

Andrea Miles, Chair  
Jeff Cyr, Vice-Chair  
Christopher Geraghty, Clerk  
Sarah Etelman  
Bruce Forcier

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town Administrator

September 27, 2019

Honorable Selectboard,

Please accept this condensed report on the various project and subject matters Administration and the hardworking employees are engaged in over the past couple of weeks.

Thank you for your patience and guidance on these matters, your leadership is critical to our collective mission.

**Hampshire Health Trust** ; As part of the Hampshire Health Insurance Trust (HHIT) Executive Committee (EC) I attended the most recent meeting. Among the long list of valuable information presented by the Executive Director Joe Shea and his staff were two items that stood out which I felt you should be aware of.

The EC voted 4 to 2 to align the MEDEX (retirees) co-pays with the active employees' plan. This will result in a 5.3% decrease in premium costs if accepted by the HHIT Insurance Advisory Commission. This will benefit both the municipal budget and retirees if approved by the IAC.

The co-pay for continuous maintenance drugs will be the likely concern. Those prescriptions which are not covered by Medicare will still be available for 90-day supply purchase lessening any financial impact. Once this change is voted on we will work through the appropriate notifications.

MEDEX rates, you may recall, are largely set by the federal government which was raised .9%. The copay changes will offset any increase and reduce the premium cost.

**Department Manager PBE Review s**; Our second of my meetings with department managers about their goals and aspirations professionally and for their department will start at the beginning of October. These very important meetings do cause a tightening of my schedule.

This part of the process allows me to better align the goals the Selectboard has set for my PBE with other parts of the organization. I am blessed to have so many hardworking and engaged managers and support personnel working with me to steer the ship in South Hadley.

**November 20 Special Town Meeting** ; As you can see from the "Draft Warrant" in your packet things are starting to shape up. It looks like there may be one or two more articles - the BOH is considering an article prohibiting vaping or atomized inhalation products, and there may be one more appropriations request.

I have been keeping the Town Clerk and Town Counsel informed of the developing warrant. This will be the Selectboard's and the public's first review of the draft. While hopefully it will allow  
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the public a glimpse of what this may lead to, the final articles will be the choice of the Selectboard (exception of initiative petitions due October 21).

As you are aware the primary item will be the Urban Redevelopment and Revitalization Plan. The Redevelopment Authority has been busy doing presentations similar to the recent public hearing before the Selectboard. There is a lot to digest. Moderator Hine has agreed to allow the RDA to present a synopsis of the plan at the STM and I am sure there will be discussion at the TA Review as well.

**One Canal Street :** After several false starts it seem the developer is now ready to make the investment in the condos across from the South Hadley Public Library on Canal Street. The plan remains three buildings, four condos with garage per building. The projected price will be around \$230K.

If the library project is any indication they may all be pre-sold holus-bolus. The Building Commission and all of Inspectional Services will continue to work with the developer to ensure the project is compliant.

**Hangar Pub South Hadley;** Both Kristin Maher and I have had contact with the project manager for the Hangar Pub recently. I am confident we have the venture back on track. There was initially need for a bit of diplomacy to have the owners understand our efforts to comply with state law and or code. The increasing codes along with revised interpretations of state regulations seems to always be a challenge to communicate.

Inspectional Services, Health Department and FD1 is continuing to monitor the progress to avoid any code violations now or in the future. The doors will likely open in January or at least early 2020. All of a sudden I am famished.

**Director of DPW ;** We continue the search for a new replacement for Jim Reidy as DPW Superintendent. As you are aware, we have modernized the title to Director of the Department of Public Works. There have been applications submitted (blind to me at this point in the process) and we will continue to move forward.

I have appointed Viv Price as the Acting Director of the DPW, as my attached memo attached outlines. Best of luck to Jim!



**Pioneer Valley Transit**

**Authority;** I attended the board meeting of the PVTA now that I am back as the South Hadley representative. While there was nothing earth shattering to hear, I was glad to be at PVTA this particular day to witness a presentation to the retiring Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Tim Brennan.



Mr. Brennan has served the PVPC Director for 28 years and was a highly regarded planner prior to that post. His involvement and advocacy in rail, rail trails, housing and sustainable development in the Pioneer Valley will leaving a lasting mark.

As always, thank you for your support, leadership and patience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town Administrator, South Hadley

Please post and Distribute

September 26, 2019

**Memorandum**

To; All Personnel

From; Administration, M. Sullivan

Subject; Acting Director of Public Works

Please be advised as of September 30, 2019 Vivian Price will assume the duties, responsibilities and authority of the Department of Public Works Superintendent. We will also be modernizing the title of the position to reflect the industry to “Director of Public Works”.

We would ask all persons to be respectful during this period and be cautious in respect to inundating the Acting Director or staff of the DPW. Presently we are conducting a search for qualified candidates and will work diligently to have such person in place by mid-November.

However, in the event we do not find a suitable and qualified candidate Administration during this search we reserve the option to suspend the process until January 1, 2020. This measure would not be our preference, but a best practice for recruitment.

The DPW has defined responsibilities, a dedicated, experienced staff and access to external resources to assist in completing the departmental mission. I am confident the great work being performed by the DPW will continue, as we all seek leadership for the future of the department and the Town of South Hadley.

Any inquiries about this stated appointment should be referred directly to me, any questions about the recruitment process should be to Deputy Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz.