

**Town Administrator's Report to Selectboard
August 16, 2022****Administration, Finance and Operations**

- State Budget - The Governor signed a \$52.7 billion state budget bill for FY23. Compared to the figures estimated in the budget passed at Town Meeting, our net revenues (excluding offsets) are up \$159,744 over what we were "carrying" however our assessments are up as well roughly \$80,155 so we show a net increase of approximately \$79,589 over our original numbers.
- The state announced that the new round of Community Compact Cabinet program funding will begin on August 15th in the areas of Best Practices, IT, Efficiency & Regionalization and Municipal Fiber. The town will review the guidelines and see what projects would be eligible.

Community Highlights

- Pickleball - There was a ribbon cutting for the new pickleball courts at Buttery Brook on August 8, which was also National Pickleball day. Dozens showed up for the event and the free clinic.
- Woodlawn Park - The dedication of the Woodlawn Park designation is scheduled for Saturday, September 10 from 11am to 9:30pm with a variety of activities: Dedication at 11am, family activities from 11:15am to 1pm, Cornhole tournament from 1 to 4pm, and a dance with live music from Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra from 6:30 to 9:30pm.

Planning and Economic Development

- The facade program funded by the state's Regional Economic Development Opportunity (REDO) program has issued 6 Memorandum of Understandings with six locations in the Falls area totaling \$57,000 in improvements. The locations are: 1-3 Bridge Street, 28 Main Street, 34 Bridge Street, 110 Main Street, 63 Bridge Street and 33 Lamb Street. In addition, the Town Administrator is seeking additional funding for three additional properties.
- The Housing Production Plan Advisory group is now in place. As part of the efforts to update the 2016 Plan, a government officials focus group will meet with the consultant - Outwith Studios sometime in late August/early September.

Public Health

- COVID - 13 active confirmed cases as of 8/9. The BioBot data shows an uptick in COVID levels for the most recent data. The state has extended BioBot testing until December 30, 2022.
- Drought - The severity level is Level 3 "Critical Drought" for most of Massachusetts as of August 9, including all of the Connecticut River Valley Region. South Hadley is part of the MWRA system, which has posted tips on how to save water both indoors and outdoors. The info is posted online at: www.mwra.com/01news/2022/061722-reservoirstatus.html

- Monkeypox clinical advisory - Given the severely limited national supply of JYNNEOS, beginning August 8, 2022 the Department of Public Health and vaccine partners are prioritizing first doses for as many eligible people as possible (second dose appointments made before August 8th are to be honored and not to be canceled).
- Heat - The Senior Center and Library have been serving as cooling centers during their normal business hours. Advisories have been/will be posted online, on electronic sign boards and announced via press releases to local news outlets.
- Opioid - First distributions of the settlement have been issued to municipalities. South Hadley will set up an advisory committee for recommendations on how to spend the funds, which will be given annually through the year 2038.