

DOINGS SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Monday, December 11, 2006 7:00 p.m.

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, James Putnam at 7:09PM on Monday, December 11, 2006 at the Southwick-Tolland Regional High School, Feeding Hills Road in the Auditorium, with approximately 205 registered voters in attendance.

The following registered voters were appointed as tellers for the meeting:

Cal Chunglo
Scott Wundt

Richard Anderson

A Pledge to Allegiance to the Flag was made.

A moment of silence was observed for:

(reflects those who have passed away since May 16, 2006)

Leonard T. Forish –
Ronald LeBarron –
Joanne Pratt –
US Servicemen and Women

Clerk of Works for Library
Police Officer
Past Treasurer for Citizen's Restor. Congamond

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

Linda Carr, Town Accountant
Carol DellaGiustina, Assistant Accountant
Kenneth Albano, Town Attorney
Mark Noonan, Windy River Land Conservancy
Don Howard, City of Westfield Gas & Electric

Russell Dupere, Attorney
Michelle L. Hill, Town Clerk
Jeff Neece, DPW Director

Unanimous

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are 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 SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM ON, December 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. then and there for the Special Town Meeting and to act on the following articles:

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

ARTICLE 1. The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$148,125.00 for the following salary accounts.

Accounting Clerical \$ 7,174.00
Animal Control Officer(s) \$ 3,250.00

Assessors F/T	\$ 2,446.00
Assessors P/T	\$ 473.00
Asst. Assessor	\$ 1,250.00
Asst. T/C/C	\$ 1,020.00
T/C/C Clerical	\$ 1,653.00
Bldg./BOH Insp. Clerical	\$ 1,080.00
Board of Appeals Clerical	\$ 100.00
Board of Health Inspector	\$ 950.00
Board of Health P/T Clerical	\$ 50.00
Cemetery	\$ 50.00
Conservation Administrator	\$ 510.00
Council on Aging Director	\$ 820.00
Council on Aging P/T Clerical	\$ 2,150.00
Crossing Guard	\$ 100.00
Custodial	\$ 3,950.00
Dispatch F/T	\$ 1,000.00
Dispatch P/T	\$ 3,542.00
Dispatch O/T	\$ 9,444.00
DPW Spec. Asst.	\$ 400.00
EMS Clerical	\$ 350.00
Fin Com Clerical	\$ 100.00
Fire Clerical	\$ 1,850.00
DPW F/T Highway	\$17,085.00
Library Dir.	\$ 1,420.00
Asst. Library Dir.	\$ 1,090.00
Library P/T Clerical	\$ 1,500.00
Planning Board Clerical	\$ 200.00
Police P/T Records Clerk	\$ 1,000.00
Selectmen Admin. Asst.	\$ 2,154.00
Selectmen Secretary	\$ 300.00
Emer. Man. Director	\$ 1,000.00
DPW Sewer Clerical	\$ 200.00
DPW Sewer Spec. Asst.	\$ 350.00
DPW F/T Sewer	\$ 5,939.00
DPW Sewer Comm. Clerical	\$ 50.00
DPW F/T Solid Waste	\$17,733.00
DPW O/T Solid Waste	\$ 562.00
Supervisor Bldgs./Grounds	\$ 4,200.00
Town Accountant	\$ 3,620.00
Asst. Town Accountant	\$ 1,020.00
Police Chief	\$ 3,460.00
Police Dept. F/T	\$16,561.00
Town Hall P/T	\$ 3,000.00
DPW Water Director	\$ 1,400.00
DPW Water Spec. Asst.	\$ 400.00
DPW Water Clerical	\$ 1,644.00
DPW P/T Water Clerical	\$ 200.00
DPW F/T Water	\$18,325.00

Total \$148,125.00 Or

take any action thereto.

PASSED
YES 143
NO 46

ARTICLE 2. The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,000.00 for the following operational accounts.

Cleaning and Inspection of Water Storage Tank.....\$3,000.00

Or take any action thereto.

PASSED

UNANIMOUS

ARTICLE 3. The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$61,500.00 for the following capital items

DPW Water Division Truck.....	\$55,000.00
LMC Monitor CATV Equipment.....	\$ 6,500.00

Or take any other action thereto.

**PASSED
MAJORITY**

ARTICLE 4: The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer \$55,000.00 from FY2007 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Community Housing Reserves to remove the existing windows and frames in 2 Babb Road, Map 1, Lot 41, Book, 5181, Page 84; 46 Birchwood Road, Map B1, Lot 21, Book 5331, Page 57; and 48 Birchwood Road, Map B1, Lot 22, Book 5331, Page 57; prepare the rough openings to receive new window units, install new Pella (or equal) fiberglass window units, install appropriate sealants and trim, and paint any affected areas to match the surrounding surfaces, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer from the Community Preservation Fund \$55,000.00 from FY2007 Budgeted Community Housing Reserve Fund for the Housing Authority to remove the existing windows and frames in the houses, prepare the rough openings to receive new window units, install new Pella (or equal) fiberglass window units, install appropriate sealants and trim, and paint any affected areas to match the surrounding surfaces of 2 Babb Road, 46 Birchwood Road and 48 Birchwood Road.

Or take any other action thereto.

**PASSED
MAJORITY**

ARTICLE 5: The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$92,500.00 from the FY07 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Open Space Reserves in order to be eligible to receive a grant under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program through the Massachusetts Department of Food & Agriculture for the acquisition of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44B and Chapter 267 of the Acts of 2000 on the Brzoska farm land located at 384 College Highway and the East side of 12 Sheep Pasture Road, known as Map E 326A & H105, said Brzoska farm land is described in Book 5889, page 471, and Book 5489, page 462 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION: The Town of Southwick voted to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$92,500.00 from the FY07 Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserves portion of the in order to be eligible to receive a grant under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program through the Massachusetts Department of Food & Agriculture for the acquisition of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44B and Chapter 267 of the Acts of 2000 on the Brzoska farm land located at 384 College Highway and the East side of 12 Sheep Pasture Road, known as Map E 326A & H105, said Brzoska farm land is described in Book 5889, page 471, and Book 5489, page 462 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

Or take any other action thereto.

**PASSED
MAJORITY**

ARTICLE 6: The Town of Southwick voted in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40, §4A to authorize the Southwick Board of Selectmen and Board of Health to enter into an inter municipal agreement with one or more other governmental units to provide public health, public works and general government administration services which the Board of Health, Department of Public Works, and other administrative bodies in town are authorized to perform, in accordance with an Inter Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement to be entered between the Town and various governmental units.

Or take any other action thereto.

**PASSED
UNANIMOUS**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to accept, commencing with Fiscal Year 2008, the provisions of Chapter 184, Section 51 of the Acts of 2002, amending Chapter 50, Section 5 (41C) of the Massachusetts General Laws, by decreasing the eligibility age for senior tax exemptions from 70 to 65, by increasing the gross receipts limit from \$13,000.00 to \$20,000.00 if single and from \$15,000.00 to \$30,000.00 if married, by increasing the whole asset limit from \$28,000.00 to \$40,000.00 if single and from \$30,000.00 to \$55,000.00 if married, and by increasing the amount of the exemption from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00.

Or take any action relative thereto.

**WITHDRAWN BY BOARD OF
ASSESSORS**

ARTICLE 8: The Town of Southwick voted to accept, the provisions of Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2006, adding Chapter 39, Section 23D of the Massachusetts General Laws which states:

“(a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, upon municipal acceptance of this section for 1 or more types of adjudicatory hearings, a member of any municipal board, committee or commission when holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to that member's absence from no more than a single session of the hearing at which testimony or other evidence is received. Before any such vote, the member shall certify in writing that he has examined all evidence received at the missed session, which evidence shall include an audio or video recording of the missed session or a transcript thereof. The written certification shall be part of the record of the hearing. Nothing in this section shall change, replace, negate or otherwise supersede applicable quorum requirements.

(b) By ordinance or by-law, a city or town may adopt minimum additional requirements for attendance at scheduled board, committee, and commission hearings under this section.”

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**PASSED
MAJORITY**

ARTICLE 9: The Town of Southwick voted to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 41, §100B, regarding disability benefits for police officers or fire fighters or their widow or next of kin for all reasonable hospital, medical and surgical, chiropractic, nursing, pharmaceutical, prosthetic and related expenses and reasonable charges for podiatry incurred by such police officer or firefighter after his retirement, provided for in said section and to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$4,500.00 for such purpose, or take any other action relative thereto.

**PASSED
UNANIMOUS**

ARTICLE 10: The Town of Southwick voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long term lease with the City of Westfield Gas and Electric Light Department, or its permitted assigns, under terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen in its sole discretion deems advisable, for the purpose of enabling the said City of Westfield Gas and Electric Department to construct, maintain, and operate a natural gas pipeline in a portion of the former railroad right of way conveyed to the Town of Southwick by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts pursuant to a deed dated December 20, 1996, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 9721, Page 229.

Or take any other action thereto.

**PASSED
UNANIMOUS**

ARTICLE 11: The Town of Southwick voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain, or otherwise acquire, for any and all municipal purposes, that certain real estate known as the former railroad right of way as more particularly described in a deed from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive office of Transportation and Construction, to the Town of Southwick, dated December 20, 1996, recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 9721, Page 229; including the taking, purchase, or other acquisition of any easements, licenses, rights of way, pipes, conduits, basins, structures, and facilities and their appurtenances located in, on, over, or under said real estate.

Or take any other action thereto.

**PASSED
UNANIMOUS**

A Motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Special Town Meeting at 8:58PM.

UNANIMOUS

A TRUE COPY OF ATTEST:

Michelle L. Hill, Town Clerk
Doings STM 12.11.06