

Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

Finance Committee ATM Explanations May 20, 2008

Town of Southwick
FINCOM Explanations
Annual Town Meeting
May 20, 2008

Article 12:

The Town's share of the Southwick-Tolland Regional School District 's current year expenditure allocation is \$8,048,274, an increase of \$455,008 (6%) over the previous year. The Finance Committee certainly appreciates the fine efforts on the part of the school district in working together this year in an open and forthright manner to create this budget. The increase from last year is due to employee contractual benefits and insurance, school tuitions and energy expenses. Most of these increases are uncontrollable. The Finance Committee supports the school district's FY09 budget.

Article 13:

The School District has presented its Capital Improvement Plan amount of \$600,000. This plan is consistent with the prior year amount.

Article 14:

The Finance Committee supports the School District's request for the one time contribution to start up the full-day kindergarten program for all students of Southwick Tolland. This proactive effort should be a positive note for the next STRSD accreditation activities and in the furtherance of educating the Town's children. The state will reimburse the School District in the upcoming year and that money will be placed into the FY2010 operating budget to pay for salaries, supplies, etc.to sustain the program.

Articles #15 and #16

These articles simply support what the town taxpayers voted to participate in back in November of 2002.

Article 17:

At the previous year Annual Town Meeting, the Town passed an appropriation of \$400,000 for the purchase of a new fire department pumper. At the conclusion of the final bidding process, the accepted bid exceeded the appropriation by \$75,000. We have recommended changes in the requesting procedures that we feel will reduce these types of bid overages in the future, however, since the piece of equipment being replaced is a primary unit, we see no viable alternatives to recommending acceptance of the additional appropriation.

Article 18:

By adopting this article, the Town will forfeit approximately \$5,500 in business tax revenue. This loss of revenue is to be offset by a reduction of operating expenses, including payroll, so as to make the change revenue neutral.