

True and attested copies of the warrants were posted by Constable, Michael J. Dubuc in five of the towns voting precincts and mailed out electronically and through US Postal Service to town meeting members on April 21, 2016. All additional local by-law requirements were met prior to hosting this meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 6:43 P.M. by Town Moderator, Edward J. Ryan, Jr. after he adjourned the Special Town Meeting. There were ninety-seven members present out of one hundred and nineteen qualified town meeting members. Greetings were read by the Moderator. Peter Gagne and Len Finkowski were appointed tellers for the session.

A Memoriam Listing was read for all town employees who passed away this past year. The Lion's Club Award was bestowed upon Martha and Tom Terry and the Joe Taylor Award was bestowed upon Jessica Jackson. Tom Terry, Nancy Knadler & Heather Wartel were reappointed to the Appropriations Committee for another three years (2019). Imad Zubi was elected to the Redevelopment Authority serving until May 12, 2021.

The following business was transacted:

Article 1– Acceptance of Treasurer to Borrow

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

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, 2016, 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 Treasurer Banking

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

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 2017, as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53 (F).

Article 3-Right to Defend

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to authorize the Selectboard to defend all suits that may be brought against the Town during Fiscal Year 2016 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- Acceptance of Grants

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

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- Acceptance of Chapter 90

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

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- FY17 Operating Budget

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

Unanimously supported by Appropriation Committee.

The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,220,103 for Fiscal Year 2017 Operating Budget as described in Appendix A and further funded through the following means \$39,566,108 to be raised through taxation; \$645,132 from Unreserved Free Cash; \$3,500 from Boat Excise; \$15,000 from the Dog Agency Fund; \$11,800 from State Aid to Libraries; \$2,000 from Conservation Wetland Fund; \$154,124 from Cable Studio Account; \$1,696,009 from WWTP Enterprise Receipts; \$ 871,430 from Landfill Enterprise Fund Receipts; \$150,000 from Landfill Enterprise Fund Balance and \$1,105,000 in Ledges Golf Club Receipts in the total amount of \$44,220,103 and therefore presented as balanced budget.

Article 7- Chapter 41 Compensation

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to fix the compensation of each officer as follows Selectboard \$2,000, Board of Assessors \$2,500, Moderator \$1,000.

Article 8- Revolving Buttery Brook Acct

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

Unanimously supported by Appropriation Committee.

The Town voted to reauthorize the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, to establish in the Town Treasury a revolving fund, which shall be kept separate and apart from all other monies by the Treasurer, and in which shall be deposited the receipts received limited to \$28,000 which may be spent by the Selectboard or its designee, without further appropriation during FY 2017 for the continued support and maintenance of Buttery Brook Park.

Article 9- Dogs/Pets

MAJORITY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to amend the General By-law Section 1011 of the South Hadley General By-laws as follows, strike from title "DOGS" and insert "PETS/DOMESTICATED ANIMALS" and further strike "dog(s)" from the entire text of this section and insert "pets/domesticated animals" and further amend by adding the following as "1011.4; Failure to comply with provision of Section 1011 or any part thereof may result in a first offense fine of \$50 and a second or additional violation of this section within a two year period of up to a \$300 fine. The enforcement of this penalty is given to the Health Department, Police Department and or the Animal Control Officer. A hearing for appeal of this section can be made to the South Hadley Board of Health. Uncollected fines may be levied against future license or permits if unpaid. A PET/DOMESTICATED ANIMAL under this by-law includes dogs, pigs, monkeys, but not limited to, or any animal which is kept for companionship, entertainment, but not limited to, or deemed by the Health Department through consultation with the Animal Control Officer and/or the Building Commissioner when appropriate to be defined as a pet/domestic animal."

Article 10- TMM Email Release

MAJORITY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to establish a policy for Town Meeting Member(s) on-file electronic mail address(s) presented by a Town Meeting Member to the Town Clerk at their swearing-in, to be released individually upon request to the public, if so elected by the individual member and stated to be made available to the public to the Town Clerk by said member.

Article 11- Planning Board Length of Term

Unanimously supported by Planning Board.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.

The Town voted to amend Section 204 subsection H Planning Board by striking "five (5) years" and inserting "three (3) years". Said change will take place July 1, 2016, all previous members elected to a five (5) year terms will complete their elected terms and those position will then become three (3) year terms in subsequent elections.

Article 12- Abandon Property**MAJORITY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.**

The Town voted to amend section 1007 "Nuisances" by adding section 1007.3 as printed in the warrant.

Article 13- RDA Funding**MAJORITY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.**

The Town voted to transfer from the Department of Housing and Community Development 40 R Planning Grant proceeds to the South Hadley Redevelopment Authority the sum of \$90,000 for continued planning and otherwise operate the South Hadley Redevelopment Authority. The funds will be expended consistent with the fiscal policies of the Town of South Hadley and all other prescribed regulations, including presenting a formal budget to the Selectboard. The funds will be available contingent upon a draft RDA Plan presented to a joint meeting of the Selectboard and Planning Board.

Article 14 – Senior Center/Public Building Study**UNANIMOUSLY VOTED BY VOICE VOTE: Control sheet attached.****Unanimously supported by Appropriation Committee.**

The Town voted to transfer from Unreserved Free Cash or other available funds the sum of \$40,000 to be used to review public building conditions and furthermore to develop a strategy for the South Hadley Senior Center replacement or substantial and significant rebuilding of the present location.

The Moderator announced the business portion of the meeting was closed and recognized speakers from the Library Integration Committee and Capital Planning Committee.

Motion to adjourn meeting was at 8:44 P.M.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Carlene C. Hamlin, Town Clerk