Building improvements/operations

. Unanimous Affirmative
Motion Carries

ARTICLE 37.

The Town did not vote to amend the General By-laws, namely Section 501 entitled The Personnel Board, to provide for the appointment of an associate member by inserting the following wording as Section 501.4:

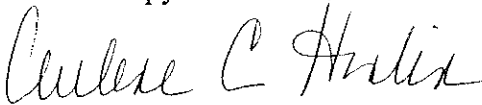
Section 501.4 Associate Member

One Associate Member may be appointed to the Personnel Board for a three-year term in the same manner as the appointment of full members. In the absence of one or more of the regular members, the Associate Member may be counted for the purpose of creating a quorum. Further, the Associate Member may fully participate in all discussions of the Personnel Board, but may only vote in situations where one or more of the five (5) regular members are unavailable to do so due to absence or a conflict of interest.

No motion was offered at this time.

Moderator adjourned the meeting at 4:10P.M.

A True Copy Attest:



Carlene C. Hamlin
Town Clerk//Treasurer