



2026 Special Town Meeting Motion Book

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Beginning at 6 p.m.

South Hadley High School
153 Newton St, South Hadley, MA 01075

**SCAN HERE WITH YOUR
MOBILE DEVICE TO VIEW
BACKGROUND MATERIALS**



Special and Town Meeting Article Scorecard

Article Number	Article Description	Vote Required	Pass/ Fail
1	Hear Report	Majority	
2	Budget - Non Override	Majority	
3	Budget - Override	Majority	

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

WARRANT
Hampshire, ss.

TO: Either of the Constables of the Town of South Hadley

ADA ADVISORY

Anyone in need of special arrangements for the Town Meeting, please contact the Office of the Selectboard at (413) 538-5030 ext. 6136 or Selectboard@southhadleyma.gov by 5:00pm on February 17th, 2026 in order that reasonable accommodations may be made.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of South Hadley that the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING will be held at 153 Newton Street, South Hadley, Massachusetts on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:00 pm or as soon thereafter as the subject matter of this warrant can then and there be reached, and the Town Clerk is required to notify and warn the Town Meeting Members then and there to meet and act on the following articles;

REPORTS

ARTICLE 1: **HEAR REPORT**

To see if the Town will hear the report of the Selectboard relative to the findings of the Budget Task Force, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Information: The Budget Task Force was convened in response to mounting budget pressures and the recognition of a structural deficit proactively to examine the Town's budget and identify sustainable goals. Beginning in the summer of 2025, the Task Force quickly began meeting regularly, diving into both immediate budget needs and longer-term strategies to ensure fiscal stability, maintain essential services, and provide informed recommendations to the Selectboard and the community. A final report as well as supporting documentation is on the task force webpage.

MOTION: I move that the Town hear the report of the Selectboard relative to the findings of the Budget Task Force. **(Majority Vote)**

ARTICLE 2: BUDGET - NON OVERRIDE

To see if the Town Meeting would give a sense of Town Meeting to approve a budget at annual town meeting which does not fully fund service for the Town but is balanced based upon projected revenues for FY27, or take any other action relative thereto. (Appendix A)

Article Information: If an override vote is not undertaken, or an override vote does not pass at the April annual town election, the town will submit a balanced budget that does not presume any additional increase to the tax levy limit.

MOTION: I move that the Town Meeting prefers to approve a FY27 operating budget which is reflective of the actual anticipated revenues of the Town and which would therefore result in the loss of 5 school district administration and 17 student facing positions, the reduction of 2 police positions, the loss of 6 full time and 2 part time dispatchers, the reduction in hours of 10 positions at the library and 2 positions at the Town Hall, the reduction of 2 staff members at Town Hall, the reduction of 2 staff members at the Senior Center, and the reduction of 2 public works employees, and the following cuts in town services: elimination of sports, elimination of extracurricular programs, elimination of advanced placement courses, reduction in school support services, increase class sizes, close spray parks, reduce highway and parks maintenance, increase response time to public safety calls and/or increase in overtime to offset reduction in patrol officers, reduce customer service facing staff in public buildings as a result of reductions of clerical positions, eliminate a school resource officer, close Gaylord Library, and lose the ability to borrow from other libraries.
(Majority Vote)

ARTICLE 3: BUDGET - OVERRIDE

To see if the Town Meeting would give a sense of Town Meeting to approve a budget at annual town meeting which funds the operation of the Town but which is contingent upon a proposition 2 ½ override, or take any action relative thereto. (Appendix A)

Article Information: An override permanently increases the tax levy limit and allows the town to increase taxes up to that limit over one or multiple years. The passage of a \$3m budget would delay the cuts listed in Article 2 by 1 year, \$6m by 2-3 years, \$9m by 3-4 years, and \$11m by 4-5 years, assuming there is not a further loss of state aid or unexpected increases in major expense items like health insurance or special education. However there is still expected to be extensive cuts with \$3m and \$6m scenarios in order to prevent many more cuts in the next few years. There would be less cuts in \$9m and fewer cuts in the \$11m scenarios. The details are outlined in the various presentations on the town and school websites.

MOTION: I move that the Town Meeting prefers to approve a FY27 operating budget that reflects the needs of the town but would be contingent upon a Proposition 2 ½ Override in the amount of:

- \$0
- \$3,000,000
- \$6,000,000
- \$9,000,000
- 11,000,000

(Majority Vote)

APPENDIX A - FY2027 BUDGET SCENARIOS

	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 27	FY 27	FY 27
Department	Expended	Expended	Approved	NO Override	6m Override	9m Override	11m Override
1220 Selectboard							
Selectboard-Personnel Services	\$238,345	\$235,294	\$245,510	\$251,675	\$261,692	\$261,692	\$261,692
Selectboard-Other Expenses	<u>\$35,174</u>	<u>\$42,161</u>	<u>\$30,650</u>	<u>\$30,650</u>	<u>\$30,650</u>	<u>\$30,650</u>	<u>\$30,650</u>
Total Selectboard	\$273,519	\$277,455	\$276,160	\$282,325	\$292,342	\$292,342	\$292,342
1250 Cable Access							
Cable Access-Personnel Services	\$84,136	\$88,411	\$100,431	\$102,440	\$102,440	\$102,440	\$102,440
Cable Access-Other Expenses	<u>\$25,571</u>	<u>\$23,063</u>	<u>\$24,100</u>	<u>\$24,100</u>	<u>\$24,100</u>	<u>\$24,100</u>	<u>\$24,100</u>
Total Cable Access	\$109,707	\$111,474	\$124,531	\$126,540	\$126,540	\$126,540	\$126,540
1320 Reserve Fund							
Total Reserve Fund	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
1350 Accountant/Auditor							
Accounting/Auditing- Personnel Services	\$231,257	\$240,454	\$244,062	\$244,062	\$244,062	\$244,062	\$244,062
Accounting/Auditing- Other Expenses	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$300</u>
Total Accounting/Auditing	\$231,257	\$240,454	\$244,362	\$244,362	\$244,362	\$244,362	\$244,362
1360 Wage and Classification							
Merit Plan	\$90,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Transferred/Expended	<u>-\$84,003</u>	<u>-\$30,264</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total Wage and Classification	\$5,997	\$19,736	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
1370 Human Resources							
Human Resources Personnel Services	\$117,671	\$142,954	\$147,060	\$144,905	\$150,001	\$150,001	\$150,001
Human Resources Other Expenses	<u>\$27,031</u>	<u>\$27,009</u>	<u>\$31,600</u>	<u>\$14,600</u>	<u>\$24,600</u>	<u>\$28,600</u>	<u>\$34,600</u>
Total Human Resources	\$144,702	\$169,963	\$178,660	\$159,505	\$174,601	\$178,601	\$184,601
1410 Assessor							
Assessor-Personnel Services	\$154,712	\$165,206	\$168,359	\$171,564	\$171,564	\$171,564	\$171,564
Assessor-Other Expenses	<u>\$37,977</u>	<u>\$27,809</u>	<u>\$30,765</u>	<u>\$30,765</u>	<u>\$30,765</u>	<u>\$30,765</u>	<u>\$30,765</u>
Total Assessor	\$192,689	\$193,015	\$199,124	\$202,329	\$202,329	\$202,329	\$202,329

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	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 27	FY 27	FY 27
Department	Expended	Expended	Approved	NO Override	6m Override	9m Override	11m Override
1460 Collector/Treasurer							
Collector/Treasurer-Personnel Services	\$190,112	\$157,341	\$160,394	\$163,490	\$203,490	\$203,490	\$203,490
Collector/Treasurer-Other Expenses	\$45,056	\$43,977	\$45,875	\$45,875	\$45,875	\$45,875	\$45,875
Total Collector/Treasurer	\$235,168	\$201,318	\$206,269	\$209,365	\$249,365	\$249,365	\$249,365
1490 Town Audit							
Total Town Audit	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
1500 Town Clerk							
Town Clerk-Personnel Services	\$154,375	\$159,749	\$165,833	\$153,324	\$153,324	\$153,324	\$168,824
Town Clerk-Other Expenses	\$5,445	\$5,416	\$14,500	\$5,000	\$12,500	\$14,000	\$14,500
Total Town Clerk	\$159,820	\$165,165	\$180,333	\$158,324	\$165,824	\$167,324	\$183,324
1510 Legal Services							
Legal-Personnel Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
Legal-Other Expenses	\$83,224	\$72,976	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
Total Legal Services	\$83,224	\$72,976	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
1550 Information Technology							
Information Technology-Personnel Services	\$80,644	\$83,980	\$85,652	\$87,365	\$87,365	\$87,365	\$87,365
Information Technology-Other Expenses	\$341,897	\$354,255	\$378,140	\$369,722	\$384,170	\$384,170	\$384,170
Total Information Technology	\$422,541	\$438,235	\$463,792	\$457,087	\$471,535	\$471,535	\$471,535
1620 Elections							
Elections-Personnel Services	\$14,915	\$27,817	\$12,500	\$30,500	\$30,500	\$30,500	\$30,500
Elections-Other Expenses	\$38,583	\$37,371	\$30,150	\$21,875	\$22,375	\$22,375	\$22,625
Total Elections	\$53,498	\$65,188	\$42,650	\$52,375	\$52,875	\$52,875	\$53,125
1750 Planning/Conservation							
Planning/Conservation-Personnel Services	\$205,215	\$210,971	\$215,194	\$218,152	\$219,481	\$219,481	\$219,481
Planning/Conservation-Other Expenses	\$57,524	\$40,868	\$48,875	\$21,375	\$31,375	\$38,875	\$48,875
Total Planning/Conservation	\$262,739	\$251,839	\$264,069	\$239,527	\$250,856	\$258,356	\$268,356

APPENDIX A - FY2027 BUDGET SCENARIOS

	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 27	FY 27	FY 27
Department	Expended	Expended	Approved	NO Override	6m Override	9m Override	11m Override
1920 Public Building Maintenance							
Public Bldg Mtce P/S	\$181,104	\$104,400	\$105,970	\$108,081	\$108,081	\$108,081	\$108,081
Public Bldg Mtce O/E	<u>\$236,130</u>	<u>\$302,136</u>	<u>\$312,500</u>	<u>\$326,830</u>	<u>\$326,830</u>	<u>\$326,830</u>	<u>\$326,830</u>
Total Building Maintenance	\$417,234	\$406,536	\$418,470	\$434,911	\$434,911	\$434,911	\$434,911
1930 Internal Service Fund							
Total Internal Service Fund	\$7,870	\$4,489	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
1950 Town Reports							
Total Town Reports	\$1,223	\$1,145	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
2100 Police							
Police-Personnel Services	\$3,044,234	\$3,306,478	\$3,655,088	\$3,190,385	\$3,337,840	\$3,364,415	\$3,433,415
Police-Other Expenses	<u>\$283,896</u>	<u>\$292,379</u>	<u>\$269,030</u>	<u>\$264,312</u>	<u>\$262,245</u>	<u>\$271,245</u>	<u>\$271,245</u>
Total Police	\$3,328,130	\$3,598,857	\$3,924,118	\$3,454,697	\$3,600,085	\$3,635,660	\$3,704,660
2410 Inspection Services							
Inspection Services-Personnel Services	\$202,488	\$228,562	\$199,660	\$176,373	\$201,373	\$216,373	\$227,228
Inspection Services-Other Expenses	<u>\$14,149</u>	<u>\$6,746</u>	<u>\$28,450</u>	<u>\$18,450</u>	<u>\$28,450</u>	<u>\$28,450</u>	<u>\$28,450</u>
Total Inspection Services	\$216,637	\$235,308	\$228,110	\$194,823	\$229,823	\$244,823	\$255,678
2440 Weights and Measures							
Total Weights and Measures	\$7,087	\$7,581	\$8,200	\$8,200	\$8,200	\$8,200	\$8,200
4000 Department of Public Works							
DPW-Personnel Services	\$889,469	\$903,827	\$971,753	\$866,574	\$997,616	\$997,616	\$997,616
DPW-Other Expenses	<u>\$630,812</u>	<u>\$653,868</u>	<u>\$663,260</u>	<u>\$567,260</u>	<u>\$630,170</u>	<u>\$665,170</u>	<u>\$676,170</u>
Total Department of Public Works	\$1,520,281	\$1,557,695	\$1,635,013	\$1,433,834	\$1,627,786	\$1,662,786	\$1,673,786
4230 Snow and Ice Removal							
Snow and Ice-Personnel Services	\$25,433	\$57,590	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
Snow and Ice-Other Expenses	<u>\$165,808</u>	<u>\$227,713</u>	<u>\$81,100</u>	<u>\$81,100</u>	<u>\$81,100</u>	<u>\$81,100</u>	<u>\$81,100</u>
Total Snow and Ice Removal	\$191,241	\$285,303	\$102,100	\$102,100	\$102,100	\$102,100	\$102,100

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Department	FY 24 Expended	FY 25 Expended	FY 26 Approved	FY 27 NO Override	FY 27 6m Override	FY 27 9m Override	FY 27 11m Override
4240 Street Lighting							
Total Street/Signal Lighting	\$90,604	\$90,007	\$105,000	\$90,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$105,000
5110 Board of Health							
Board of Health-Personnel Services	\$240,540	\$220,291	\$236,153	\$214,917	\$214,917	\$240,458	\$240,458
Board of Health-Other Expenses	<u>\$53,854</u>	<u>\$67,261</u>	<u>\$75,725</u>	<u>\$75,725</u>	<u>\$75,725</u>	<u>\$75,725</u>	<u>\$75,725</u>
Total Board of Health	\$294,394	\$287,552	\$311,878	\$290,642	\$290,642	\$316,183	\$316,183
5300 Human Services							
Human Services-Personnel Services	\$622,629	\$555,022	\$536,014	\$471,101	\$508,422	\$545,620	\$545,620
Human Services-Other Expense	<u>\$289,129</u>	<u>\$296,802</u>	<u>\$400,094</u>	<u>\$360,094</u>	<u>\$388,958</u>	<u>\$408,958</u>	<u>\$408,958</u>
Total Total Human Services	\$911,758	\$851,824	\$936,108	\$831,195	\$897,380	\$954,579	\$954,579
6100 Library							
Library-Personnel Services	\$520,069	\$564,476	\$575,483	\$501,889	\$584,798	\$584,798	\$584,798
Library-Other Expenses	<u>\$293,364</u>	<u>\$280,467</u>	<u>\$267,440</u>	<u>\$271,265</u>	<u>\$327,551</u>	<u>\$327,551</u>	<u>\$327,551</u>
Total Library	\$813,433	\$844,943	\$842,923	\$773,154	\$912,349	\$912,349	\$912,349
6710 Old Firehouse Museum							
Total Old Firehouse Museum	\$4,680	\$5,845	\$7,650	\$5,650	\$7,650	\$7,650	\$7,650
7110 Retirement of Debt							
Total Principal: Long-Term Debt	\$2,432,472	\$2,418,885	\$2,490,428	\$2,467,103	\$2,467,103	\$2,467,103	\$2,467,103
7510 Interest: Long-Term Debt							
Total Interest: Long-Term Debt	\$930,765	\$843,790	\$762,971	\$680,506	\$680,506	\$680,506	\$680,506
7520 Interest: Short-Term Debt							
Total Interest: Short-Term Debt	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
9110 Retirement							
Total Retirement	\$4,343,569	\$4,765,712	\$5,170,346	\$5,277,322	\$5,277,322	\$5,277,322	\$5,277,322

APPENDIX A - FY2027 BUDGET SCENARIOS

Department	FY 24 Expended	FY 25 Expended	FY 26 Approved	FY 27 NO Override	FY 27 6m Override	FY 27 9m Override	FY 27 11m Override
9130 Unemployment Compensation							
Total Unemployment Insurance	\$62,641	\$94,175	\$101,000	\$101,000	\$101,000	\$101,000	\$101,000
9140 Group Health Insurance							
Total Group Health Insurance	\$4,596,638	\$5,049,929	\$6,979,927	\$8,549,973	\$8,549,973	\$8,549,973	\$8,549,973
9160 Fica/Medicare							
Total Fica/Medicare	\$443,131	\$485,525	\$520,000	\$520,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000
9450 Liability Insurance							
Total Liability Insurance	\$431,742	\$493,200	\$578,430	\$613,430	\$613,430	\$613,430	\$613,430
Schools							
Total Schools	\$24,584,772	\$25,521,460	\$25,771,460	\$26,000,000	\$27,000,000	\$27,500,000	\$27,500,000
OPEB							
Total OPEB Appropriations	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Workers' Compensations							
Total Workers' Compensation	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Injured on Duty							
Total IOD	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Conservation Land Fund							
Total Land Fund	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Channel Marker							
Total Channel Marker		\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Landfill							
Landfill-Personnel Services	\$67,662	\$102,656	\$107,351	\$109,733	\$109,733	\$109,733	\$109,733
Landfill-Other Expense	<u>\$1,232,510</u>	<u>\$1,247,798</u>	<u>\$1,284,500</u>	<u>\$1,305,500</u>	<u>\$1,305,500</u>	<u>\$1,305,500</u>	<u>\$1,305,500</u>
Total Landfill	\$1,300,172	\$1,350,454	\$1,391,851	\$1,415,233	\$1,415,233	\$1,415,233	\$1,415,233

APPENDIX A - FY2027 BUDGET SCENARIOS

Department	FY 24 Expended	FY 25 Expended	FY 26 Approved	FY 27 NO Override	FY 27 6m Override	FY 27 9m Override	FY 27 11m Override
WWTP							
WWTP-Personnel Services	\$592,547	\$624,284	\$643,615	\$660,612	\$660,612	\$660,612	\$660,612
WWTP-Other Expense	<u>\$1,079,151</u>	<u>\$1,188,869</u>	<u>\$1,248,800</u>	<u>\$1,276,800</u>	<u>\$1,276,800</u>	<u>\$1,276,800</u>	<u>\$1,276,800</u>
Total WWTP	\$1,671,698	\$1,813,153	\$1,892,415	\$1,937,412	\$1,937,412	\$1,937,412	\$1,937,412
Ledges							
Ledges-Personnel Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ledges-Other Expense	<u>\$1,439,329</u>	<u>\$1,593,653</u>	<u>\$1,624,409</u>	<u>\$1,664,344</u>	<u>\$1,664,344</u>	<u>\$1,664,344</u>	<u>\$1,664,344</u>
Total Ledges	\$1,439,329	\$1,593,653	\$1,624,409	\$1,664,344	\$1,664,344	\$1,664,344	\$1,664,344
<hr/>							
Total General Fund	\$ 23,255,389	\$ 25,243,947	\$27,470,624	\$28,202,779	\$28,933,889	\$29,115,204	\$29,238,059
Total Misc. Trust	\$ 1,465,000	\$ 715,000	\$715,000	\$705,000	\$715,000	\$715,000	\$715,000
Total Receipts Reserved	\$ 2,920	\$ 3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total DPW: Landfill	\$ 1,300,172	\$ 1,460,344	\$1,391,851	\$1,415,233	\$1,415,233	\$1,415,233	\$1,415,233
Total DPW: WWTP	\$ 1,671,698	\$ 1,867,538	\$1,892,415	\$1,937,412	\$1,937,412	\$1,937,412	\$1,937,412
Total Ledges	\$ 1,439,329	\$ 1,593,762	\$1,624,409	\$1,664,344	\$1,664,344	\$1,664,344	\$1,664,344
Total School	\$ 24,584,772	\$ 25,521,460	\$25,771,460	<u>\$26,000,000</u>	<u>\$27,000,000</u>	<u>\$27,500,000</u>	<u>\$27,500,000</u>
	\$ 53,719,281	\$ 56,405,051	\$58,870,759	\$59,929,767	\$61,670,878	\$62,352,193	\$62,475,048