

Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

STM May 20,2014 Warrant Explanations

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING EXPLANATIONS Tuesday, May 20, 2014 6:30 p.m.

Special Town Meeting, Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the Southwick Tolland Granville Regional High School, 93 Feeding Hills Road, in the Auditorium.

ARTICLE 1 EXPLANATION:

Transfer money from FY14 existing Salary Reserve for Wage Negotiations Account and other available funds for the wage expenses for non union staff wage adjustments for current year. Previously, five (5) unions have already received wage adjustments for the current year.

ARTICLE 2 EXPLANATION:

A. Snow/Ice Removal Expenses – The experienced more than average snow and icing events, some of which required overtime and the use of outside hired vendors. The cost of road salt to treat roads contributed heavily to these expenses. 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. Additional funds needed to address road conditions from a bad winter.

B. Funds are requested to continue patching & paving efforts through the end of FY to recover from the winter.

ARTICLE 3 EXPLANATION:

To accommodate the increase in ambulance billing for outside vendor for the actual amount collected.

ARTICLE 4 EXPLANATION:

Robin Road is presently not an accepted Town Road. A survey of the present road is required to begin the process of acceptance as a Town Road.

ARTICLE 5 EXPLANATION:

Purpose to repay a series of Town budget line items that fronted cost of repair work for fire truck which was in need of immediate repair and could not wait for 6 months to get underway.

ARTICLE 6 EXPLANATION:

DPW is requesting to transfer \$250,000.00 from existing sewer accounts into a new "Pump Station Upgrades" account. These funds will be used to upgrade two pumping stations, including replacement pumps, new backup generators, and electrical improvements.

ARTICLE 7 EXPLANATION:

In looking at this year's budget the Park & Recreation Commission decided that the \$3,000 allocated for a future horseshoe pit at the town beach was not a priority at this time and that we recommend using this money for irrigation repair at Whalley Park.

ARTICLE 8 EXPLANATION:

This article allows us to make our third deposit to the Post Employment Benefit Trust Fund established at a Town Meeting several years ago. The Town currently pays for post employment health care expenses on a pay as you go basis. This type of fund, which was authorized by recent State law in the last five years, provides a tool for municipalities to recognize the liability and begin to cover future costs. Eventually this fund will hold somewhere between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to cover health costs. Starting this fund and annually

contributing to it when possible is recommended by our outside Auditors and is looked upon favorable by our bond rating agencies.

ARTICLE 9 EXPLANATION:

Approval for a Solar Agreement to authorize Board of Selectmen and Assessors to enter into an agreement with a Solar Electric Generator Company to ensure they make payments in lieu of taxes to the Town of Southwick for a facility being constructed off Congamond Road.