

**August
Special
Town
Meeting
Warrant
Review**



**TOWN OF HADLEY
SPECIAL TOWN
MEETING WARRANT**

REVIEW

**Special Town Meeting
August 29, 2017**

Welcome and Thank you

Thank you:

- Municipal employees,**
- Volunteers, and**
- School maintenance and Hadley Media.**

Intent of the Forum

The Select Board's intention in presenting this forum is to:

- Provide voters with an overview and context for the Special Town Meeting in August.
- Improve voters' understanding of individual warrant articles, and
- Offer voters an opportunity to ask questions.

Intent of the Forum (cont.)

The Forum is NOT intended to:

- Take any vote (favorable or unfavorable),
 - Provide any group or individual the opportunity to advocate for a particular article, or
 - Speak against any article.
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- Please refer to the public forum handout for rules and procedures,

Challenges

- **Use of Free Cash to balance the budget,**
- **Constrained revenue due to the gas moratorium,**
- **Balancing departmental services needs within the confines of Proposition 2½, yet addressing public safety staffing, IT infrastructure, significant capital needs, lack of human resource department, lack of IT management department.**

Impact on Taxes

Debt Exclusion (or Override)
New Growth
2.5% Automatic Increase
Levy Limit Base (Prior Year's Levy Limit)

Comparative Tax Rates

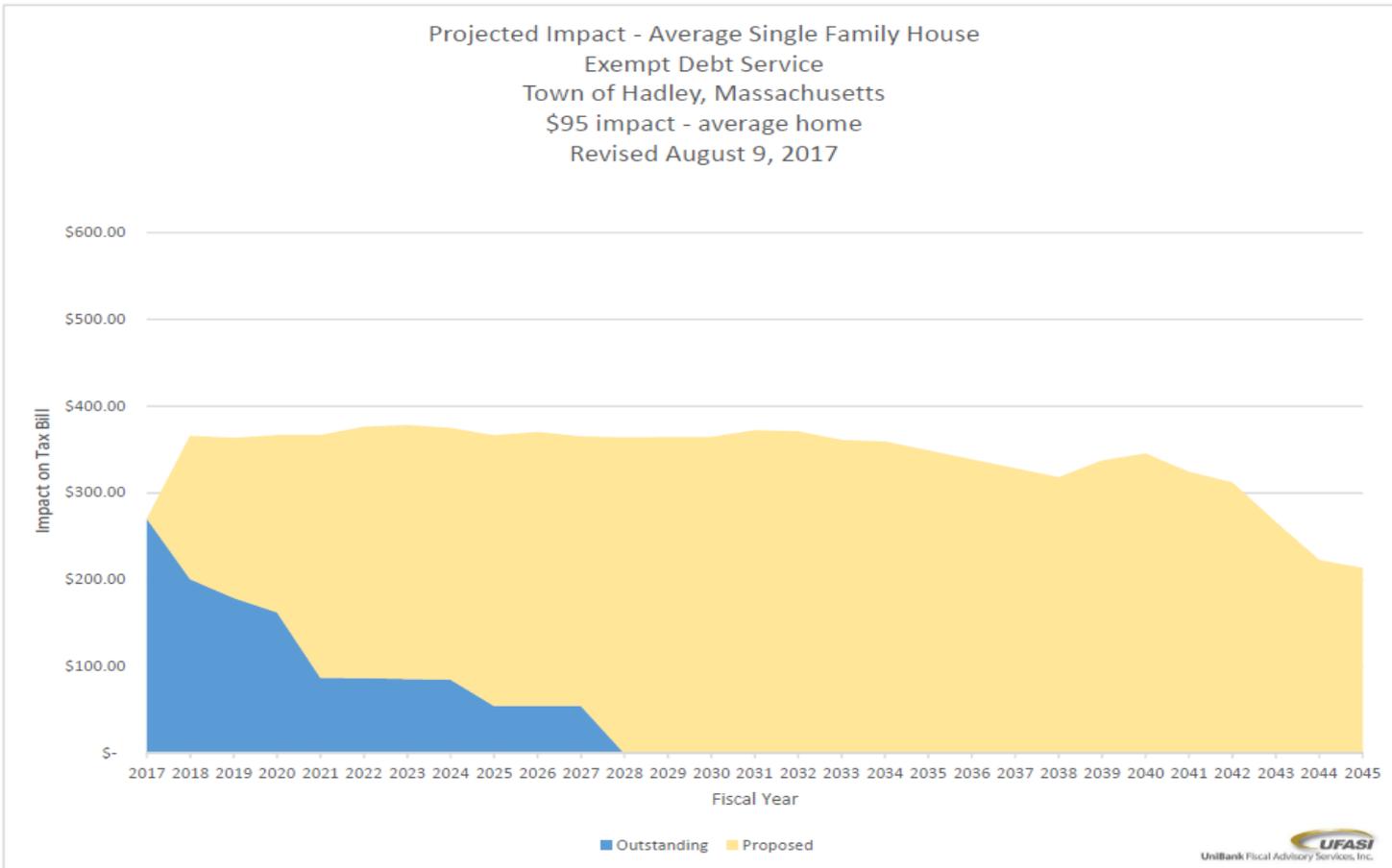
The Town of Hadley's has the 55th lowest tax rate out of 351 municipalities in the Commonwealth.

Town or City	FY 2016	FY 2017
Hadley	\$11.15	\$11.57
Amherst	\$21.22	\$21.83
Northampton	\$16.16	\$16.69
Hatfield	\$13.18	\$13.22
Easthampton	\$15.59	\$16.21
Granby	\$18.87	\$18.10
South Hadley	\$17.56	\$17.83
Pelham	\$21.21	\$21.00
Southampton	\$16.17	\$16.32
Sunderland	\$14.66	\$14.34
Williamsburg	\$18.75	\$19.18
Leverett	\$20.41	\$20.95
Shutesbury	\$22.08	\$22.76

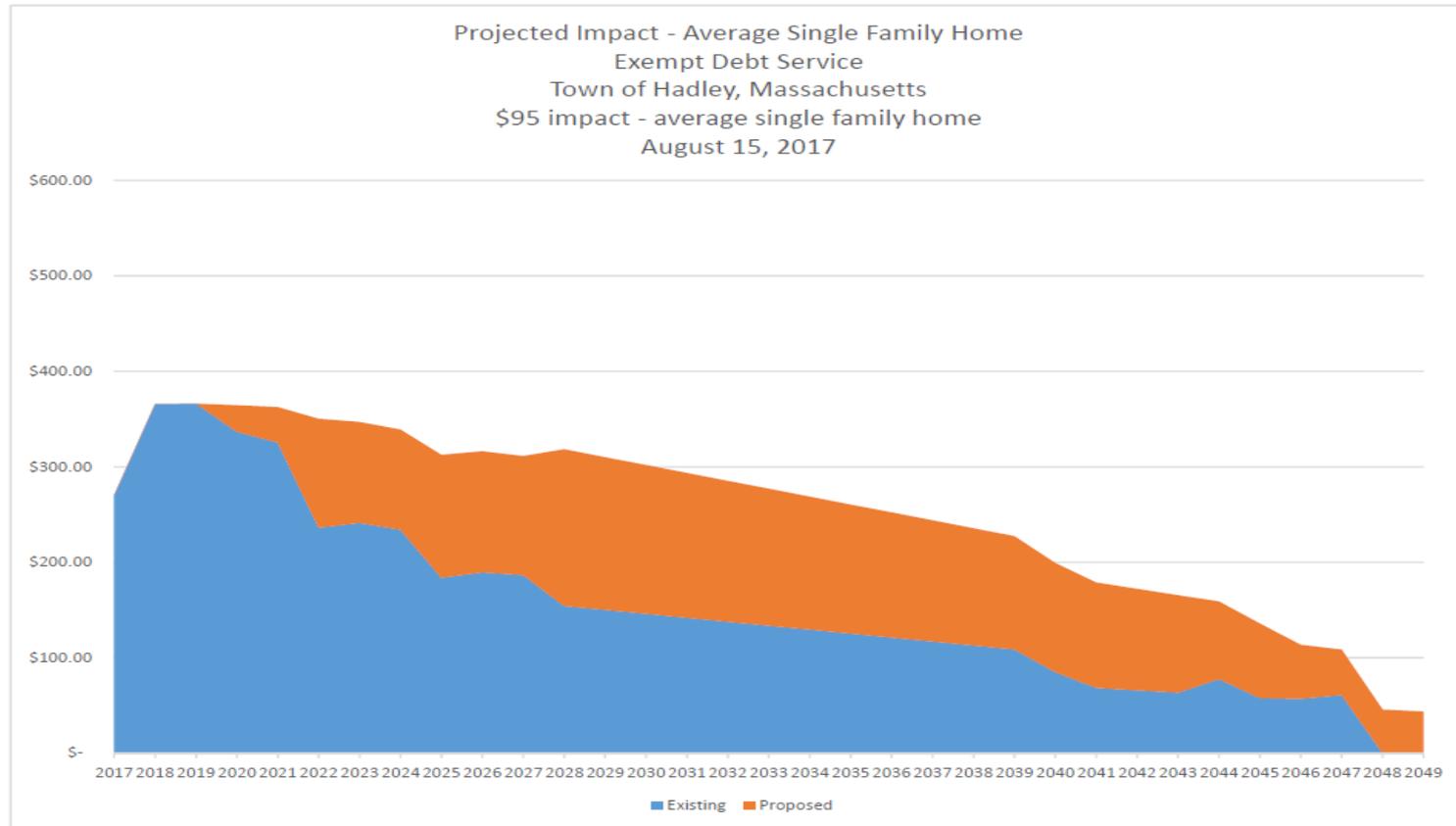
Hadley's Credit Rating

Fiscal Year		FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
Hadley's Credit Rating (Standard and Poor's)		A+	A+	A+	A+	AA	AA	AA	AA
Fiscal Year		FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17				
Hadley's Credit Rating (Standard and Poor's)		AA+	AA+	AA+	AA+				

Projected Tax Impact- Option A



Projected Tax Impact – Option B



ARTICLE 1 Senior Center Additional Funds

Article 1: Borrows \$1.8 million to add to the budget already appropriated to build a new Senior Center.

Original dollar estimates approved last October were insufficient to cover all construction costs.

Funding will be by borrowing, subject to approval of a debt exclusion ballot vote.

Article 1

Motion 1

- Moved that the Town appropriate \$1,800,000.00 to pay costs of designing, constructing and originally equipping a new Senior Center, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters to exclude the amounts to pay for the bonds or notes authorized for this purpose from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called.
- Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Article 2 Land Purchase

Approximately 9 acres of land have become available, and the Town has the right of first refusal for the purchase.

The price is \$400,000 for the land and \$5,000 to cover legal costs.

The purchase will be funded by borrowing within the levy limit (no debt exclusion ballot vote).

Article 2

Motion 2

Moved that the Town appropriate \$405,000.00 to pay costs of acquiring land for general municipal purposes located at the intersection of River Drive and Stockbridge Road and containing approximately 9 acres (Assessors Map 12A, Lot 19), and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor.

Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Article 3 Fire Substation Additional Funds

Article 3 borrows \$810,800 to add to the budget already appropriated to build a new Fire Substation.

Original dollar estimates approved last October were insufficient to cover all construction costs.

Funding will be by borrowing, subject to approval of a debt exclusion ballot vote.

Article 3

Motion 3

Moved that the Town appropriate \$810,800.00 to pay costs of designing, constructing and originally equipping a new fire substation, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters to exclude the amounts to pay for the bonds or notes authorized for this purpose from the provisions of Proposition 2^{1/2}, so called.

Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Article 4 Library

The Town received a construction grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to cover 51% of eligible construction costs for a new library on the site of the current Senior Center.

This article borrows \$3,786.292 as the Town's share of the total costs.

Funding will be by borrowing, subject to approval of a debt exclusion ballot vote.

Article 4

Motion 4

Moved that the Town appropriate \$3,786,292.00 to pay costs of designing, constructing and originally equipping a new library on the parcel of Town-owned land known as the “Hooker School”, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(3) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters to exclude the amounts to pay for the bonds or notes authorized for this purpose from the provisions of Proposition 2^{1/2}, so called.

Any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

AUGUST SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

August 29, 2017

at 7 pm

**Hopkins Academy
Cafeteria**