

# Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

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## ATM Warrant Explanations, May 17, 2011

### WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Article Explanations COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS May 17, 2011

**ARTICLE 1 Explanation:** Town Election acted on May 10, 2011, for the following individuals: See the ballot posted on the Town of Southwick's webpage at [www.southwickma.org](http://www.southwickma.org).

**ARTICLE 2 Explanation:** This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Selectmen to operate Town Government.

**ARTICLE 3 Explanation:** This is a General Housekeeping Article to authorize the Selectmen to operate Town Government.

**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:** Approving the Fiscal Year 2012 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 8 Explanation:** This vote re-establishes an "Inspector's Revolving Fund" to ensure inspectors (electrical, plumbing, gas, fire, etc.) are compensated in direct relationship to the number of inspections made and fees received by the Town.

**ARTICLE 9 Explanation:** This vote re-establishes a mechanism for the Town to recover costs related to hazardous material spills at accident scenes. This tool is used in municipalities to limit taxpayer expense in responding to and cleaning up accident spills where fire and police budgets take a hit. It is estimated it would only come into play a couple of times a year when large cargo trucks experience accidents that have large spills.

**ARTICLE 10 Explanation:** This vote re-authorizes the fund to keep both town boat ramps at Point Grove Road and Berkshire Avenue running for the next fiscal year. The funds are generated from launch fees to use the facilities. The volunteer Lake Management Committee has done an outstanding job keeping the facilities in great working order.

**ARTICLE 11 Explanation:** All fees and charges imposed by the Harbormaster for services or permits related to salvage and storage will be deposited into the Harbormaster Revolving Account. Funds are generated through the issuance of permits for salvage and fees for storage imposed for removal of snowmobiles, boats, ATV's, etc. from the lake. Funds from this account may be used to purchase equipment for the patrol boat, equipment for the dive team, or repair or replace damaged equipment. This revolving account will allow the

police department to provide quality equipment for its police officers so dive operations and boat patrols may be conducted safely.

**ARTICLE 12 Explanation:** This account will be used for any and all fees collected as a result of the Local Permitting Process for allowing docks on Congamond Lakes. All money in this account can only be spent only on lake related expenses in accordance with the provisions set forth in Southwick's Local Permitting Process approved by the State of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

**ARTICLE 13 Explanation:** Pursuant to the "Agreement Between The Town of Southwick and The Town of Tolland 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 annual operational and capital cost of their regional school district. The above mentioned amount is Southwick's Fiscal Year 2012 assessment share for the total Southwick Tolland Regional School District's proposed FY2012 Budget of \$8,215,316.00

**ARTICLE 14 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 Regional School District Proposed FY2012 Budget handout.

**ARTICLE 15 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 16 Explanation:** CPC FY2012 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 FY 2012.

**ARTICLE 17 Explanation:** Provides funding for Phase One to have Town Historical Documents be restored in acid free books and stored in acid free boxes. Archives will be also stored digitally to provide for quick search of documents.

**ARTICLE 18 Explanation:** The purpose of this article is for the establishment of a account to accrue funds related to "Other Post Employment Benefits" in accordance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Standard 45 (GASB). Up until the year 2008 when the state took action to pass legislation that would permit cities and towns to create a funding tool to address the retiree health care and other post employment costs including life insurance, these costs were on a pay as you go approach. Acceptance of the fund and future deposits of funds through Town Meeting votes to it will assist the town in being proactive in how it meets this obligation and at the same time demonstrate to outside bond rating agencies our fiscal house is in order.

**ARTICLE 19 Explanation:** This article will accept the road of Falcon Crest as Town owned property carrying all the responsibilities of ownership, maintenance, and repair of the road surface and drainage system. The developer has met all the requirements of the Planning Board and the bonds have been released.

**ARTICLE 20 Explanation:** This article will accept the road of Pine Knoll as Town owned property carrying all the responsibilities of ownership, maintenance, and repair of the road surface and drainage system. The developer has met all the requirements of the Planning Board and the bonds have been released.

**ARTICLE 21 Explanation:** This article will accept the road of Deer Run as Town owned property carrying all the responsibilities of ownership, maintenance, and repair of the road surface and drainage system. The developer has met all the requirements of the Planning Board and the bonds have been released.

**ARTICLE 22 Explanation:** This article will accept the road of Lauren Lane as Town owned property carrying all the responsibilities of ownership, maintenance, and repair of the road surface and drainage system. The developer has met all the requirements of the Planning Board and the bonds have been released.

**ARTICLE 23 Explanation:** This warrant article authorizes the Town to acquire a Stormwater Drainage Easement on property owned by Mark W. and Neilda J. Henke at 140 Summer Drive for underground

stormwater infiltration structures. The infiltration structures are part of a recently completed larger stormwater management upgrade project around the lakes area that was funded by a Department of Environmental Protection S319 Grant. The infiltration structures and associated deep-sump catch basins and BaySeparator significantly clean up and reduce the volume of stormwater discharged at the existing outfall.

**ARTICLE 24 Explanation:** This warrant article authorizes the Town to acquire a Permanent Utility Easement at the rear of property owned by T. Peacock, Inc at 627 College Highway for a new water booster pump station. The new booster pump station will increase water pressure to homes currently serviced on Coes Hill Road. The funding for construction of said booster pump station and also one to be located on Granville Road was already approved at an earlier Town Meeting.