

DOINGS AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
June 16, 2020

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, James Putnam at 6:16 PM on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 Southwick Regional High School, 93 Feedings Hills Road, in the Parking Lot, with 79 registered voters in attendance.

A Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

A moment of appreciation was observed for All Healthcare workers.

A moment of silence was observed for the following individuals;

John McKay- Southwick Fire and Grounds& Maintenance for Town Hall
Pauline Fedora – Council on Aging Volunteer
Norm Crowley – Assessor and Moderator
Herbert C. Pace Jr- Senior Center Volunteer
Rose (Rosie) Lyons – Senior Center Volunteer
Florence (Flo) Shaffer- Senior Center Volunteer
Nancy Bailey – Associate Member of COA
Dick Condon – Finance Committee

A motion was made and seconded to allow the following non-voters on to the town meeting floor:

Michelle L. Hill, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector
Benjamin Coyle, Town Counsel Attorney
Jen Willard, Superintendent of Schools
Stephen Presnal, Business Manager
Tammy Spencer, Board of Health
Cindy Sullivan, COA Director

Lieutenant Robert Landis, Southwick Police
Alan Slessler, Town Planner
Deputy Richard Stefanowicz, Southwick Fire
Lynn Blair, Library Director
Kyle Scott, Building Inspector

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the warrant in its entirety and to act upon each Article separately

PASSED
UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 1. BALLOTS

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the Town Clerk is hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town qualified to vote in elections and town affairs to meet and assemble at the TOWN HALL, 454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, PRECINCTS I, II, & III, in said Southwick on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. to elect on one ballot the following officers:

One Selectman for a three-year term, Two District School Committee member for a three-year term. One Assessor for a three-year term. One Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term. Two Community Preservation Committee members for a two-year term. One Community Preservation Committee member for a one-year term. One Community Preservation Committee member for a three-year. One Dickinson School Trustee for a three-year term. One Board of Health member for a three-year. One Southwick Housing Authority for a five year term. Two Library Trustees for a three-year term. One Moderator for a three-year term. Two Park and Recreation Commission members for a three-year term. One Planning Board member for a five-year term. One Water Commissioner for a three-year term.

ARTICLE 2. TOWN REPORTS - OMNIBUS

The Town of Southwick voted to accept the reports as published in the Annual Town Report of the Selectmen, Assessors, Town Accountant, Town Clerk, Water Commissioners and all others to be acted thereon, or take any other action thereon.

ARTICLE 3. APPOINTMENT OF MINOR OFFICERS - OMNIBUS

The Town of Southwick voted to instruct the Select Board to appoint minor officers or to take any other action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 4. SELL OR TRADE OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT - OMNIBUS

The Town of Southwick voted to authorize the Select Board to sell or trade obsolete equipment or take any action relative thereon.

ARTICLE 5. APPLY AND ACCEPT GRANTS - OMNIBUS

The Town of Southwick voted to authorize the Select Board to apply for and accept any and all grants from private entities, the Federal Government or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the purposes for which said grants are authorized, or to take any other action relative thereon.

A motion was made and seconded to combine articles 2 through 5 under one vote as they are considered housekeeping articles.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 6. ROAD RECONSTRUCTION BORROWING AUTHORITY

The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate \$1,000,000 or any other amount, to pay costs of roadway reconstruction, including costs of paving, resurfacing and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Motion: That the sum of \$1,000,000 is appropriated to pay costs of roadway reconstruction, including costs of paving, resurfacing and the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, 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 M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), 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, or pursuant to any other vote of the Town heretofore adopted, 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 M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 7. FIRE STATION - BORROWING AUTHORIZATION

The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate \$1,100,000 or any other amount, to pay costs of replacing the roof and making masonry repairs at the Southwick Fire Station, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transfer from available funds, borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Motion: That the sum of \$1,100,000 to pay costs of replacing the roof and making masonry repairs at the Southwick Fire Station, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, 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 M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), 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, or pursuant to any other vote of the Town heretofore adopted, 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 M.G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 8. CONSERVATION COMMISSION – LOCAL WETLAND FILING FEE REVOLVING FUND

The Town of Southwick voted to amend Chapter 25 of the Code of the Town of Southwick to establish a new revolving fund entitled Local Wetland Application Revolving Fund in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53E½, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Moved that the Town Amend Chapter 25 of the Code of the Town of Southwick to establish a new revolving fund entitled Local Wetland Application Revolving Fund in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53E½, or take any other action relative thereto.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 9. ANNUAL BUDGET

The Town of Southwick voted to fix the compensation of elected officers and town employee salaries where stipulated, provide for a reserve fund, provide a sum of money for Capital Outlay for the following Town Departments: Cable Ch. 15, Computer, Animal Control, Police, Fire, Lake Management, and DPW (various Divisions) and determine the sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate including appropriations from available funds to defray charges and expenses of the Town including debt and interest for the ensuing FY July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 or to take any other action relative thereon.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,544,461 and appropriate and transfer from free cash \$1,090,000 and appropriate and transfer from the Cable TV PEG Account the sum of \$59,000 and appropriate and transfer from overlay surplus the sum of \$120,000 and appropriate and transfer from Sewer Capital Account the sum of \$30,000 and appropriate and transfer from sewer retained earnings the sum of \$293,751 and appropriate and transfer from water retained earnings the sum of \$531,682 for the grand total of \$14,668,894 which represents the general fund budget in the amount of \$10,700,479 and the water fund budget of \$1,611,682 and the sewer budget of \$1,443,436 and the emergency medical services budget for \$913,297 as read by the Moderator.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 10. DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL SPENDING LIMIT AUTHORIZATION

The Town of Southwick voted to fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2021 beginning on July 1, 2020 for the revolving funds established in Chapter 25 of the Code of the Town of Southwick for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: Moved that the Town fix the maximum amount that may be spent during fiscal year 2021 beginning on July 1, 2020 for the revolving funds established in Chapter 25 of the Code of the Town of Southwick for certain departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §53E1/2 as follows:

Revolving Fund	Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer	Limit on Spending
Inspector's Revolving	Inspectors	\$40,000

HAZ-MAT Revolving	Police & Fire	\$40,000
Boat Ramp Revolving	Lake Mgmt	\$50,000
Police Chief Lake Revolving	Police	\$20,000
Local Lake Permitting Revolving	Police & Conservation	\$40,000
Custodial Service Fund	Maintenance Dept.	\$5,000
COA Revolving Fund	COA	\$10,000
COA Classes Revolving Fund	COA	\$10,000
Sidewalk Revolving	DPW	\$80,000
COA House Numbering Program Revolving Fund	COA	\$10,000
Local Wetland Application	Conservation Commission	\$50,000

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 11. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ANNUAL BUDGET

The Town of Southwick voted to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Preservation Budget and to set up a budgeted reserve for later appropriation of monies from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B from the estimated FY 2021 Community Preservation Fund, appropriation to be set aside as follows.

MOTION: To see if the town will vote to set up a budgeted reserve from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation in Fiscal Year 2021 with each item to be considered a separate reserve.

Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Community preservation Reserves

- ♦ To reserve \$41,166 from FY2021 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Open Space.
- ♦ To reserve \$41,166 from FY2021 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Historic Resources.
- ♦ To reserve \$41,166 from FY2021 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Community Housing.
- ♦ To reserve \$288,162 from FY2021 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Community Preservation General Unreserved Fund.

Reserves	
Open Space.....	\$ 41,166
Historic Resources.....	\$ 41,166
Community Housing.....	\$ 41,166
General unreserved.....	\$288,162
Total.....	\$411,660

Estimated FY2021 revenues = State match to be received on Or about 10/15/20	\$ 74,233
+ estimated new surcharge collections for FY2021	<u>\$337,427</u>
Total	\$411,660

State match = FY2020 CPA commitments minus abatements
 Estimated new surcharge collections for FY2021 = FY2020 collections
 10% of estimated FY2021 revenues equal the amount reserved for each CPA purpose, Historical, Open Space and Community Housing, as required by law.
 70% of estimated FY2021 revenues equal the amount reserved for the Community Preservation General Unreserved Fund

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 12. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING EXPENSES

The Town of Southwick voted to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Preservation Budget and appropriate 5% (\$14,408.00) of the monies from the Community Preservation General Unreserved Fund for the administrative and operating expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation General Unreserved Fund \$14,408.00 as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 13. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$64,500.00 from the Community Preservation Historical Fund to the Southwick Cemetery Commission for tree removal, installation of a retaining wall, repair of the vault in the Old Cemetery, and to archive records digitally to be available online. Property is located on Southwick Assessors Map 1111, Parcel 004. Recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 2099, Page 5105, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION:
 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$64,500.00 from the Community Preservation Historical Fund to the Southwick Cemetery Commission for tree removal, installation of a retaining wall, repair of the vault in the Old Cemetery, and to archive records digitally to be available online. Property is located on Southwick Assessors Map 1111, Parcel 004. Recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 2099, Page 5105, or take any other action relative thereto.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 14. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – RIGHT TO FARM SIGNAGE

The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$2,500.00 from the Community Preservation Act Open Space Fund to the Southwick Agricultural Commission in order purchase six Right to Farm signs to be installed on major roadways in Southwick in order to promote agriculture and inform travelers of Southwick's Right to Farm status or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION:
 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$2,500.00 from the Community Preservation Act Open Space Fund to the Southwick Agricultural Commission in order purchase six Right to Farm signs to be installed on major roadways in Southwick in order to promote agriculture and inform travelers of Southwick's Right to Farm status or take any other action relative thereto.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 15. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE – OLD CEMETERY HEADSTONE RESTORATION

The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$40,000.00 from the Community Preservation Historical Fund to the Friends of Southwick Old Cemetery for Restoration and Preservation of stonework at the parcel known as the Southwick Old Cemetery. Property is located on Southwick Assessors Map 1111, Parcel 004. Recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 2099, Page 5105, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION:

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$40,000.00 from the Community Preservation Historical Fund to the Friends of Southwick Old for Restoration and Preservation of stonework at the parcel known as the Southwick Old Cemetery including repair and restoration of stonework. Property is located on Southwick Assessors Map 1111, Parcel 004. Recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds Book 2099, Page 5105, or take any other action relative thereto.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 16. ALUM TREATMENT DEBT SERVICE

The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 from Community Preservation General Unreserved Fund, for the purpose of making the 1st interest and principal payment on the \$600,000.00 bond issued for the Alum Treatment of the Congamond lake.

Motion: For the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 from the Community Preservation General Unreserved Fund, for the purpose of making the 1st interest & principal payment on the \$600,000 bond for the Alum Treatment of the Congamond lake.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

Point of Order called by Russell Fox, Chairman to the Selectboard, to pay tribute to the outgoing Moderator, Jim Putnam. After 27 years of serving the Town of Southwick as your Moderator, Jim Putnam has resigned his position. The Town presented him with a proclamation.

ARTICLE 17. REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Town of Southwick voted to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$11,665,888.00 for the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District assessment for Fiscal Year 2021 commencing July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021, or take any other action thereon.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 18. REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – DEBT AUTHORIZATION

The Town of Southwick voted to not to disapprove certain additional debt authorized by the Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School Committee under a vote dated April 21, 2020, which reads as follows:

“Voted: approve the authorization to incur debt by the issuance and sale of bonds or notes up to the amount of \$135,000.00 by the purchase of all items specified in the STGRSD FY2021 Capital Improvement Plan, as follows:

Technology	\$75,000.00
• Network infrastructure equipment, including but not limited to storage server(s), and optical network terminals	

Building Improvements \$20,000.00
• Replace domestic water heaters at Powder Mill School gym area

Grounds Improvements \$40,000.00
• Replace main entry concrete at Woodland School

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

ARTICLE 19. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUARTERLY TAX PAYMENT SYSTEM

The Town of Southwick voted to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 59, §57C for the purpose of establishing a quarterly tax payment system to be effective beginning on July 1, 2021 (FY22), or take any other action relative thereto.

**PASSED UNANIMOUS
MAJORITY REQUIRED**

A Motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting at 7:39 PM.

UNANIMOUS

A TRUE COPY OF ATTEST:

Michelle L. Hill

Michelle L. Hill, Town Clerk
Doings ATM 06.16.20
TOWN CLERK, SOUTHWICK, MA