

Town of Southwick, Massachusetts

454 College Highway, Southwick, MA 01077

STM November 18, 2013 Warrant Explanations

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles Explanations Monday, November 18, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

Warrant Article 1 Explanation: Transfer money from FY14 General Salary Reserve, FY13 EMS Prior Salary Reserve and FY14 EMS Current Year Salary Reserve to settle a contract with new FF/EMT Union for Wage Negotiations. Line items for the Library Director and Assistant Director were recalculated for fiscal year 2014 due to an oversight.

Warrant Article 2 Explanation: The Water Department had to initiate an emergency replacement of a 50-plus year old 18" copper water main servicing Cottage Street and Knollwood Road that was found to have multiple major leaks during a repair of one of leaks that came up through the pavement. Work included replacement of the main with a new 6" PVC main, new water services and curb stops for homes serviced by the new main, restoration of pavement, along with loaming and seeding of disturbed areas.

Warrant Article 3 Explanation: Town voters previously authorized \$1,200,000 to fund the replacement of the original 1970's steel one-million gallon water storage tank with a concrete tank like the one-million gallon concrete water storage tank that was completed and put into service in 2012. The low bid (from the same company who built the first concrete tank) was \$1,060,000. When the consulting engineering services for construction administration, inspection and contingency are added to the bid amount, the new total increases by \$200,000 to \$1,360,000. Accordingly, there is a need to fund the \$160,000 difference between the original authorization and the current low-bid and construction support. The Water Department secured the additional \$160,000 of grant/loan funds from USDA Rural Development but cannot have access to that funding until Town voters approve this warrant article that authorizes the additional expenditure.~

Warrant Article 4 Explanation: Town voters previously authorized \$2,250,000, consisting of \$2,200,000 from USDA RD (\$651,000 grant and \$1,549,000 loan) and \$50,000 local share, to install some 3800' of 21" sewer interceptor from its current terminus on South Meadow Street to the Westfield Wastewater Treatment Plant. The new 21" pipe runs essentially parallel to and replaces a shared Westfield 12" sewer pipe and traverses a path that includes crossings under the Little River, Route 20 and the Westfield River. During construction, a leaking abandoned underground fuel storage tank was encountered within the sewer easement off Mainline Drive which had to be removed and the site cleaned before the installation of 200' of pipe can be completed in that section. In addition, some pipe jacking process issues have been encountered with the Route 20 crossing. Those unforeseen efforts resulted in projected additional project costs of \$150,000 for tank removal, site cleanup, additional engineering and police details associated with the project delays. The Town has not received a definitive yes or no for \$150,000 in requested additional USDA RD funds, but as with the Water Tank Project, Town voters will still need to approve the \$150,000 additional project funding before USDA RD can release the funds to the Town if USDA RD approves same.

Warrant Article 5 Explanation: The Chief of Police is requesting Town Meeting approval seek a Special Act from the State Legislature which would allow Retired Sergeant Richard L. Cross to continue his tenure with the Department until he reaches the age of 70 providing he meets the physical requirements for duty. Retired Sergeant Cross has invaluable Police experience with this Department and has honorably served the citizens for over 34 years. This appointment will have a minimal budgetary impact.

Warrant Article 6 Explanation: The Chief of Police is requesting Town Meeting approval to petition the General Court to allow Retired Reserve Officer Kenneth G. Laxton, to be reinstated as a Reserve Police Officer until he reaches the age of 70 providing he meets the necessary physical requirements. Officer Laxton

has over 40 years of experience with this Department and if approved would continue to be an asset to the Department as well as the Community. This appointment will have a minimal budgetary impact.

Warrant Article 7 Explanation: This easement is necessary for the placement and construction of the new electronic town crier sign. The land owner agreed to donate a permanent easement to the Town for the above purposes and for maintaining and accessing the location of the sign.

Warrant Article 8 Explanation: This vote would permit the expenditure of \$100,000 of CPA funds to be put towards the renovation of the track facility on the grounds of the Southwick High School. An anonymous donor has come forward with a donation of approximately \$400,000 to improve the track. The total project will cost approximately \$650,000. The current cinder track has outlived its usefulness. This appropriation is an excellent use of Community Preservation Act funds, as it leverages other sources of funding to give Southwick a new, modern track surface for use by the community and the Southwick track team. Much like previous investments by the CPA to secure development rights along with funding from the state APR program, or the expenditure of funds at Whalley Park to complement the donation of the park itself, the Town is receiving a value greater than the investment itself. Changes to the CPA enacted in 2012 enable the use of CPA funds for outdoor recreation projects such as this one. Southwick is very fortunate to have donors that are willing to step up and donate the majority of the funds for large projects such as the track, Whalley Park, and the new Polverari/Southwick Animal Control Facility.