

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 11 2016

AB members in attendance were: John Shipman, George Handy, Bill Lawton, Don Schoeny, Jimmy O'Coin, and Wayne Adams
BOS members in attendance were: Edith Morgan, Stan Moss, Jon Fudeman, Town Administrator Nina Nazarian

Agenda AB

- Budget
 - Monty Tech Budget Overview
 - Town Budget
 - Draft Warrant Review
 - Source of Revenues Projection
 - Capital Expense and Unfunded item list
- Planning Board Warrants

Meeting started at 5:07 PM

Town of Princeton Budget

- Monty Tech Budget review
 - Expansion of curriculum and programs: finance, AP classes, EMT, and vet
 - Credit union to locate on campus
 - Partnership with Becker and Tufts for vet program
 - Cost reductions
 - Email switched to using gmail
 - PCs being replaced with chromebooks; chromebook repair part of student high tech repair pgm
 - Some staff changes
 - Overall, excellent budget management, <1% increase year over year
 - Some new programs being funded by grants
 - AB requests
 - Copy of teacher steps and teacher population on the steps
 - Request research why the large jump in Princeton contribution FY-14 to FY15. Larger than can be explained in just increased student enrollment
- Budget
 - BOS voted a 2% increase for employees /contractors that are non-union and no special COI/CPI clauses in their agreement.
 - With this motion, salary obligations to increase ~\$30K and variable obligations for taxes/benefits is ~\$1.2K ; total \$31.2K
 - Discussion on the AB 4/7 recommendations for capital items and unfunded items
 - Defer police vehicle lease by 1 year
 - Do not undertake the Bagg Hall comprehensive engineering project as a

- single expense, rather break it down to prioritized items.
- Clarifications made to the levy limit and the planned levy; differing opinion on how much ceiling there should be, especially when compared to other towns.
 - Treasurer prepared a historical table of tax rate assessment rates. Discussion around the year 2007-2008 tax years when taxation rate declined.
 - More discussion around the rate may/may not be the best indicator since many factors go into yearly budget and whether the rate was near the levy limit.
- Aside from the WRSD Operational Expense, with all other operational budget items considered including the salary adjustments, the town would be operating within 2.5% increase from 2016 to 2017. Differing opinion whether 2.5% is adequate to operate the town over coming years given several of the large projects.
- Town cash reserve is ~12% of budget; deemed one of the better in the state.
- AB asked whether the ATM WRSD budget be broken apart into the 4 sub-budget items, whereby the Operational expense can be voted on independently of the other 3 state calculated components. Operational expense is WRSD determined.
- Reviewed the ATM draft, Warrants 1-25. Resume review of Warrant 26-40 on Friday 4/15.

Planning Board Warrants

- Reviewed 4 warrants
 - Adult Entertainment zoning bylaw. If such as business were to operate in Princeton, it would locate in the business/industrial zone on Rt 62 West with requirements for setbacks from road and from adjoining properties.
 - 3 other warrants to clarify/amend existing bylaw language
 - Amendment for food-related business now includes mobile businesses (e.g. food truck).

Handouts

- Draft list of capital requests and unfunded items
- Draft ATM Warrant
- Draft Source of Revenues
- Monty Tech Slides
- Monty Tech Budget Booklet
- Historical tax rates, 1989 - 2016

AB Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Adams, AB Member