



Select Board Office

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

### Warrant Article Explanations

May 18, 2021

6:15P.M.

**Article #1 Explanation:** Town Election acted on May 11, 2021. For the above individuals: See the ballot posted on the Town of Southwick's web page at [www.southwickma.org](http://www.southwickma.org).

**Article #2 Explanation:** This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Select Board to operate Town Government.

**Article #3 Explanation:** This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Select Board to operate Town Government.

**Article #4 Explanation:** This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Select Board to operate Town Government.

**Article #5 Explanation:** This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Select Board to operate Town Government.

**Article #6 Explanation:** Road Work. This article authorizes the Select Board (as Road Commissioners) to bond 1 million dollars for road work. The Town has a backlog of roads that must be reconstructed, milled and over layed. The amount of State Aid known as Chapter 90 Funds and local appropriations has not been enough to reduce the backlog. Action must be taken to remedy the problem and make sufficient progress.

**Article #7 Explanation:** This article requests to appropriate funds to purchase a new full-size multi-purpose dump truck with plow package for use by the Highway Department. This vehicle will replace a 2005 international 7400 with approximately 78,000 miles.

**Article #8 Explanation:** This article is requesting funding for the replacement of our oldest ambulance. The fire department has historically replaced one ambulance every 10 years/100,000 miles. We find this to be the optimum return in investment with trade in, reduction of repair cost, and future cost increases. The ambulance being replaced is ten years old and will have over 100,000 miles at time of replacement January of 2022. The current front line ambulance will be rotated to a support role.

**Article #9 Explanation:** These funds will be used to upgrade the aging water transmission main that connects to the Town's back-up water supply with Springfield Water & Sewer Commission.

**Article #10 Explanation:** Approving the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget will allow for the proper allocation of resources for the continuing operation and welfare of the Town, while providing the fundamental fiduciary responsibilities in our current economy.

**Article #11 Explanation:** This article reauthorizes all Revolving Accounts to operate some town government functions for inspections and services. Without it would require funds to come out of taxation. The Municipal Modernization Act was passed in 2016 which provided for a new manner in which revolving funds are regulated and managed.

**Article #12 Explanation:** Annual budget as required by State Law. Mandatory 10% reserved for Open Space, 10% reserved for Historic, and 10% reserved for Housing, the remainder in General Unreserved Fund that may be spent on any projects eligible for CPA funds.

**Article #13 Explanation:** CPC FY2022 5% Administrative & Operating expenses set aside.

**Article #14 Explanation:** The money being requested is to improve the existing trails, repair eroded areas, and procure and install wayfinding (directional), and interpretive (habitat descriptions) signage on the Town's North Pond Conservation Area. The Town has applied for additional funding from the Commonwealth TRAILS Grant to supplement this funding request.

**Article #15 Explanation:** This money will enable the Planning Board to use the services of a consulting firm to prepare a Housing Plan for the Town of Southwick. This plan will serve as the Housing Element of a Master Plan, provide guidance of the Community Preservation Committee in evaluating applications for the use of Community Preservation Act funds for housing projects and inform the community and Housing Authority of local housing needs and opportunities.

**Article #16 Explanation:** The monies being requested are to restore and rehabilitate the stained-glass windows in the Old Town Library. The Old Town Library is privately owned but has a 100-year Historical Restriction on the property.

**Article #17 Explanation:** The money is being requested to assess the slate roof and cupola on the Historical part of the 1940's original structure to determine the future course of action to preserve and restore.

**Article #18 Explanation:** The money being requested is for the second payment on the \$600,000.00 bond that was voted on and issued for the Alum Treatment of the Congamond Ponds in 2020.

**Article #19 Explanation:** This warrant article requests approval of the assessment from the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District for next year's operating budget. The assessment represents the Town's share of the District's operating and capital costs for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Article #20 Explanation:** This warrant article requests approval for the borrowing that the District pursues annually to finance capital improvements and acquisitions. An affirmative vote authorizes the District to borrow funds to pay for the projects and equipment identified in the School Committee's vote.

**Article #21- #24 Explanation:** Revere Road is presently not an accepted Town Road. A survey, right-of-way boundaries, easement documents, appraisals and takings are required to begin and follow through the process of acceptance as a Town Road. The Select Board, Planning Board and DPW will perform their necessary roles to complete the project. Acceptance will make the Town eligible for more Chapter 90 funds.

**Article #25 Explanation:** The Warrant Article will allow the Planning Board to hire outside Consultants for technical assistance if required for review.

**Article #26 Explanation:** The term Grandfathered is no longer used by the Massachusetts Court System and the Town of Southwick is bound to apply with the State of Massachusetts Law Requirements.

**Article #27 Explanation:** The Warrant Article will allow Electronic Variable Message signs in Residential Zones.

**Article #28 Explanation:** The Warrant Article will allow Large Scale Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Systems in R-40, R-20, R20A and R20B Zones on a parcel with a minimum of 20 acres and able to meet conditions of the bylaw.

**Article #29 & 30 Explanation:** This Bylaw change will bring the Town into compliance with the new NPDES MS4 Stormwater regulations administered by Mass Dep and EPA.

**Article #31 Explanation:** Passage of the bylaw is one of five criteria requirements of the Town's application to become a Massachusetts Green Community. If the Town achieves Green Community status from the State, the Town will be eligible to apply for grant funding for a variety of energy efficiency projects. Adoption of the Stretch Code only impacts new construction; it does not apply to renovations, repairs, alterations, or additions to existing homes or commercial buildings.

**Article #32 Explanation:** It is the goal of the Town of Southwick to ensure the safety of its citizens and to regulate the use of occupational licenses to ensure they are used responsibly and that such licensed activities are conducted lawfully and do not detract from them in the neighborhoods or in the Town as a whole. This Bylaw will allow for a National Criminal History check of applicants along with the current State of Massachusetts background inquiry.