

Town of Southwick
FINCOM Explanations
Annual Town Meeting @ 5/19/09

Article 7:

PRO

The Finance Committee recommends the purchase of the 6+ acres referenced in Warrant Article 7. Our present DPW is woefully inadequate, outdated, and poorly located. This property outlined in Warrant Article 7 is more than sufficient to house the DPW, our SEMA vehicles, and water department vehicles, with additional room for expansion for the future. While the initial costs will approach the \$1.7M figure requested, it is significantly smaller than the \$4.0M originally budgeted.

CON

The purchase of this property does remove this from the tax rolls and is located in a prime business zone. Also, we foresee very difficult budget challenges in the near future so assuming more debt could be problematical at this time.

Article 8:

PRO

The Finance Committee recommends the construction of an additional water tank as described in Warrant Article 8. In addition to the DEP recommendation, this additional storage should preclude us from having to purchase water elsewhere (at significantly increased costs) thereby saving money. Also, in so far as DEP regulates the access to water, this redundant well will insure that we have additional access for the future growth of the town.

CON

This is a significant cost at a time when we are facing serious budget constraints with more on the horizon. While the Finance Committee recognizes the present budget difficulties and anticipates further cuts, we also recognize the water department's capable management of their stand-alone budget and their retained earnings which will be utilized in this project.

Article 9:

PRO

Approving the ensuing Fiscal year budget will allow for the proper allocation of resources for the continuing improvement and welfare of the town while securing fundamental fiduciary responsibilities in an ever changing economy.

CON

Not approving the ensuing Fiscal year budget would make it difficult for the town to make the necessary adjustments needed to ensure the proper utilization of resources for the continuing improvement and welfare of the town.

Article 10:

The Finance Committee recommends Warrant Article 10 as it pertains to housekeeping for the cemetery budget.

Article 11:

Since this revolving fund was established, it has operated as intended. We see no gain to return to the previous way of including all the activity in the budget.

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Article 14:

PRO

To appropriate or transfer funds in the sum of \$8,120,196.00 for the Southwick Tolland Regional School District for the Fiscal Year 2010 commencing July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2010 will allow for suitable allocation, expansion and development of programs, curriculums and staffing needs for the continuing development for the youth within the School District.

CON

To not appropriate or transfer funds in the sum of \$8,120,196.00 for the Southwick Tolland Regional School District for the Fiscal Year 2010 commencing July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2010 will have a considerable negative impact on the Districts ability to provide the necessary resources and funding for the youth within the School District.

Article 15:

The Finance Committee supports the School District to incur this debt to maintain their Capitol Improvement schedule. The items listed on the Capitol 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. If this article were not to pass, additional repair costs could be incurred due to repairs beyond what is deemed prudent.

Article 16:

The Finance Committee supports the School District to incur this debt to move forward with the steps required by the State of Massachusetts Building Authority, in order to remain on the list of potential grant recipients. It is in the best interest of our children and of the community for the School District to continue with the feasibility study, which could offer a grant up to 56% 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.

Article 17:

PRO

This will allow an additional Police presence on the lake as well as dock inspection.

CON

If the permit process is not approved at the state level this article becomes null and void.

Article 19:

The Finance Committee supports 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. If we do not approve this article, we would be in violation of our agreement with the government.

Article 20:

This article is state mandated.

Article 21:

This helps to keep 66 acres of farmland as farmland.