



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

Finance Committee

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2018

FINANCE COMMITTEE PROS AND CONS

Article 6

PRO: The Town wants to replace aging equipment in order to keep the DPW fleet reliable and available for the Towns work.

CON: Keep repairing the equipment and hope that the truck will be available when needed.

Article 7

PRO: The Fire Department will now be able to safely and efficiently fight fires. These purchases would replace equipment that are at the end of their service life.

CON: Will limit our ability to fight fires. The lack of having a working ladder truck available will potentially increase taxpayers home insurance.

Article 8

PRO: New pump station is required to treat water that is brought in from Springfield as in the near future Springfield will no longer treat their water.

CON: Water would be left untreated and could be a health issue. It would not be in compliance with state water regulations.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2018

FINANCE COMMITTEE PROS AND CONS

Article 9

PRO: Approving this article establishes the process by which monies are spent as well as a reserve fund for unforeseen expenses.

CON: Disapproving this article would prevent the spending of monies on necessary expenses and eliminate the fund for unforeseen expenses.

Article 11

PRO: Approving this article provides the mechanism for establishing the related funding limits for certain revolving funds for operational processes of various departments.

CON: Disapproving this article would prevent the various departments the ability to function as designed.

Article 12

PRO: The taxpayers agreed to pay an additional 3% tax annually towards the Community Preservation Fund. The government matches the taxpayer contribution. In the past it was a dollar-for-dollar match, although that has not been the case over the past couple of years. This Article outlines the transfers of the individual reserves within the Community Preservation Fund at a rate of 10% as required by the laws that rule the Community Preservation Committee, which the Town of Southwick has agreed to. The balance of the tax generated monies, 70%, will be deposited in their General Fund.

CON: If we do not approve this article, we would be in violation of our agreement with the Commonwealth and Town of Southwick.

Article 13

PRO: This Article allows the transfer of monies, not to exceed 5% of the collect taxes, to be used for administrative and operational expenses of the Community Preservation Committee. This provision is allowed under the agreement.

CON: None

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2018

FINANCE COMMITTEE PROS AND CONS

Article 14

PRO: PRO: A yes vote will be to keep 128 acres of prime agricultural land from development. This will help maintain Southwick's agricultural heritage.

CON: A no vote will allow more prime farmland to stay open to non agricultural development.

Article 15

PRO: By allocating the funds for this repair, this historical structure will be saved from water damage.

CON: Without the repairs, historical artifacts could be damaged due to the leaking roof.

Article 16

PRO: Passing Article 16 will allow the schools to operate as budgeted.

CON: Failure to pass Article 16 could mandate cuts to education services provided by the town.

Article 17

PRO: A yes vote will allow funds from retiring bonds to be used to pay the new debt source of the School Capital projects. This will keep property tax assessment lower.

CON: A no vote will not allow the replacement of needed school related equipment.