

*****NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT REPRESENTS THE ACTUAL WARRANT
SIGNED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND POSTED BY THE
CONSTABLE AT SOUTHWICK TOWN HALL, SOUTHWICK POST
OFFICE AND SOUTHWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY.*****

**Town of Southwick
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
May 15, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

Special Town Meeting, May 15, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Southwick-Tolland Regional High School, Feeding Hills Road in the Auditorium.

HAMPDEN SS. To either of the Constables of the Town of Southwick in the County of Hampden:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town qualified to vote in elections and town affairs to meet and assemble at the SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM ON Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. then and there for the Special Town Meeting and to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,130.00 for the following salary accounts

Asst Assessor	\$2,330.00	Animal Control Salary	\$400.00
Part Time Assessor Clerk	\$400.00		

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 1 Explanation.

Asst Assessor ***\$2,330.00***
Separation costs of Assistant Assessor leaving in the fall of 06. The employee returned to the position. Re-payment of separation fund related to vacation accounts had to be deposited into General Fund and could not be placed back to Assessor Dept. Line Item

Part Time Assessor Clerk ***\$400.00***
Separation costs of part time clerical clerk who left town service for a private sector position

Animal Control Salary ***\$400.00***
This is an hourly position – extra hours needed during the year for inspections and cleanings caused a shortage.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Available funds the sum of \$84,221.00 for the following operations accounts

Town Hall Utilities	\$4,680.00	Public Safety Utilities	\$19,000.00
Ice/Snow Removal	\$45,000.00	Sewer IMA Debt Payment	\$14,541.00
Library Utilities	\$1,000.00		

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 2 Explanation.

Town Hall Utilities ***\$4,680.00***

Budgeted amounts came in short of escalating costs for utilities

Public Safety Utilities ***\$19,000.00***

Budgeted amounts came in short of escalating costs for utilities

Ice/Snow Removal ***\$45,000.00***

Even though the winter started out mildly, we were hit with weekend ice and snow storms that were costly. This will allow the Town to close out its books in balance without a snow/ice deficit as of June 30th. Otherwise the deficit would be added to next fall's tax bill.

Sewer IMA Debt Payment ***\$14,541.00***

The debt schedule from City of Westfield for the Southwick 25% share of the sewer Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade changed mid year from Mass Water Pollution Abatement Trust Bond Closing as the funding agency. This notification happened in between vacancies in the Treasurer/Collector position. This account has been recalculated for Fiscal 2008.

Library Utilities ***\$1,000.00***

Budgeted amounts came in short of escalating costs for utilities

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to require that the Selectmen have a video of all Annual Town Meetings and Special Town Meetings shown on Southwick's Cable Channel 15. The video shall be shown for a period of 7 days immediately following said town meeting.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by Petition

ARTICLE 3 Explanation.

Requested by Petition

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to require that the annual budget be made available to citizens no later than 7 days prior to the Annual Town Meeting. The budget would be online via the Southwick web site and in print at the Town Hall.

The Budget must include:

- a. The percentage change of individual line items from the previous year's budget.
- b. A percentage comparison of the overall departmental budgets (in relation to the Massachusetts state averages for all towns).
- c. A summary by department of changes from the previous year's budget and list of projected capital expenditures in excess of \$5,000.00.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by Petition

ARTICLE 4 Explanation.

Requested by Petition

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to replace Chapter 24, Section 2 of the Southwick Bylaws.

Existing: § 24.2. Powers and duties.

The Finance Committee shall investigate the cost of maintenance and expenditures of all Town offices and departments and report to each Town Meeting its recommendations as to all Articles in the warrant involving the expenditures of money or the disposition of any property of the Town.

Proposed: § 24.2. Powers and duties.

The Finance Committee shall investigate all proposals in the articles of the warrant for any Town meeting that shall in any way affect the finances of the Town and recommend to the Selectmen and Town at least 7 days prior to the time of said meeting a course of action thereon. Said recommendation shall include a 1 paragraph summary of the article, as well as the pros and cons of each Article. The Finance Committee shall consider all matters relating to the appropriation, the borrowing and the expenditure of money by the Town, its indebtedness, the administration of its various offices and departments, and may make recommendations to the Town or to any board, officers or committee relative to the municipal fiscal affairs. In general, it shall make recommendations to the Town in regard to any financial business of the Town. In the discharge of its duties, individual members of the Committee shall have free access to all books of record and account, bills and vouchers on which money has been or may be paid from the Town Treasury, contracts, agreements, and any other documents (printed or electronic) relating to financial matters of the Town.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by Petition

ARTICLE 5 Explanation.

Requested by Petition

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to require that all scheduled board and committee meetings shall be posted on the Town's website no later than 2 days in advance of said meeting and require that the minutes of all meetings shall be posted on the Town website no later than 14 days after said meeting.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Requested by Petition

ARTICLE 6 Explanation.

Requested by Petition

Given under our hands at said Southwick this 1st day of May the year of the Lord two thousand and seven.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

_____ David A. St. Pierre, Chairman

_____ Fred B. Arnold, II, Vice Chairman

_____ Roger B. Cataldo, Clerk

HAMPDEN SS.,

Pursuant to the within warrant I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Southwick by posting up attested copies of the same three (3) public places in said Town fourteen (14) days before the date thereof, as within directed.

Constable of Southwick, MA

T. J. Welch

A TRUE COPY OF ATTEST

Michelle L. Hill, Town Clerk

POSTED: TOWN HALL, POST OFFICE, AND LIBRARY

MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

2007 E-GOVERNMENT AWARD

presented to the

TOWN OF SOUTHWICK

*In recognition of its commitment to open government by posting all key government records on its website. To wit:
governing body's agenda and minutes, budget, by-laws or ordinances, and town meeting warrant and results.*



COMMON CAUSE
Massachusetts

Signature

March 15, 2007

Signature

March 15, 2007