

TOWN OF PRINCETON, MA
Princeton Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
24 March 2014

BOS Stan Moss called the joint BOS/AB meeting to order, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AB members in attendance were: John Shipman, Jim O'Coin, Dave Cruise, and Wayne Adams.
Absent: Joe Lotuff, George Handy

BOS members in attendance were: Stan Moss, Neil Sulmasy, and John LeBeaux
Absent: Edith Morgan

Agenda with BOS & AB

- Princeton Fire Department FY 15 Budget Review
- Monty Tech FY15 Budget Review
- Executive Session Police Contract

Agenda AB only

- Approve 10 Mar 2014 AB Minutes

Monty Tech FY15 Budget Review

Monty Tech representatives led a discussion to review the district budget and the Princeton portion assessment.

Highlights of the discussion were:

- Plan as presented to Princeton was prepared on March 5th. There are new Governor numbers to factor into the plan and have the Monty Tech School Committee approve a revised budget on April 9th. Projections of the Governors numbers will have minimal change to the Princeton assessment, estimated a change of ~\$100.
- FY14 Princeton was under assessed by \$35K due to the Governor's budget proposal not be passed. The FY2015 budget factors this into the Princeton assessment, a catch-up. Princeton was assessed \$181K in 2014 and will be assessed \$289K in 2015. Slide 29 of the PowerPoint presentation budget report summarizes the key components of the budget State and school committee formulas for Princeton's assessment.
- FY15 overall district budget is increased by 3.45% over FY14, while Required Min Net School spending increase is 3.43% and State Aid Chapter 70 increased only 0.3%
- Monty Tech recognizes there are unfair treatment for towns in the district with the Chapter 70 formula; Princeton is the one town with the most unfair treatment.
- A general discussion was had about the unfair and unexpected expenses that a town can be assessed for Special Education. Ideally, the state would create a state-wide funding pool for special education instead of burdening the towns where special education per student population size is assessed today.

2015 Fire Department Budget

Chief of Fire Department John Bennett led a discussion to review the submitted 2015 Budget.

Highlights of the discussion were:

- Goal of the budget was to be flat. Exception being special warrant item requests for new equipment to replace existing non-compliant equipment.

- Discussion point was had to develop a funding strategy for a stabilization fund to even out year-to-year peaks and valleys of special warrant equipment items.
- The budget reflected flat year to year salaries and may change as other town salary increases are under consideration in the FY15 budget.

Reference documents handed out by BOS to AB members:

- Fire Department 2015 Budget and Fleet Summary sheets
- Monty Tech Education Plan 2014-2015 booklet and PowerPoint presentation

Minutes

10 March 2014 Advisory Board minutes motioned for approval by Wayne Adams, seconded by Jim O'Coin and approved by all AB members in attendance. Noted correction to draft minutes to final minutes was Edith Morgan first name recorded correctly.

Executive Session

Selectmen voted to enter into executive session to discuss strategy for collective bargaining (Police Officers) pursuant to MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(3), and not to reconvene into open session.

Selectmen then went into executive session. Neil made a motion: "I move to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Officers) and not to reconvene into open session" and Stan seconded the motion. Stan called for a vote and in roll call Neil voted "Aye" and Stan voted "Aye." Stan announced that "the Board will now enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining since an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town."

Advisory Board voted to enter into executive session to discuss strategy for collective bargaining (Police Officers) pursuant to MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(3), and not to reconvene into open session.

Advisory Board then went into executive session. Jim O'Coin made a motion: "I move to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30, Section 21(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Police Officers) and not to reconvene into open session" and Wayne seconded the motion. John Shipman called for a vote and in roll call Jim voted "Aye", Dave voted "Aye", Wayne voted "Aye", and John Shipman voted "Aye." John announced that "the Advisory Board will now enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining since an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town."

-

Motion to Adjourn

John Shipman moved to adjourn the 10 March 2014 AB board meeting at 9:27 p.m. Jim O'Coin seconded and all members in attendance approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Adams, AB Member