

Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

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

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

Article 1

PRO:

- This provides an annual pay increase for the non-union town employees.

CON:

- If not approved, this will be the second year in which non-union town employees will not have a pay increase.

Article 2

PRO:

- A yes vote allows the Town to meet its obligations related to the cost of snow/ice removal. It also will provide the Finance Committee funds necessary to deal with unforeseen town expenses.

CON:

- Failure to approve this article could cause the Town to be in default of its obligations.

Article 3

PRO:

- Springfield's chlorinated water is used to sterilize the Town of Southwick's water system. A yes vote will pay the bill. It is higher than in the pas due to the changes in Springfield's normal billing.

CON:

- Non-payment of the bill will put the Town in to a default situation.

Article 4

PRO:

- A yes vote will balance the account for two (2) projects the Department of Public works did for the Water Division.

CON:

- None

Article 5

PRO:

- The Water Division is being proactive to cover the costs for contracted equipment. There is no tax impact.

CON:

- None

Article 6**PRO:**

- The \$7,000.00 bill covered electrical problems that burned out sewer pumps due to the local lightning strikes.

CON:

- A no vote would leave the Town with no controls.

Article 7**PRO:**

- The Water Division is being proactive in preparing for costs relative to the Sewer Parallel Interceptor. This action will provide available monies to the contingency fund for the project.

CON:

- None

Article 8**PRO:**

- The Department of Public Works will be in violation of Planning Board requirements if these projects are not completed.

CON:

- Money was provided in the original contract but used elsewhere.

Article 9**PRO:**

- This account was set up to provide the Trust Fund a proactive measure, to provide funding for post employment (retirement) benefits to former town employees. It was to be funded with monies which were considered extra or left-over for the previous budget. It is to prevent a situation where the town was unable to meet all of its continual obligations to its retirees.

CON:

- Earmarking monies to this particular account removes those funds from being used for any other purposes. If there is no demonstrated shortfall in those monies which fund those benefits, then there is little need to make this appropriation.