

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at the South Hadley High School auditorium at 153 Newton Street, South Hadley MA. True and attested copies of the warrants were posted by Constable, David J. Labrie in five of the town's voting precincts. Copies of the warrants were sent out electronically to town meeting members on Thursday, April 27, 2023. All additional local by-law requirements were met prior to hosting this meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Town Moderator, John Hine. There were one hundred and eight present out of one hundred and twenty qualified members. The body recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Selectboard Chair, Andrea Miles. A moment of silence was held for 'all those who have served South Hadley'.

Frank Detoma was reelected to a five-year term to the Redevelopment Authority. Richard Constant, Jim Everett, and Kevin Mcallister were reappointed to a three-year term to the Appropriations Committee.

Town Meeting members Ira Brezinsky, Carlene Hamlin, and Rudolf Ternbach were appointed to a one-year term on the Town Meeting Review Committee.

Kim Prough received the Joseph B. Taylor Volunteer of the year award.

Mary Lou Guarnera received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Lion's Club.

The following business was transacted:

Consent Calendar (Articles 1-8)

The Town voted Articles 1-8 as a single consent article.

Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 105, No – 1, Abstain – 2

Article 1 – Acceptance of Town Treasurer to Borrow

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, 2023, 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 Town Treasurer Banking

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 2024, as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 (F).

Article 3 – Vote to Defend Lawful Action Against Municipality

The Town voted to authorize the Selectboard to defend all suits that may be brought against the Town during Fiscal Year 2024 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 – Authorize and Accept all Grants or Monies

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 – Accept Chapter 90 Money

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 – Chapter 41 Compensation

The Town voted to fix the salary and compensation of the following elective officers of the Town of South Hadley during Fiscal Year 2024 as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108, as amended: Moderator, Selectboard Members, Assessors.

Article 7 – Buttery Brook Park Revolving Fund

The Town voted to authorize the total expenditures for the Buttery Brook Park Revolving Fund pursuant to G.L. c. 44 Section 53E ½ for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 to be expended in accordance with Chapter 65 - 5 of the town bylaws in the amount of \$20,000.

Article 8 – Woodlawn Cafe

The Town voted to authorize the total expenditures for the COA Woodlawn Cafe Revolving Fund pursuant to G.L. c. 44 Section 53E ½ for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 to be expended in accordance with Chapter 65 - 5 of the town bylaws in the amount of \$30,000.

Article 9 – FY 2024 Operating Budget**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 93, No – 12, Abstain – 3**

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,266,925 for Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget as described in Appendix A and further funded through the following means; \$48,719,309 to be raised through taxation; \$531,463 from Unreserved Free Cash; \$12,000 from Boat Excise; \$22,000 from the Dog Agency Fund; \$20,500 from State Aid to Libraries; \$2,000 from Conservation Wetland Fund; \$152,984 from Cable Studio Account; \$1,999,484 from WWTP Enterprise Receipts; \$1,254,305 from Landfill Enterprise Fund Receipts; \$150,000 from Landfill Enterprise Fund Balance; and \$1,402,880 from Ledges Golf Club Enterprise Receipts in the total amount of \$54,266,925 and approve the Operating Budget as set forth and therefore presented as balanced budget.

Article 10 – Capital Purchases**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 102, No – 4, Abstain – 2**

The Town voted to transfer from Unreserved Free Cash or other Available Funds the sum of \$846,700 to make the following capital purchases, repairs, or replacements:

DPW	Asbestos abatement BBP	\$15,000
DPW	HVAC	\$25,000
DPW	Garage Doors 2 doors \$14k ea	\$28,000
DPW	Mini excavator	\$90,000
DPW	84" mower for Ventrac	\$8,000
DPW	Turf Field groomer	\$25,000
DPW	Tree assessment / asset management program	\$50,700
Facilities	Mini Split System Unit	\$40,000
Police	Replace water heater with tankless	\$10,000
Police	2 Vehicle Replacement	\$135,000
Recreation/Parks	Fencing/Netting	\$65,000
School	Middle School security	\$50,000
School	Middle School floor tile replacement, vapor barrier	\$50,000
School	High School - convert computer lab to classroom	\$25,000
School	Mosier School security	\$50,000
School	High School security	\$50,000
School	10 Passenger Van (replace mini van)	\$30,000
School	Middle School HVAC	\$100,000

Article 11- Waste Water Treatment Plant**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 105, No – 0, Abstain – 3**

The Town voted to transfer from WWTP Retained Earnings the sum of \$310,000 to make the following purchases, repairs, or replacements: \$35,000 for Channel Grinder #2; \$25,000 for Thickening Room Heating System; and \$250,000 for the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

WWTP	Channel Grinder #2	\$35,000
WWTP	Thickener Room Heating System	\$25,000
WWTP	Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan	\$250,000

Article 12 – Ledges Golf Course Repairs**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 99, No – 8, Abstain – 1**

The Town voted to transfer from Ledges Retained Earnings the sum of \$198,500 to make the following purchases, repairs, or replacements: \$175,000 for River Pump Replacement and \$23,500 for Clubhouse Insulation.

Ledges	Pump Replacement	\$175,000
Ledges	Insulate Clubhouse	\$23,500

Article 13- Landfill Capital Budget**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 106, No – 0, Abstain – 2**

The Town voted to transfer from Landfill Retained Earnings the sum of \$14,000 to make the following purchases, repairs, or replacements: \$14,000 for the Parks Containers.

Article 14 – Buttery Brook Park / PARC**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 104, No – 1, Abstain – 3**

The Town voted to Town transfer from Free Cash, a sum of \$715,000 to undertake Phase 2 of the Improvements Program for Buttery Brook Park, which is dedicated to active recreational purposes under M.G.L. Chapter 45, Section 14, and to authorize the Town Administrator or their designee to file on behalf of the Town of South Hadley applications under the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Program and authorize the Town Administrator to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the town to affect said project.

Article 15 – Compensation Fund**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 106, No – 1, Abstain – 1**

The Town voted to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to the Compensation Fund.

Article 16 – Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund**2/3 Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 103, No – 1, Abstain – 4**

The Town voted to accept the fourth paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 5B, which provides for the dedication, without further appropriation, of all, or a percentage not less than 25 percent, of particular fees, charges or receipts to a stabilization fund; and establish an Opioid Settlements Stabilization Fund, the purposes for which monies deposited into the Fund may be expended to include Opioid Use Disorder, or OUD, treatment, support programs for people with OUD in treatment and recovery, Connects to Care for people with or at risk of developing OUD, harm reduction efforts to prevent overdoses deaths or other opioid related harms, support of diversion and deflection programs and strategies for criminal-justice-involved persons with OUD, support of pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and prevention of misuse of opioids and implementation of prevention education, such Fund to be effective for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023.

Article 17- Opioid Stabilization Fund Contribution**2/3 Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 104, No – 1, Abstain – 3**

The Town voted to dedicate 100% of the Opioid Settlements to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, effective for the fiscal year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023.

Article 18- 30B, Sec 12 - Contracts**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 85, No – 16, Abstain – 7**

The Town voted to authorize the Selectboard and School Committee, pursuant to G.L. c. 30B sec. 12, to enter into contracts in excess of 3 years for Fiscal Year 2024.

Article 19 –Local Option 59, Sec 5, 22H**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 98, No – 3, Abstain – 7**

The Town voted to Town accept G.L. c. 59 sec. 5, Clause 22H.

Article 20 – Short-Term Rental General Bylaw**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 82, No – 24, Abstain – 2**

A motion was moved and seconded to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter 136, Residential Short-Term Rentals, as set forth in Article 20 and Appendix B.

A motion was moved and seconded to amend section 136-7 to limit the number of licenses. The amended text would read, “Limits on the total number of licenses shall be twenty (20) total active units or less at any one time. Of the total number of active units, no more than two (2) shall be non-owner occupied.”

The motion to amend failed by the following vote: Yes – 29, No – 77, Abstain – 2

The town voted to amend the General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter 136, Residential Short-Term Rentals, as set forth in Article 20 and Appendix B.

Article 21 – Short-Term Rental Zoning Bylaw**2/3 Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 81, No – 17, Abstain – 10**

The Town voted to amend Chapter 255 by adopting the Zoning Bylaw provisions for the regulation of Residential Short-Term Rental Units including 255-10 Terms Defined, Section 255 Attachment 1:1 Use Regulations Schedule, and Chapter 255 Article VII Supplemental District Regulations as set forth in Article 21 and Appendix B.

Article 22 – Accessory Dwelling Zoning Bylaw**Majority Vote Required. Article Passed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 68, No – 34, Abstain – 6**

A motion was moved and seconded to amend Chapter 255 by adopting the Zoning Bylaw provisions for the regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units including 255-10 Terms Defined, Section 255 Attachment 1:1 Use Regulations Schedule, Section 255 Attachment 2 Dimensional Regulations Schedule for Buildings and Structures, and Chapter 255 Article VII Supplemental District Regulations as set forth in Article 22 and Appendix B.

A motion was moved and seconded to amend the proposed bylaw by deleting the word “detached” from the entire warrant Article 22.

The motion to amend failed by the following vote: Yes – 35, No – 67, Abstain – 6

The Town voted to amend Chapter 255 by adopting the Zoning Bylaw provisions for the regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units including 255-10 Terms Defined, Section 255 Attachment 1:1 Use Regulations Schedule, Section 255 Attachment 2 Dimensional Regulations Schedule for Buildings and Structures, and Chapter 255 Article VII Supplemental District Regulations as set forth in Article 22 and Appendix B.

Article 23 – Landowner Petition 280-286 Granby Road**2/3 Vote Required. Article Failed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 35, No – 67, Abstain – 6**

The Town voted to not amend the Zoning Map by changing the designation of the 2.61 acre tract of land referenced in Article 23 from the present designation of Residence A-1 to Business A as further articulated in Appendix B.

Article 24 – Citizen Petition 460 Amherst Road

2/3 Vote Required. Article Failed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 8, No – 94, Abstain – 6

The Town voted to not amend the Zoning Map by changing the designation of a 0.69-acre parcel referenced in Article 24 from mixed zoning designation of Agricultural and Business B to all Business B as further articulated in Appendix B.

Article 25 – Citizen Petition Investigation

Majority Vote Required. Article Failed. Recorded Vote: Yes – 4, No – 95, Abstain – 9

The Town voted to not appropriate the sum of \$1,000, or any other sum, from free cash for the purpose of investigating a racial slur directed at 54% of our neighbors in Holyoke.

Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 10:06 P.M.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Sarah B. Gmeiner, Town Clerk