

Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

Finance Committee ATM Warrant Pros/Cons May 18, 2010

Town of Southwick
FINCOM Explanations
Annual Town Meeting @ 5/18/2010

Article 7.

PRO – This replaces an old ambulance. The money comes from an EMS account and is not coming from the general fund.

CON – If EMS revenue fails, the taxpayers will be responsible for the repayment of this bond.

Article 8.

PRO – This article updates the water system. The present facilities are so old that finding parts to repair it is becoming more and more problematical. It uses water system funds and does not affect the tax rate.

CON – None

Article 9.

PRO – Approving the Fiscal Year 2011 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.

CON - Not approving the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget would make it difficult for the Town to raise necessary funds needed to ensure the proper utilization of resources for the continuing operation and welfare of the town.

Article 10.

PRO - Streamlines the abilities of the town to compensate inspectors used to provide their services to the town. This fund has been in place and we are re-authorizing it.

CON - This funding will not be rolled over into the general fund.

Article 11.

PRO - This revolving fund will help both the fire and police departments offset costs of training, purchasing supplies and equipment etc... by allowing them to carry over year after year any funds taken in during the year for various fee's.

CON - This funding will not be rolled over into the general fund.

Article 12.

PRO - This will help the lake management committee fund their various operational needs by allowing them to maintain and carry over all fee's and charges received during the year to the following.

CON - This funding will not be rolled over into the general fund.

Article 13.

PRO - This will allow the police department to maintain and utilize fees and fines collected by the harbormaster. By doing this the money collected can help offset and reduce the burden on the town, when purchasing new equipment and training for the police personnel.

CON - This funding will not be rolled over into the general fund.

Article 14.

PRO - This revolving fund allows the police department and conservation commission to carry over all "Fees and charges received during the fiscal year for the permitting of lake water structures." This helps them pay for their operational expenses like salaries contractual services etc...

CON - This funding will not be rolled over into the general fund.

Article 15.

PRO - This revolving fund helps the town by providing a funding source for the replacement and repair of town sidewalks. The planning board holds this account which receives funding from any waiver of sidewalks, this would allow them to maintain and carry these funds over from year to year.

CON - This funding will not be rolled over into the general fund.

Article 16.

PRO - By approving this funding we are improving our sewer system for the town by increasing our ability to transport waste to its proper destination. This will help any future business or residential growth. This funding is coming from Sewer Capital retained earnings.

CON - This is an expenditure of town resources.

Article 17.

PRO – This Article represents the Town’s funding portion of the School District for FY2011. The funds are critical to the operation of the district in our community. Some positions have already been cut or unfilled to stay within this 0.1% decrease of the FY 2010 budget.

CON - None

Article 18.

PRO – This Article allows the School District to incur this debt to maintain their Capital Improvement schedule. The items listed on the Capital Expenditures list are items whose lifespan are nearing the end. By maintaining a rotation of some items, the transportation fleet, and replacing others, the School District is keeping everything in working order.

CON - If this article were not to pass, additional repair costs could be incurred.

Article 19.

PRO –This Article allows the School District to incur this debt to move forward with adding a Woodland Elementary School feasibility study to the existing feasibility study conducted last year. This is a required step by the State of Massachusetts Building Authority. It is in the best interest of our children and of the community for the School District to continue with the feasibility study, which would offer a reimbursement grant of 56% or more of the total cost of the proposed improvement project at our schools. If this were not approved, it would

disqualify the schools from the Massachusetts School Building Authority list because the School District would not have the money to move forward with the required feasibility study.

CON – Due to the economic conditions, there is no guarantee that the Town will approve this project in the future.

Article 20.

PRO –This Article outlines the transfers of the individual reserves of the Community Preservation Fund as required by the laws that rule the Community Preservation Committee, which the Town of Southwick has agreed to.

CON -If we do not approve this article, we would be in violation of our agreement with the Commonwealth.

Article 21.

PRO –This Article allows the transfer of monies to be used for administrative and operational expenses of the Community Preservation Committee. This provision is allowed under the agreement.

CON - None