



January 30, 2013

Honorable Selectboard;

Please accept this as an abridged version of the work being performed in South Hadley Town Hall by myself and more often by other dedicated employees. I would personally like to thank all of you for taking the time to attend the MMA Conference, rarely does a full Selectboard show that level of interest in seeking out new idea and reviewing best practices. I know that each of you have brought back concepts which we will discuss in the upcoming months in an effort to bring tailor those enhancements to SoHa.

I would like to congratulate Selectboard Ishler for being recognized by the Lion's Club with the Melvin Jones Service Award. I have heard many members comment on how Marilyn has restored this august organization back to prominence in South Hadley just another sign of how committed to this community she is, again, congratulations.

Budget Update; Thursday evening I will have my initial meeting with the Appropriations and will do a full review at the Tuesday night Selectboard Meeting. The areas of concern continue to be post-employment costs, changes to healthcare requirements, capital needs and exposure to risk. There are different approaches to each of these and I assure you we are exploring all possibilities.

Although borrowing will impact the budget (for a few years) I believe through you supportive guidance Treasurer Baldini and I have found some innovative ways to soften the impact. The capital needs of the community should be built in to a borrowing plan and that will be part of my message to Appropriations.

Gaylord Street Industrial Properties; This week I had the opportunity thanks to Selectboard member Detoma to meet with Wayne Ashworth of E-Ink. We discussed ways the town may help in attracting talent and ventures for this important South Hadley employer. Mr. Ashworth was very complementary of the service and reception he and his company has received in South Hadley. He was supportive of having economic vigor infused into the properties close by, as deteriorating properties have a negative effect on companies close by.

This meeting dovetailed nicely into the next day's tour of the remaining vacant properties with the property manager Dominic Angelini. They are now poised to attract other occupants to the facility and have a number of promising leads. I was good to hear that the occupants and are anxious to help their new neighbors get started and be successful.

Route 47 Scenic By-way Committee; Last Thursday evening I attended a regional meeting to review this ongoing project with PVPC. The Northfield to South Hadley Route 47 Scenic By-way is the start of something great. This trip will incorporate and promote the "farm stand" access and be a boon to agri-

tourism along the way. Janice Stone our Conservation Director was also in attendance and I continue to be impressed with her knowledge and enthusiasm.

Town Hall/PD Updates; The restoration work at the PD continues and most of the major projects are completed. The work has been overseen by Chief Labrie, ATA Wolowicz and Dean Development. We were informed by MIAA that a check is on its way for the work performed. We were able to upgrade the wiring to increase the capacity for a true Emergency Operations Center in the community room while the walls were open. I am hoping there will be support for investment in the EOC at the next TM, it is needed and would be valuable to the citizens. It will still be used for scheduled community meetings.

In Town Hall, the Payroll Office is nearly finished and the Clerk's Office is next, following that there the Treasurer/Collectors office will also get a new carpet, fresh paint and new counter. Lots of work getting done.

Back to the budget, sorry for the brevity of my report, that should not indicate that there is not much getting done ...at least by the dedicated staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Sullivan

South Hadley, Town Administrator