BUY PHOTO REPRINTS ONLINE

SUBSCRIBE TO THE GAZETTE ONLINE OR IN PRINT

Youth concerns up for vote in South Hadley

By THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE
Staff Writer

Email this page | Printer-friendly version

Friday, May 7, 2010

SOUTH HADLEY - In response to bullying that allegedly led to a high school student's suicide, one of the 55 articles at Saturday's annual Town Meeting will ask voters to approve the formation of a commission to organize activities for the community's youth.

"Some people feel there are not enough activities for the youth outside of schools, and I can understand that. I believe a youth commission can be a part of solving the problem," said Select Board Vice Chairman Robert G. Judge, who is also the board's representative to the town's anti-bullying task force. "We probably should have done this year a year ago."

He said he has heard only support for the initiative, and, if it is approved, the Select Board would later appoint three to 21 members to the commission in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8E.

"Many people in South Hadley want to take action on this now," Judge said.

Budget issues, planning board proposals, the creation of five new boards and commissions - not including the youth commission - and possible changes to the structure of South Hadley's Town Meeting will also be on the warrant for Saturday's meeting, slated for 9:15 a.m. in the Town Hall auditorium.

Most of the warrant articles are relatively standard and have seen little debate in the days leading up to Town Meeting, with the exception of a $20,000 appropriation that would go toward an economic revitalization plan for South Hadley Falls, Judge said.

Next year's $39.2 million budget, about half of which is for the schools budget, will also be up for vote.

"Departments are coming in with no (budget) increases, tiny increases or decreases, so I don't think there will be much opposition on the budget," said Judge.

But he added that many residents are weary of spending, given budget pressures that most municipalities are facing along with expectations of future cuts to local aid.

Filed Under: local | news | south hadley

Comments

Post new comment

Your name:
intern

Subject:

Comment: *

- Web page addresses and e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
- Allowed HTML tags: <a> <b> <i>   <code> <cite>   <img>
- Lines and paragraphs break automatically.

More information about formatting options

Preview comment Post comment