



May 13, 2016

Honorable Selectboard;

Please accept this as an abridged accounting of recent activities of the Town Administrator on your behalf and related to various projects and initiatives.

South Hadley/Granby Chamber of Commerce, I had the pleasure of briefly attending the Annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday the 13th. It was well attended and always nice to hear from our legislators on the Boston scene. As always both Senator Rosenberg and Representative Scibak lead with their constituent's best interest in mind.

It was an opportunity for me to mention Town Meeting's vote to have the Bardwell Street Library relieved of any Article 97 impediment. As the legislature and Governor Baker will be required to sign off on this request. It was important for the Senator and Representative to hear Town Meeting clearly supported the article to empower the Selectboard to bring the request to the Commonwealth.

The other topics covered were gender identity, changes to the number of liquor licenses available in a town and the cost of healthcare in Massachusetts. Nothing was resolved on any of these issues at the Orchard's that morning.

Western Mass EDP, I had the pleasure of representing the South Hadley at the May meeting of the Economic Development Partnership of Western Massachusetts. I believe these external partnerships are important for SoHa to cultivate and I expect will pay dividends to the Town in the future.

It is exciting the Town Of South Hadley will showcase development opportunities at the Western Mass Development Conference at the Mass Mutual Center on June 23. This will be a new "first" for South Hadley and I truly hope it will lead to additional investment. South Hadley is a great place to locate your business and we should be seen as business friendly.

There may be an opportunity to present as a community in next year's conference, but I am glad we are just getting our toe in the water this year. This conference was well attended last year by site selectors and developers. It is a great opportunity to strike up conversation. If any of the SB plan to attend please let me know, there will be more information to follow.

Woodlawn Plaza, Speaking investments, I had the pleasure of meeting with the principal partners for the purchase of the Woodlawn Plaza on Newton Street. Rocco Falcone, Peter Picknelly and a South Hadley favorite son Andy Yee are the partners.



Knowing, being able to reach out, to offer leads to locals is a distinct advantage for us in the municipal construct. Andy is passionate, successful and has the tiger heart of a South Hadley resident. Mr. Falcone is the powerful leader of Rocky's Hardware chain and Peter Picknelly is a legend in the region and well beyond when it comes to business acumen.

I believe there are interest parties in locating their business on Newton Street will now feel much more confident about the future of the plaza, as it is now being bought out of the uncertainty of bankruptcy and all that entails.

Interim Chief of Police, As we prepare for the retirement of Chief Labrie on July 1, 2016, I will be recommending to you at the next meeting the interim appointment of Lt. Parentella as Acting/Interim Chief. We will begin the process of seeking applicants for a permanent Chief and I hope to have that recommendation before the Selectboard for your approval on or about the first meeting in September.

Chief Labrie has served this community well and I seek to avoid the complications other surrounding communities have experienced in replacing their Police Chief. The department is running well and the Town is blessed to have some very dedicated professionals working at the PD. I am sure there will be some changes and tweaks made to the system, but I believe Lt. Parentella is best equipped to assist in a smooth transition.

Thank you for all your support as we have made our way through this significant change. It is my stated desire to make the transition transparent and I will make all recommendations and decisions based on what I believe to best for the Town of South Hadley.

Town Meeting, Congratulations to the Selectboard and to Town Meeting Members the May 11 meeting seemed to go well and there has been a steady stream of TMMs commenting how much they appreciated the tenor, the process and the results. It is truly a compliment to the elected officials of South Hadley.

The other point which is important there was a truly civil tone to the proceedings. While there were ideas and amendments offered and important debate which ensued, the points were made in a respectful way. It is important to have the public discourse, but we also need to move beyond as a community. I credit and thank Moderator Ryan and Clerk Hamlin for their skillful handling of the proceedings.

COA Director, We have made a conditional offer of employment to Leslie Hennessey to the position of COA Director. The prescribed process of application was followed with a panel made up of the HR

Director Jennifer Wolowicz, the Library Director Joe Rodio and a Council on Aging member Eileen Burke to review all the candidates. There were two finalist recommended to me as the appointing authority and I re-interviewed both. They both had interesting skill sets, but I felt Ms. Hennessey was well suited to serve as COA Director in South Hadley. Leslie has commendable experience in volunteer coordination, marketing and serving in an executive role in a large organization.

She will be coming to us from the Holyoke VNA where she was Coordinator of Volunteer Services. I believe her marketing experience will become invaluable to guide the COA as they seek a new place to call their own. I will introduce Ms. Hennessey at the June 7 SB Meeting.

Time & Attendance Webinar, I wanted make sure the SB was aware we have started the pilot program for Time and Attendance and July 1 everyone will be managing their time on-line. This has been a long road to get to, but will benefit the town greatly and the employees.

The system to “punch in”, (mostly on your computer) will be coordinated to the supervisor and to HR and the TA. We will eventually have all vacation and sick time being approved through the system. There are some outliers we are still addressing, but we are closing in on a complete system

Thank you for all your support this week and I apologize for the somewhat abbreviated TA Report, but never let it be said Mike Sullivan cannot be brief!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J Sullivan

Town Administrator, South Hadley