

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Town Moderator, Mr. Edward Ryan, Jr. in the town hall auditorium at 7:01 P.M. There were 73 Town Meeting members present. Greetings were delivered by the Moderator. The members pledged allegiance to the flag. A review of the how the meetings would proceed was reviewed and Mr. Ryan appointed Larry Dubois and Dale Johnston as tellers.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Judge for the reading of Article 1.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to petition the General Court to adopt a Special Act to Establish a Selectboard-Town Administrator Form of Government for the Town of South Hadley or take any other action relative thereto.

The motion was seconded and Selectman Judge asked that Pricilla Mandrachia, Chair of the FINPAT Committee speak to the FINPAT final report that was presented to the Selectboard and Town Meeting members. His request was granted and an overview was given on the Committee's charge and Article 1. The Moderator than opened the floor to discussion.

TMM Sheehan questioned who the current CFO was. Selectman Hine responded Accountant & Treasurer. Mr. Sheehan asked if the new TA was going to be the CFO, the answer was affirmative that the TA was not going to hold the responsibility but was going to be the point person of over site. Selectman Brezinsky referred to the language of the Special Act under page five for further clarification. TMM Rondeau questioned who would retain authority in an emergency; would residency be a requirement and what kind of over site would the TA have over investments. Selectman Hine answered Selectman would have authority along with department heads. TMM Gass asked the Moderator if he was comfortable with the legal language under "executive powers". Moderator answered in the affirmative. Selectman Hine read the four changes under the act and the Moderator stated he thought the body was ready to vote on the motion.

The Moderator asked all members who were in favor of the vote to signify by stating their vote in the affirmative. He then asked those members who were against the motion to state their vote. The Moderator was comfortable with the voice votes and declared the motion passed by a majority vote.

MOTION PASSED

The complete text of the proposed Act was available for inspection on the town's website. Copies were also available in the Selectboard Office and were mailed to Town Meeting members prior to the Special Town Meeting.

The Moderator recognized Selectman Brezinsky for the reading of Article 2.

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to petition the General Court to adopt a Special Act Relative to the Positions of Collector and Clerk-Treasurer in the Town of South Hadley or take any other action relative thereto.

The motion was seconded and Selectman Brezinsky asked that Pricilla Mandrachia, Chair of the FINPAT Committee speak Article 2. Once the review was complete, the Moderator than opened the floor to discussion.

Selectman Ishler asked the Moderator for his legal opinion on the Section 2 & 3 and asked if the incumbents were able to stay in their current positions until they choose to leave. He answered in the affirmative. TMM Sheehan asked the Selectboard to explain PT vs. FT for Clerk/Treasurer. Selectboard Brezinsky explained that there was no clear measurement but that the offices were responsible for two distinct responsibilities. TMM Lafrenier, Chesky and Rondeau spoke against the article. Selectman Brezinsky and TMM Constant spoke in favor. TMM Sheehan spoke against.

The Moderator stated he thought the body was ready to vote on the motion.

The Moderator asked all members who were in favor of the vote to signify by stating their vote in the affirmative. He then asked those members who were against the motion to state their vote. The Moderator was comfortable with the voice votes and declared the motion passed by a majority vote.

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Announcements followed motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:



Carlene C. Hamlin, Town Clerk/Treasurer