

True and attested copies of the warrants were posted by Constable, Robert Lyons in five of the towns voting precincts and mailed out to town meeting members on April 22, 2015. All additional local by-law requirements were met prior to hosting this meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 10:25am by the Town Moderator, Edward Ryan after he adjourned the Special Town Meeting. It was announced that there were extra copies of the mailed Supplemental Planning Board Information on the back table. There were ninety-two members present out of one hundred and twenty qualified town meeting members. Greetings were read by the Moderator. Peter Gagne and Dale Johnston were appointed tellers for the session.

The following business was transacted:

Article 1– Acceptance of Treasurer to Borrow

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to authorize 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, 2015, 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.

Article 2- Acceptance of Treasurer Banking

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to authorize 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 2016, as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 (F).

Article 3-Right to Defend

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to authorize the Selectboard to defend all suits that may be brought against the Town during Fiscal Year 2016 and to prosecute all suits on behalf of the Town, to engage counsel for same, and to settle such suits as they deem advisable.

Article 4- Acceptance of Grants

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to authorize 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.

Article 5- Acceptance of Chapter 90

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to accept a sum of money for highway improvements under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 and other applicable law; determine whether the money shall be provided by the tax levy, by transfer from available funds, or by borrowing, or by any combination of these methods; authorize the Selectboard to apply for, accept, expend and borrow in anticipation of state aid for such projects.

Article 6- FY16 Operating Budget

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

Unanimously supported by Appropriation Committee.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$43,527,890 for Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget as set forth in Appendix A attached hereto and made a part here of these minutes and further funded through the following means \$38,650,491 to be raised through taxation; \$586,982 from Unreserved free Cash; \$3,500 from Boat Excise; \$14,000 from Dog Agency Fund; \$10,000 from State Aid to Libraries; \$2,000 Conservation Wetland Fund \$150,437 from Cable Studio Account; \$1,739,958 from WWTP Enterprise Receipts; \$1,099,602 from landfill Enterprise Fund Receipts; \$150,000 from Landfill Enterprise Fund Balance and \$1,120,920 in Ledges Golf Club Receipts in the total amount of \$43,527,890 and therefore presented as a balanced budget.

Article 7- Chapter 41 Compensation

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to fix the salary and compensation of the following elective officers of the Town of South Hadley as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended: Moderator, Selectboard Members and Assessors.

At 11:20 am the Moderator broke from the business of warrant articles to the election of the reappointment to the Redevelopment Authority (MGL Ch121B, S5).

- *Nominations were solicited from the floor and the following were accepted:*

*Robert Blaney
Edward Boiselle
Winston Lavallee*

Blank paper ballots were distributed to members and the meeting resumed while they voted.

Article 8- Settlement

**UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.
Unanimously supported by Appropriation Committee.**

The Town voted to raise and appropriate and/or transfer Unreserved Free Cash the sum of \$160,000 to fulfill a court directed, negotiated settlement in regards to a wrongful termination claim.

Article 9- Two Family Zoning

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Moderator declared voice vote count was a unanimous vote. Moderator declared that the article passed by a 2/3 majority vote. Control sheet attached.

Unanimously supported by Planning Board.

The Town voted to amend the Zoning By-Laws in related to Multi-Family and Multiple Dwellings by amending: **Section 7, SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS, Subpart (Z) Multi-Family and Multiple Dwellings**, to clarify that the provisions of this Subpart (Z) do not apply to development of a single building with no more than two dwellings located therein on a single lot as detailed in the Planning Board's Report to Town Meeting.

Article 10- Nuisance Lawn

MAJORITY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The town voted to amend By-Laws Section 1007 Nuisance by adding subsection 1007.3 Property Care All property owners will be responsible to keep their property in a reasonable state of repair. Grass will be kept no higher than six (6) inches, leaves, excessive grass clippings will be removed, composted or otherwise properly disposed of, damage branches will be addressed and other debris or litter will be eliminated from the property. Violation of this by-law may result in a fine of \$100 per day, enforcement authority of this bylaw, South Hadley Police Department or South Hadley Health Department.

Article 11- Nuisance Discarding Home Goods

MAJORITY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to amend the General By-Laws Section 1007 Nuisance by adding subsection Section 1007.4 Discarded furniture, mattresses, building material, appliances, electronic equipment or other surplus home goods will not be left on the curb or tree belt unless allowed or approved by the DPW for pick up. Violation of this by-law may result in a fine of \$100 per day, enforcement authority of this bylaw, South Hadley Police Department or South Hadley Health Department.

Article 12- Nuisance Snow Shoveling

MAJORITY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to amend the General By-Laws Section 905.2 Removal of Snow from Sidewalk, by striking, the following “a tenant or occupant (and if no tenant or occupant, the owner)” and replacing with “owner”. Furthermore adding “The South Hadley Police Department may assess a fine of \$100 for each 24 hour period the walk remains impassable to pedestrians or the sidewalk is otherwise not treated.

Article 13- Electronic Delivery of Town Meeting Material

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached

The Town voted to amend Section 302.2 Delivery of Warrants to allow electronic transmission via ECAC or personal email of warrants, revision, updates and necessary material. All Town Meeting members would have to choose their electronic mail delivery address upon election by notifying the Town Clerk via electronic mail.

Article 14 – Town Meeting Date

MAJORITY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to amend section 300 of the By-laws by deleting second Saturday in May and inserting second Wednesday in May.

Article 15 – Town Meeting Ad-hoc Committee

DEFEATED: Control sheet attached.

The Town did not vote to delete Section 419 of the By-laws. (Town Meeting Ad hoc Committee).

Article 16 – Black Stevens Article 97 Land

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to place the care custody and management parcel Map 15 Parcel 15 shown as Parcel 1 at the Hampshire County Register of Deed Plan Book 233 Page 63. This land would be dedicated to the Conservation Commission under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 section 8C and consistent with Article 97. The parcel is generally recognized as a greater portion of the “Black Stevens Property” near or along Granby Road and behind the Plains School.

Article 17 – Red Bridge Lane Acceptance

NO MOTION OFFERED

Article 18 – Tax Title Revolving Account

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60 section 15B which would allow the creation of one or more tax title revolving funds for use of the Treasurer/Collector. The funds can be used solely for satisfying cost associated with tax title taking or foreclosure expenses through money generated by the sale of property.

Article 19 – OPEB Trust

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

Unanimously supported by Appropriation Committee

The Town voted to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from Unreserved Free Cash the sum of \$120,000 to the Other Post Employment Benefit Trust.

Article 20 – River to Range Trail March

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

Unanimously supported by Appropriation Committee

The Town voted to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from Unreserved Free Cash the \$30,000 to act as grant match for the Ferry Street Trail Project through the Pioneer Valley Planning Authority.

Article 21 – Revolving Buttery Brook Acct

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Control sheet attached.

Unanimously supported by Appropriation Committee

The Town voted to reauthorize the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, 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 2016 for the continued support and maintenance of Buttery Brook Park.

Article 22 – Citizen's Petition

NO MOTION OFFERED

The Moderator announced the results of the Redevelopment Authority Election.

Winston Lavelle – 51 votes

Robert Blaney – 15 votes

Edward Boiselle – 26 votes

Winston Lavallee was declared the winner and will serve until 2020.

Members were recognized for announcements.

The Moderator moved for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Carlene C. Hamlin, Town Clerk