

Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

Finance Committee's Pro's & Con's of STM

**MAY 19, 2015
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
PROS AND CONS**

ARTICLE 1

PRO:

This article represents the longevity stipends and negotiated pay raise for the employees of the Town of Southwick, for the current fiscal year. This money will be deducted from the salary reserves account.

CON:

The Town would be in violation of not upholding its contractual obligations

ARTICLE 2

PRO:

We are allowed to deficit spend on snow and ice removal and this article allows us to pay those bills. Our road maintenance is falling behind and we need to address those maintenance issues.

CON:

We will be in default of reimbursing our snow and ice removal budget if we do not approve this article. Further, we will fall further behind in our road maintenance schedule if we don't apPROve this article.

ARTICLE 3

PRO:

The Rail Trail has to be repaired for citizen's recreational use.

CON:

It will cost more later.

ARTICLE 4

PRO:

By using Free Cash from FY 2015 it will not affect the FY 2016 tax rate.

CON:

By incurring the cost in the FY 2016 budget it would impact the tax rate.

ARTICLE 5

PRO:

This will help with measuring water and sewer more efficiently.

CON:

None

ARTICLE 6

PRO:

This will allow construction to begin.

CON:

None

ARTICLE 7

PRO:

The *Other Post Employment Benefits Trust* fund was created to ensure the benefits coverage of retired employees of the Town of Southwick. The Town votes to place a specific amount of money into this fund on an annual basis to ensure the funds will be available as needed for our retired employees.

ARTICLE 8

PRO:

Regulations require us to purchase water for town residents.

CON:

None

ARTICLE 9

PRO:

The tanks need to be installed for Town Complex use.

CON:

None