

# Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

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## ATM May 20, 2014 Warrant Explanations

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Explanations Tuesday, May 20, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Annual Town Election, Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Southwick Town Hall, 454 College Highway for Precincts I, II, and III.

Annual Town Meeting, Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at the Southwick Tolland Granville Regional High School, 93 Feeding Hills Road, in the Auditorium.

#### **ARTICLE 1 EXPLANATION:**

Town Election acted on May 13, 2014 for the following individuals:

#### **ARTICLE 2 EXPLANATION:**

This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Selectmen to operate Town Government.

#### **ARTICLE 3 EXPLANATION:**

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#### **ARTICLE 4 EXPLANATION:**

This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Selectmen to operate Town Government.

#### **ARTICLE 5 EXPLANATION:**

This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Selectmen to operate Town Government.

#### **ARTICLE 6 EXPLANATION:**

This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Selectmen to operate Town Government. It allows for temporary borings in anticipation of receiving tax receipts, grants, bond proceeds, etc. that fund the operations of the Town.

#### **ARTICLE 7 EXPLANATION:**

DPW is requesting \$350,000 to design and permit a sewer expansion project on Powder Mill Road, the Birchwood Road neighborhood, and the school campus. The Town will seek funding through USDA Rural Development. The schools are currently under an Administrative Consent Order from MassDEP with a requirement to hook up to the Town's sewer system. The project will add approximately 150 new users to the sewer system, including the schools.

#### **ARTICLE 8 EXPLANATION:**

Approving the Fiscal Year 2015 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 9 EXPLANATION:**

The purpose of the vote is to establish a revolving account where funds paid to town for use of its buildings by eligible groups can be used for the custodial expenses. Currently the fees go into the general fund and town has to use other line items to pay for the coverage costs. This depletes the line items that need to be used for other town related events coverage.

**ARTICLE 10 EXPLANATION:**

Reauthorizes all Revolving Accounts to operate and without so would require funds to come out of taxation.

**ARTICLE 11 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 12 EXPLANATION:**

CPC FY2015 Administrative & Operating expenses set aside. The statute allows 5% of the funds to be set aside but the CPC voted to set aside 4% of the funds anticipated for FY2015.

**ARTICLE 13 EXPLANATION:**

The Town would partner with the Sportsman's National Land Trust to purchase 57 acres of land at a discounted sale price to preserve the property in perpetuity for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other passive outdoor recreational activities. The Sportsman's Land Trust will be responsible for all future maintenance of the property.

**ARTICLE 14 EXPLANATION:**

The Town would partner with the Appalachian Mountain Club to have a boardwalk constructed on Town owned property that is the Trail Head for the New England Scenic Trail in MA that spans from Long Island Sound to the M&M Trail in New Hampshire. The AMC will be responsible for all future maintenance.

**ARTICLE 15 EXPLANATION:**

The Town would partner with an anonymous donor that is donating \$500,000.00 to construct a state of the art running track on School property to replace the existing track that is beyond repair.

**ARTICLE 16 EXPLANATION:**

Pursuant to the "Agreement Between The Town of Southwick, The Town of Tolland, and The Town of Granville With Respect To The Formation Of A Regional School District", each member town will be, with the approval at their respective town meetings, assessed an apportionment of the of the annual operational and capital cost of their regional school district. The above mentioned amount is Southwick's Fiscal Year 2015 assessment share for the total Southwick Tolland-Granville Regional School District's proposed FY2015 Budget.

**ARTICLE 17 EXPLANATION:**

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 71, Section 15(d), a regional school committee may vote to incur debt to purchase capital improvements to their buildings or grounds or equipment for the school district subject to the approval (in actuality the "disapproval") of the respective member towns. The proposed capital purchases to be made have been tentatively approved by the regional school committee and are listed in the Southwick Tolland-Granville Regional School District Proposed Budget handout.

**ARTICLE 18 EXPLANATION:**

This will allow the Town time to do a comprehensive review and create a Driveway/Common driveway bylaw.

**ARTICLE 19 EXPLANATION:**

This is to eliminate a postcard requirement for Town Meeting notification. This is no longer necessary because of Connect City, technology utilization, Town website and warrant application. The elimination will save several thousand dollars per year.

**ARTICLE 20 EXPLANATION:**

G.L. c. 200A, §9A makes available to cities and towns a more advantageous procedure for handling uncashed town-issued checks. Upon following certain public notice to the owner's last known address, and publication on the Town website, the Town would be allowed to retain the unclaimed funds, as opposed to transferring them to the Commonwealth.

**ARTICLE 21 EXPLANATION:**

This local acceptance reduces the 5 year residency requirement for veteran's eligible for the exemptions to 1 year.

**ARTICLE 22 EXPLANATION:**

This article updates the Zoning Bylaws for Flood Hazard and Wetlands District with suggested language of the state DCR to be in compliance with FEMA requirements. It makes no change to the maps in use.