



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

Finance Committee

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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING May 17, 2022 FINANCE COMMITTEE PROS AND CONS

Article 1

PRO: This article allows salary adjustments based upon negotiations with various bargaining units, cost of living adjustments and/or market adjustments as determined by the Select Board.

CON: Failure to pass would cause the Select Board to renegotiate all of the various agreements.

Article 2

PRO: Snow and ice removal: The Town is allowed to deficit spend for snow and ice removal during the year and then pay later. This dollar amount will cover the, as of yet, unpaid costs associated with this past winter's cost for snow plowing and treating of roads for ice.

Cares Act: The Cares Act is a State program which granted monies to municipalities for costs associated with responding to the Covid Pandemic. Most of these costs were covered at no expense to the Town. However, some invoices were not covered due to vendor delays. This dollar amounts reflect ineligible costs that were not paid by the grant.

Unemployment Insurance: The Town of Southwick utilizes a self-insurance model for covering unemployment related expenses and budgets a certain amount for this each year. This year the insurance liability has exceeded the budgeted amount. This dollar amount will balance the current deficit in this account.

CON: The Town has the legal fiscal responsibility to pay bills and balance accounts. Failure to pay would incur certain liabilities and non-compliance issues.

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Article 3

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: If we do not contribute to the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund, we would risk future shortfalls in funding our employee retirement benefits.

Article 4

PRO: This article provides a cost-effective way to ensure the ability of our DPW and first responders to address the needs of our community. By paying for these capital expenditures out of free cash, we will be able to avoid the cost of bonding and the effects it would have on our tax rate.

CON: If this article does not pass, we would leave our DPW and first responders at a disadvantage when addressing the health and safety needs of our community.

Article 5

PRO: This article is necessary to repair and replace Town roads that have deteriorated over the recent years for a variety of reasons. Paying for these repairs out of free cash is a cost-effective way for the Town to continue addressing the conditions of our roads while avoiding the cost of bonding and the effect it would have on our tax rate.

CON: If this article does not pass, we will continue to see further deterioration of our roads and we will fall even further behind in addressing the situation.