

Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

Finance Committee's Pro's & Con's of ATM May 21, 2013

Finance Committee Pros and Cons
Annual Town Meeting May 21, 2013

Article 7

PRO:

- The large dump truck in question has come to the end of its useful life. Costs for repairs are far exceeding their value. The truck has been in constant need of repair which takes it off the road and unable to be used while repairs are made. The new truck will be reliable and available for town projects.

CON:

- Trying to limp along with the old truck, even one more year, will continue to cost the taxpayers' money for repairs that are better spent elsewhere. We will just be spending "good money after bad."

Article 8

PRO:

- Old tanks must be removed and replaced. There are too many problems with underground tanks.

CON:

- None

Article 9

PRO:

- The Library facility has insufficient insulation which has resulted in excessive heating/cooling expenses and has caused undue damage to the building. Passing this article will allow the Town to remediate this problem.

CON:

- Failure to pass this measure will continue to cause high heating/cooling expenses and will keep the building at risk for further damage due to this condition.

Article 10

PRO:

- A yes vote will approve the budget as submitted.

CON:

- A no vote could limit the Town's ability to function and pay incurred liabilities.

Article 11

PRO:

- This will allow the above noted departments to allocate expenditure of funds for the purposes noted without further appropriation.

CON:

- A no vote may make operation of certain town departments difficult as funds would have to be appropriated by specific request.

Article 12**PRO:**

- The taxpayers agreed to pay an additional 3% tax annually towards the Community Preservation Fund. This Article outlines the transfers of the individual reserves within the Community Preservation Fund at a rate of 10% as required by the laws that rule the Community Preservation Committee, which the Town of Southwick has agreed to. The balance of the tax generated monies, 70%, will be deposited in their General Fund.

CON:

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

Article 13**PRO:**

- This Article allows the transfer of monies, not to exceed 4% of the collected funds, to be used for administrative and operational expenses of the Community Preservation Committee. This provision is allowed under the agreement.

CON:

- None

Article 14**PRO:**

- This will complete phase three of archiving Historical town documents. These funds come from the CPC.

CON:

- If not approved, the town will have to pay out of the general fund to preserve the historical documents.

Article 15**PRO:**

- A yes vote will be to keep 128 acres of prime agricultural land from development. This will help maintain Southwick's agricultural heritage.

CON:

- A no vote will allow more prime farmland to stay open to non agricultural development.

Article 16**PRO:**

- Passing Article 16 will allow the schools to operate as budgeted.

CON:

- Failure to pass Article 16 could mandate cuts to education services provided by the town.

Article 17

PRO:

- The school district will be able to purchase budgeted capital items.

CON:

- The district will be unable to purchase capital items.

Article 18

PRO:

- A yes vote will allow funds from retiring bonds to be used to help pay the new debt source of the School Capital projects. This will help keep the property tax assessment lower.

CON:

- A no vote will not allow establishment of the fund.