

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 7 P.M.
MINUTES**

Present were Members: Chair John R. Hine, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, Clerk Bruce C. Forcier, Ira J. Brezinsky and Francis J. DeToma; Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan.

At 7:02 p.m., Chair Hine called the meeting to order, noting that all members were present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SB Member Forcier moved to accept the minutes of January 3, 2017 and January 17, 2017. SB Member Brezinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The workshop “Saving Lives in Hampshire County” will be offered this Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 5 o’clock in the Town Hall auditorium, SB Member Etelman announced. The program is being delivered by the Northwestern District Attorney’s office, Tapestry Health and the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition to train folks to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose and administer nasal Narcan. A workshop was held last night in Amherst and other trainings are scheduled in Easthampton and Granby. She encouraged as many folks as possible to attend. Coordinators will be giving out free Naloxone, commonly known by the brand name Narcan.

Chair Hine asked if anyone wished to address the Selectboard under open forum.

John T. Howard of 15 The Knolls said he gave Selectboard members each a handout that talks about green communities in the hope that this may be slowly coming down the road. He has been in touch with Jim Barry, regional coordinator of the Green Communities Division, to try to get a clear definition of the five criteria required to designate the town as a green community, he shared.

Chair Hine said they would take the information under advisement.

3. APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – CRISS QUIGLEY

Criss Quigley was present to discuss her interest in appointment as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. She has been an alternate member since 2012 and has attended all meetings and trainings. She finds it interesting; she is learning a lot from Martha Terry and it is a way for her to serve the community other than through the library, she shared.

Chair Hine asked how many meetings she has attended. The board meets on an as-needed basis, so there have not been many meetings since members acted on a 40B application, Ms. Quigley responded. She estimated there had been six.

SB Member Brezinsky thanked her for taking the time she has taken so far.

SB Member Brezinsky moved to appoint Criss Quigley as a full member of the Board of Appeals with term expiring June 30, 2019. SB Member Etelman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

4. APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO GOLF COMMISSION – MICHAEL J. WOZNIAK

SB Member Brezinsky moved to appoint Michael Wozniak as a full member of the Golf Commission with term expiring June 30, 2019. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOL LICENSE REQUEST:

- **Imad Zubi, MHC Conference and Event Services – 2/24/17 – Art Museum Lobby**

B. ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE REQUESTS:

- **Jim Pietras for All Saints’ Church – 2/11/17 – Kidder Hall, 7 Woodbridge Street**
- **Jon Camp, Music and Arts South Hadley – 4/1/17 (FestForward) – TH Auditorium**
- **Imad Zubi, MHC Conference and Event Services – 2/16/17 – Mead Art Museum Lobby**
- **Imad Zubi, MHC Conference and Event Services – 2/28/17 – Mead Art Museum Lobby**

Chair Hine reviewed the items on the consent agenda and asked if any member wished to remove one for separate discussion. SB Member Brezinsky asked to pull the request for FestForward off since he has a conflict of interest and would not be voting on this.

SB Member Etelman moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

SB Member Forcier moved to approve a One Day Beer and Wine license to Jon Camp for Music and Arts South Hadley for FestForward, April 1, 2017, in the Town Hall auditorium. SB Member Etelman seconded. The motion carried 4:0 with one abstention (SB Member Brezinsky).

6. CLEARGOV WEBINAR

Chair Hine opened a webinar for ClearGov, a software platform that promotes transparency and easy access to financial information for municipal government. Mr. Sullivan introduced Chris Bullock, CEO of ClearGov, as the presenter. The town has been looking at different vendors for a financial transparency product, he explained.

Mr. Bullock introduced himself as CEO and founder of the company. The idea for ClearGov came to him about a year ago when he was looking at his personal finances and was struck by the amount going to property taxes. He lives in the town of Hopkinton and was interested in learning where his taxes were going. He found detailed information on the town website, but the financial statements were hard to understand and, more importantly, lacked context. As an example, he learned that the town spends \$55 million on education but had no way of knowing if this was high or low in comparison to other communities.

He learned that the Department of Revenue in each state collects detailed financial information on its member communities. In developing ClearGov, he gathered information from some 20 state entities. Anybody can go on to ClearGov today and access basic information about each town as well as its comparison with other communities. His business model is to create a free page for every community that acts as a 'teaser' page. Towns can upgrade and add much more recent data as well as more granular data.

Mr. Bullock highlighted some of the information available, such as total revenue and expenditures together with an analysis of how these compare to other communities. Financial information is further broken down on a per capita basis, showing how per capita revenue and spending compares to similar towns. Users can drill down into revenue and expenditures and find a breakdown of where the money is being spent, and software developers take each category of spending and benchmark them as well. Various pages also give a demographic snapshot of each community with statistics such as total population, home values and household income.

Mr. Bullock showed examples of towns using the upgraded system to display information (Sudbury and Easton) and showed the homepage of their websites with links to ClearGov information. A resident can see how much of his/her property tax bill goes to each category of spending. Selectboard members and the town administrator have the ability to add commentary to explain the cited statistics, he added. When a town upgrades, system programmers connect to the town's accounting system to pull out detailed financial information. Programmers get information straight from the town's accounting system to document spending in each category.

After concluding what he termed a "very high-level and broad overview of the town product," Mr. Bullock transitioned to a demonstration of the school product. For this, he has taken data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and created a "teaser" page around South Hadley Public Schools. The page shows the total number of students and number of employees and contains data on test scores and state aid information.

City and town officials have the ability to create their own peer groups by self-selecting comparison communities, he added. Software developers made it very easy to change peer groups and to look at the numbers from a variety of angles, he stressed. He showed the page of a community (Framingham) that has paid to purchase an upgraded membership. Along with total school enrollment, the enhanced product shows enrollment by grade, the percentage of high-need students and the percentage of English language learners. In other words, the product allows users to drill down into school finances to examine factors behind higher-than-average education spending.

Mr. Sullivan pointed out that, similarly to Framingham, the town product showed South Hadley as spending less on education than its peer groups while the school product showed South Hadley as spending more on education than its comparison communities.

Chair Hine asked about the sources of data the company uses for the product; i.e. – where the data come from.

The base pages are provided by state-level data; i.e., the Department of Revenue, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Transportation (DOT). On the school side, base pages are derived from information from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Mr. Bullock explained. When a town upgrades, programmers connect to the town's accounting system and export financial information from it. Consultants have developed a universal chart of accounts to insure that everyone's data are going into the same bucket to allow for 'apples to apples' comparisons.

SB Member DeToma pointed out that South Hadley has separate fire districts which take care of EMS, fire and water. He asked if ClearGov is able to collect data on those districts and incorporate them into their analyses.

The company normally considers separate taxing entities as separate clients, Mr. Bullock said. He offered to discuss specifics off line.

SB Member Brezinsky asked if both the municipal and school sides of member communities always participate.

The school district and town are treated as separate entities for purposes of ClearGov, Mr. Bullock clarified. ClearGov started out with the town product and just released the school product in November to a tremendous reception. A number of towns are doing a combo package but there are a number of schools that have taken the lead and signed up before the town. The company offers a package discount for the school/town combination. In some cases, a town moves ahead without the school district.

Members thanked Mr. Bullock for the presentation.

7. **MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST (SOI)**

Chair Hine welcomed the South Hadley School Committee and School Superintendent Nicholas Young. The Selectboard received a request from the superintendent to consider authorizing the submittal of a Statement of Interest (SOI) in participating in the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) grant program for Mosier Elementary School, he reminded. Members discussed it at the last meeting and decided to invite the School Committee in for further discussion. Members received a packet of information from the School Department, he confirmed.

Dr. Young thanked the Selectboard for inviting them. The documents received were sent to the Selectboard office in November in electronic format and hard copies were just provided as a courtesy, he clarified.

The School Department marked the culmination of a year-long study process with a public meeting of the Appropriations Committee, Capital Planning Committee and School Committee which several Selectboard members attended, Dr. Young reminded. As part of the packet, Selectboard members received a comprehensive report by Flansburgh Architects, the same architectural firm that came in 2006 and noted at that time that South Hadley had two elementary schools in need of consideration [for renovation].

The recommendation of the feasibility study committee in 2006 was that the town look at the two elementary schools, he recounted. The committee made the suggestion of combining the projects, but the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) responded that the town could only apply to replace the then existing grade configuration. Plains Elementary School was the priority, but committee members recommended that the projects go in successive order.

School officials now find themselves 11 years later, in 2017, with the appreciation that, with wear and tear, conditions have tended to deteriorate. The school now has some very immediate needs; i.e. - portable classrooms with a life span of 15 years which are now 33 years old. Experts are telling them that their life span has really been exhausted. MSBA folks also came through the building in the fall and noted a number of efficiency and life-safety issues, including single-pane windows and heating, plumbing and electrical deficiencies.

Consistent with the charge of the school system under Massachusetts General Law, school officials went through and studied the problem and had the architectural firm come back and look at the facility. Consultants presented a series of recommended scenarios, but it falls to the town as opposed to the School Committee to determine how the situation gets addressed, Dr. Young concluded.

‘We have some significant facility needs; they’re documented in this report,’ he stressed. The life span of some life-safety systems has been exceeded and the flooring of the portable classrooms has been rebuilt several times. He encouraged members to speak to the Building Commissioner regarding its status.

‘The short version is; it is dire and there are all kinds of technical experts that can tell us the reason for that,’ he observed.

School officials explored various scenarios; including bringing forth the necessary repairs as capital requests that do not get reimbursed.

Some of the cost estimates are pretty high, he acknowledged. The way the process works is that, once this level of documentation is obtained, school officials take the request to the Selectboard and School Committee for a vote. If approved, the application goes into a process with the MSBA that could take multiple years. The SOI is entered into a queue. When and if the project is selected, school officials come back to the Selectboard to appoint a feasibility study committee.

The superintendent assured members that he understands the concern about tax increases. From the school's standpoint, they are trying to be fiscally responsible. As they look at a host of life-safety systems at the end of their life spans, the idea of piece-mealing replacement without reimbursement is prohibitively expensive, he remarked.

One thing that stood out to him about the last committee is the tendency to look at solutions before the problem is fully identified, he shared. School officials' task at this point is to identify developing problems with the school's life safety systems and portable classrooms and to start a process with multiple steps involving the state to come up with a solution, he suggested.

Chair Hine asked if the SOI in any way reduces the options of how to address the issues. In submitting the SOI, is the town saying that the solution requires replacement or a major renovation, or are other options still on the table?

"Essentially, it takes no options off the table," Dr. Young assured. Once the town is invited to participate as a grant recipient, steps begin to identify potential solutions. How the problem gets addressed is a much later step in the process, he asserted. While it could be a few years out, it could be many years out, and getting into the queue is important. Basically, town officials are looking for collaboration in addressing a problem; how it gets addressed is determined later in the process.

The school department is saying that the urgency of the situation would be a collective cost challenge for town officials, Dr. Young elaborated. It is probably very unrealistic that the town is going to find itself in a short window to proceed, he assured. More likely, they are looking at a longer window. School officials see the process as a way to mitigate the growing concerns in as responsible a way as possible.

A feasibility study would be the next step once the town is invited to enter the eligibility period, Dr. Young confirmed.

Chair Hine asked if the feasibility study is required. He expressed his recollection that the feasibility study for the Plains Elementary School was \$750,000.

\$750,000 was the cost for the study of the two schools, Dr. Young clarified. As part of the exploratory process, school officials asked to have those numbers updated in 2017. They think they have mitigated some of those costs because they have current figures. If the MSBA accepts the SOI, it would be the obligation of the town to fund a feasibility study, he confirmed. His hope as a taxpayer is that it would cost less since a study was already done, he said.

If there is zero desire to fund a major renovation or replacement; there is no point in submitting an SOI, Chair Hine pointed out.

The flip side is that if the town does not take steps to prepare itself, it could find itself in need of major renovations without state support, Dr. Young countered.

SB Member DeToma noted that the town has had recent experience with the MSBA construction process with the Plains Elementary School. He asked about its timeline.

It was protracted at the very least, Dr. Young said. The original process started in the early 2000's, SB Member Brezinsky confirmed. It started well before 2006 and then the state cancelled its program, he elaborated. After a two or three year gap, the MSBA was formed. The process was 15 years or more, he corroborated.

When he was enrolling his child in Plains Elementary School, he was told a new school would be built in a year or two, Dr. Young related. She is now a junior in college. We anticipate that we're going into a protracted process, he confirmed.

SB Member Brezinsky asked whether some communities go through the feasibility process prior to submitting an SOI. He asked if there is a financial reason to do an SOI first. He expressed his understanding that the state does not pay for the feasibility study.

There is reimbursement for the study if the project goes forward, Dr. Young clarified. He does not believe the state reimburses for studies performed prior to the town being accepted into the grant program, he said.

We have a lot of enthusiasm for our schools, Dr. Young continued. We have a school with a growing list of problems and experts saying we're running out of time. This is the process through which the town gets a partnership to keep costs to the taxpayer low, he stressed.

Mr. Brezinsky asked if the school got any kind of estimate from Flansburgh as to what a feasibility study is likely to cost.

One of the challenges in estimating feasibility costs is that the committee is going to map out various options to explore and it is hard to second-guess what those will be. Having a comprehensive report from 2006 is an advantage, Dr. Young indicated. Algorithms such as the amount of square footage required for each student must be updated. Back in the 1990's, no space was set aside for computers. He voiced the opinion that if the study is done sooner it will cost less because school officials have current numbers. Ten years from now it is going to be more.

Mr. Brezinsky expressed his understanding that if improvements exceed 30% of the assessed value of the building, it triggers the requirement that all systems be updated. He understands this to be the reason that cost estimates range as high as \$43 million. He asked where the assessed number comes from. He has trouble understanding how the assessed value could be \$2 million while the replacement cost is \$43 million. The actual value of the building must be somewhere in between \$2 and \$43 million, he suggested.

According to the architect, normal practice is to use the assessed value on the town books, Dr. Young responded. He has discussed with Mr. Sullivan that the appraised value for insurance purposes is significantly higher (\$10.1 million per FY2017 Statement of Values). Actual value is an academic issue in some ways, he asserted. Whatever the assessed value, deficiencies in life safety systems were fully identified in 2006. At that time, the committee appointed by the Selectboard recognized the problems and reached the conclusion that they needed to be fixed. Eleven years later, the problems continue to exist and the responsible thing to do is follow the normal process to address them, he maintained.

Part of the problem is that the driving force for the project is the portable unit, which costs roughly \$2.5 to \$3 million to replace, in excess of the school's assessed value, School Committee and Capital Planning Committee representative John Kelly interjected. The MSBA will not pay for a portable unit, so the school has to replace it with a more permanent structure. The school cannot spend that amount of money without triggering the need to upgrade mechanical and electrical systems, he explained.

Chair Hine asked about enrollment figures. If enrollment is decreasing, might there be capacity at another school to accommodate some of the students now housed in the portable classroom? If the portable is the major driver, is there a way to deal with this without renovating the whole school? He asked about the possibility of moving students to other schools.

In anticipation of this question, Dr. Young said he had been speaking to an expert in the area of realignment. Consultants have walked the district and do not have an empty classroom. Since they have run the numbers for Mosier, they can definitely say that this building would need to be larger in order to accommodate the number of students.

Chair Hine pointed out that the numbers apply to new construction, not existing buildings.

Literally every square inch is taken up for instructional purposes, Dr. Young maintained. The idea of moving the second grade to Plains School is often suggested, he related. Most parents and students would welcome such a change but, as anyone knows who's been involved in that project, every square inch is presently used. He doesn't see this as a really viable option because he has actually walked the district in anticipation of that question to see if there is any available space.

For the first time this year, school officials have seen an increase in enrollment of between 40 and 50 students, School Committee member Christine Phillips volunteered. Their goal has been to drive enrollment figures up and they have been successful, she reported. The school department did surveys and discovered that one of the biggest reasons students were leaving the system was a perceived need for more accelerated learning. Parents and teachers wanted more opportunities for advanced classes and school officials have provided that. A significant portion of the increase is from South Hadley students who had been going elsewhere.

Ironically, the biggest increase is at Mosier, Dr. Young added.

SB Member Brezinsky asked how many classrooms are in each of the three grades.

Next year they will have six, seven and seven classrooms at Mosier for Grades 2nd, 3rd and 4th, Dr. Young responded. Other spaces are used for special education.

SB Member Brezinsky shared his recollection that when he was on the School Committee, the school had eight regular education classrooms and had spec ed. in closets, etc.

There are about 22 students per class, Dr. Young added. [The size of classes]"is not a creative exercise; it is dictated by the state," Dr. Young reminded.

Chair Hine pointed out that the superintendent has talked about pressing needs at Mosier and a process that could take a number of years. Given this, there is probably going to be work/repairs necessary before any permanent solution is in place. He thinks town

officials need that piece of the equation as well. As a town, we are probably going to need to spend money to fix problems in the next five years, he noted.

Mr. Kelly commented that if a construction project is in process, school officials will mostly likely take the approach of trying to patch problems in the interim.

What stood out to him in the description of the SOI process is the statement that a school district should have the ability to fund a construction project within two years, SB Member Forcier observed.

If they get to the point where they are blessed by the state with an invitation to participate in the grant program, they can engage the larger constituency on these problems, Dr. Young responded. They would engage the voters, he assured. Town officials don't have to promise that they have the money, they just have to promise that they will engage the democratic process, he pointed out. It is much better to solve the problem with state money; that is our fundamental point, he reiterated.

The whole reason town officials are discussing state participation and a longer-range plan to solve these issues is that a couple of years ago the School Department made the decision to take all of the Mosier items off the capital plan and instead pursue a more comprehensive plan to address them, SB Member Brezinsky related.

It feels very much to him like if they do go down the road of submitting an SOI they are in fact talking about either a very major renovation or a brand new building, he continued. He expressed the opinion that they should just acknowledge that that is the likely result of any decision that is made. It's not very likely that the result of a feasibility study is going to be to address the deficiencies as individual capital projects, he maintained.

He would really like to get a definitive answer as to the assessed value of the building so they know exactly how much money they could spend without triggering the 30% threshold, he continued.

Dr. Young said the \$10 million appraisal of the building for insurance purposes is probably the best estimate.

The deadline for submitting an SOI is early April.

Chair Hine commented that it is very important that this issue is out there; that residents of the town are aware of it and that town officials are having this discussion. The Selectboard is trying to balance a lot of factors, including public interest in a new Senior Center, and it is very important that a lot of time be spent now talking about this. He thanked the School Committee for coming.

8. ONE DAY BEER AND WINE LICENSE REQUESTS:

- Luke Brunelle – March 11, 2017(Leprechaun Plunge) – 1 Alvord Street
- Jon Camp, Music and Arts South Hadley – July 29, 2017 (FallsFest) – Beachgrounds

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Selectboard that, in reviewing the application for McCray's Farm's TruckFest, members adopted a policy of having the police chief review and approve a security plan with the applicant as a condition of approval. Similarly, for the Leprechaun Plunge, Police Chief Steve Parentela has met with Luke Brunelle and come up with a security plan.

When asked if this calls for any changes from previous plunges, Chief Parentela said that Mr. Brunelle has requested an enlarged area to serve alcohol. He is satisfied with the plan for security and alcohol service presented, he confirmed.

SB Member Forcier moved to approve a One Day Beer and Wine License for Luke Brunelle for March 11, 2017 (the Leprechaun Plunge) at 1 Alvord Street. SB Member Etelman seconded with the friendly amendment that the license be issued with the conditions as specified by the Chief of Police. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

SB Member Forcier moved to approve a One Day Beer and Wine license for Jon Camp for FallsFest. SB Member DeToma seconded. As a point of order, Mr. Sullivan asked to include Item 7C under New Business (Falls Fest Request for Use of Beachgrounds July 27 – 30) in the approval, and this amendment was accepted by Mr. Forcier and Mr. DeToma. Mr. Sullivan also asked that approval be contingent on an agreement being worked out with the police for safety and security, and this amendment was accepted. **The amended motion passed 4:0 with one abstention (SB Member Brezinsky).**

9. SPRING ELECTIONS, BALLOT QUESTIONS, DISTRICT COMBINED ELECTIONS

The Town Clerk requested that he ask the Selectboard to consider reducing the hours of voting for the Annual Town Election to exclude some of the early hours due to the small number of voters during these time periods, Mr. Sullivan related.

SB Member Etelman suggested that, in the interest of keeping elections consistent and not confusing voters, they keep the regular hours. She understands there may be a really minor cost savings but thinks it is not worth changing the time. SB Members DeToma and Brezinsky concurred. Mr. Sullivan said he would convey their sentiment to the Clerk.

BALLOT QUESTION ON BANNING PLASTIC BAGS

Consistent with M.G.L. Chapter 54, Section 42B, a state law allowing a non-binding policy question to be posed to voters, the Selectboard is being asked to consider putting a referendum on the upcoming Town Election ballot to ban plastic bags with die-cut handles, Mr. Sullivan explained. There would have to be a subsequent Town Meeting vote to create a general bylaw, he clarified.

Members of the Board of Health (BOH) and the Health Department Director were present to speak to the request. A number of towns are pursuing this, and it makes a lot of sense from an environmental standpoint, BOH Chair Walter Wolf confirmed.

BOH member Suzanne Cordes recommended www.massgreen.org as a good source of information on the subject. The wheel has already been invented, she commented. Forty-two towns have banned plastic bags; some through the Board of Health and some through local ordinance. The educational component of this – informing people about the environmental impacts of plastic bags - is really important, she stressed. BOH members confirmed they would advocate putting the question on the ballot.

SB Member Etelman asked BOH members if they were aware of an established group, either the Board of Health or another, that would be willing to help get this passed.

SB Member Brezinsky respectfully objected to the direction of the conversation. What they should be talking about is whether to say yes or no to putting a question on the ballot that voters can say yes or no to. There are arguments for both sides and experts that feel strongly one way or the other, he noted. He does not think a public meeting on public property is the right place to be discussing insuring that a measure passes. The issue is whether to ask the voters if they'd like to weigh in. Once that is decided, it should be up to advocacy groups to make a case for approval. He feels strongly that they should leave it at that.

Ms. Etelman said she was not trying to say they need to make sure it gets passed, although, personally, she would like to see it get passed. She would rather see that there's some backing to the question before agreeing to put it on the ballot and then finding out that it does not have substantial support.

SB Member Brezinsky stressed that he feels that it should be on the ballot. **He moved that this question be on the April ballot. SB Member Etelman seconded.** SB Member DeToma concurred. **The motion passed unanimously 5:0.**

DISTRICT COMBINED ELECTIONS

There were conversations with representatives of both districts about the possibility of combining annual elections, Mr. Sullivan related. He spoke to the Clerk and wanted to make sure both districts know town officials are willing to facilitate combined elections as long as there is no additional cost to the Town of South Hadley.

It is not going to happen for this April, but, given that the Selectboard is going to be considering moving the election to coincide with presidential and gubernatorial primaries in the fall, this may be an impetus to the districts to expedite the proposal. If the change makes it easier for the public without adding any demonstrable cost, it makes sense, he suggested.

Chair Hine said his sense is that it is the will of the Selectboard to pursue the arrangement.

He would hope to have a warrant article before Annual Town Meeting this year if the town was to implement combined elections for 2018, Mr. Sullivan said. They would subsequently need to seek state legislation for the change and to allow incumbents to remain in office until replacement at the later election.

The districts would also need articles on their spring annual meetings to implement the change.

10. ANTI-CORRUPTION RESOLUTION

Haley Gmeiner, a resident of South Hadley and full-time employee of "Represent Us," presented a request that the Selectboard adopt an Anti-Corruption Resolution.

She is working with representatives across the country to pass anti-corruption laws, Ms. Gmeiner explained. Between the chapter in Western Massachusetts and the Boston office, staff set a goal to get 30 cities and towns to pass anti-corruption resolutions. The declaration is really just saying that when a resolution comes to the ballot, the town is in favor of passing it, she clarified.

The organization in general is non-partisan with members across the political spectrum. They are really seeing the need for and advocating for transparency in government. She expressed hope that the Selectboard would adopt the resolution.

Members discussed. Chair Hine said he is primarily interested in issues germane to South Hadley as opposed to taking a stand on state and federal issues. SB Member Brezinsky said he is also struggling with the fact that the resolution pertains to a federal initiative. The Selectboard has a long tradition of sticking to local services and staying away from political positions, although he agrees with almost every syllable. It almost feels like another ballot question, he observed. The last sentence of the resolution commits the town to establishing its own anti-corruption legislation, SB Member DeToma pointed out.

Ms. Gmeiner said it was recommended that she bring it to them as a first step toward a ballot question. The organization's practice has been to solicit the support of the executive body prior to initiating a campaign to put a question on the ballot.

The more he thinks about it the more he is convinced it should be a ballot question, Mr. Brezinsky pronounced. Other members agreed. They discussed possible wording and concluded that the first paragraph of the resolution could be presented as a question.

SB Member Brezinsky moved to place an anti-corruption ballot question with the appropriate language on the April 11th ballot. SB Member Etelman seconded. The question would read, "Would you be in favor of a [insert the first paragraph of the resolution]." **The motion passed unanimously 5:0.**

11. SNOW/ICE SPENDING ACCEPTANCE

The town typically underfunds the snow and ice budget, Chair Hine reminded. As of January 1, 2017, South Hadley has spent \$127,203 out of a \$100,010 budget, Mr. Sullivan confirmed. A vote to allow the town to exceed its budget must be taken before the end of the fiscal year. There has been a change to the law to require that the Appropriations Committee also must authorize the town to exceed the budget, he noted. He talked to the chair and he will include such a vote on an upcoming agenda.

The motion is to accept M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 31D for FY 2017, he clarified.

SB Member DeToma moved to accept M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 31D for FY 2017 for purposes of exceeding expenditures related to snow/ice removal and other "Snow and Ice" related expenses for the Town of South Hadley. SB Member Etelman seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

12. RIVER TO RANGE PHASE II APPLICATION

The town was originally supposed to complete the accessible trail loop as part of Phase II of the River to Range grant, but they are now able to complete it as part of Phase I, Mr. Sullivan reported. The Phase II grant application is primarily for archeological and environmental studies and for design of the bridge over Bachelor Brook. The town is hoping to get another grant for \$247,000 for construction of the bridge. If approved, the town would have to come up with a \$15,000 match. The Phase II project value is \$89,410.

Some of the match will come from Mount Holyoke College, and the Bike/Walk Committee has committed to some in-kind responsibilities.

He expects to hear sometime in July if the town receives an award for this phase. He thought this work would begin a lot sooner than actual construction work. Residents should see the path starting to appear in the spring.

Chair Hine asked if they needed to budget \$15,000 if they are inclined to pursue the grant, and Mr. Sullivan said yes.

SB Member Etelman moved to pursue the River to Range Phase II application. SB Member Forcier seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

13. UPDATE ON FY 2018 BUDGET

He is proceeding to develop a budget for FY 2018, Mr. Sullivan reported. He is going back for a third round with some departments. Health insurance is up about \$450,000, and departments are working very hard to be able to stay within that budget. He is hoping to be able to make some commitments to the Capital Stabilization Fund, OPEB, etc. As far as revenue projections, they are still very strong for 2017.

Also, the Gaylord Library commitment is up. On the positive side, \$48,000 of payroll obligations were paid out of last year's budget [due to there being 27 pay periods in FY 2017]. He is setting up a meeting with appropriations and capital planning. He should have a draft budget for the next meeting which he will be putting on the website for review.

He is still waiting for School Department numbers and hoping to have those this week.

14. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

SB Member Brezinsky thanked Mr. Sullivan for the piece on the Symposium of Understanding. SB Member Etelman sent a report from Iraida Delgado, the consultant, on the focus group with first responders. Mr. Sullivan encouraged members to look through it. Chair Hine said he did read it and was impressed to hear what first responders are experiencing. He asked if the document could be uploaded to the website.

Symposium organizers have started to pick up the pace, and the Council on Aging director will be attending a symposium on Monday about becoming an age-friendly community, Mr. Sullivan related. Also, he is putting Carol Constant, Director of Community Engagement for Loomis Communities, in contact with a national organization. We see that aging is one of the difficult issues in town. They are thinking of going to front-line employees next; those who see first-hand the people coming to the town.

RIVER ROLL AND STROLL

This will take place Sunday, May 7th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mr. Sullivan advised. Mariann Millard along with Sean Cronin from Holyoke deserves a lot of the credit. The bridge has been divided into different zones, including a “serenity zone” in the middle. At one o’clock a parade will start from both ends of the bridge. South Hadley veterans are now involved, and there will be a ceremony when the two contingents meet in the middle of the bridge.

The end zone militia from the Patriots will be there, SB Member Brezinsky added.

SB Member Brezinsky moved to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, regarding DPW AFSCME negotiations. SB Member DeToma seconded.

Members voted affirmatively to go into Executive Session by roll call vote as follows:

SB Member DeToma	Aye
SB Member Brezinsky	Aye
SB Member Etelman	Aye
SB Member Forcier	Aye
Chair Hine	Aye

Chair Hine announced that the board would not return to public session. **The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**LAURA KRUTZLER
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents Reviewed at February 7, 2017 Selectboard Meeting:

1. February 7, 2017 Agenda.
2. Minutes of January 3, 2017 regular Selectboard meeting.
3. Minutes of January 17, 2017 regular Selectboard meeting.
4. One Day Beer and Wine License application from Imad Zubi, Mount Holyoke College Willits-Hallowell Conference Center, for a reception on February 24, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the lobby of Mead Art Museum.
5. One Day Beer and Wine License application from Luke Brunelle, Jr. for “Leprechaun Plunge” fundraising event on March 11, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Marina Showroom and shop yard at Brunelle’s Marina.
6. One Day Beer and Wine License application from Jim Pietras, All Saints’ Episcopal Church for a ‘Trivia Night’ fundraising event on February 11, 2017 from 6 to 9 p.m. in Kidder Hall, 7 Woodbridge Street.
7. One Day Beer and Wine License application from Jon Camp, for Music and Arts South Hadley (MASH) for ‘FestForward’ fundraising event on April 1, 2017 from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium.
8. One Day Beer and Wine License application from Jon Camp for Music and Arts South Hadley (MASH) for ‘FallsFest,’ a day-long music festival, on July 29, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Beachgrounds Park.
9. One Day Beer and Wine License application from Imad Zubi, Mount Holyoke College Willits-Hallowell Conference Center, for a reception on February 16, 2017 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the lobby of Mead Art Museum.
10. Chart entitled “April 14, 2015 South Hadley Town Election” showing number of voters by specific time period (i.e. – 8 to 9 a.m., 9 to 10 a.m., etc.)
11. Chart entitled “April 12th, 2016 South Hadley Town Election” showing number of voters by specific time period (i.e. – 8 to 9 a.m., 9 to 10 a.m., etc.)
12. Text of proposed Plastic Bag Ban ballot question.
13. Text of proposed South Hadley Anti-Corruption Resolution.
14. Phase II Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application for River to Range Accessible Trail project.
15. Application for Appointment to Board, Commission or Committee from Criss Quigley for appointment as full member to Zoning Board of Appeals.
16. Town Administrator Report dated February 3, 2017.