

Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

Finance Committee's Pro's & Con's of STM May 20, 2014

MAY 20, 2014 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: This will allow us to continue billing users of the ambulance.

CON: We will not be able to properly bill people that have used ambulance services.

ARTICLE 4

PRO: This will allow the town to assess what is needed to bring Robin Road in to compliance for acceptance by the Town. The Town can begin to collect Chapter 90 money from the State once accepted.

CON: We will continue to plow and sand the road with no reimbursement from the State.

ARTICLE 5

PRO: The Fire Department will continue to have a second pumper truck.

CON: The Town will not have the use of a second tanker truck.

ARTICLE 6

PRO: The original pump design did not specify heavy duty sewage pumps and we have been spending a lot of time and money in replacing the lighter duty pumps. This upgrade will greatly diminish the maintenance costs and be much more efficient in handling the sewage.

CON: The upgrade is a costly expenditure and we will have continual expensive repairs

ARTICLE 7

PRO: Passage will allow transfer of monies previously appropriated to the Park and Rec Commission to address unforeseen repairs to the irrigation system at Whalley Park.

CON: Failure to pass would leave the Whalley Park irrigation system in a compromised condition, negatively impacting turf growth at many ball fields.

ARTICLE 8

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.

Con: We would not have a reserve of money to address the Post Employment Benefits of retired employees.