

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 19 2016

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

Agenda AB

- Budget review with BOS
 - Draft Warrant Review
 - Department Expense Review
 - Source of Revenues Projection
 - Capital Expense and Unfunded item list
- Executive Session for Fieldstone Farm, per BOS

Meeting started at 5:05 PM

Town of Princeton Budget

- Discussion whether 2 ½% is adequate as the planning target versus service level. Differing viewpoints on whether no-change services levels can be provided given school and health insurance costs increase at rates >2 ½% .
- Discussion on what is the range the Free Cash should be funded. DOR recommends 3-5% of total budget. 4/19 version of the budget is <3%. Town does not have its own policy.
- Town dept budget and state required school expenses in 4/19 budget is at 2 ½% increase over FY16. WRSD operational expense increase if factored in would be >2 ½% since that expense is >60% increase y-o-y
- Discussion of other areas in budget to reduce/adjust.
 - OPEB
 - Stabilization funds
- Discussed the need to close out public safety grant accounts in deficit, since they affect free cash. TA to pursue with state payment for the grants, since town funds were disbursed for the grant specific items and projects. Estimated \$18K
- Reviewed balance of draft ATM Warrant
- Reviewed a set of AB observations in
 - From MA DOR discussion on free cash - funds should be used for one time expenses, not recurring and should be targeted at 3 - 5%. FY16 tax levy was 7,971,832 and free cash 848,721, 10.6%.
 - Until FY16 the OPEB and "Stabilization" funding were part of ordinary operating budget. They were taken out of the budgeting format and transferred to the "Capital Request" format in FY16.
 - It appears the educational assessment, including the high "Operational Assessment" has actually dropped \$58,000 (-1.18%) since FY2014.

- Non-School Budget, with adding back OPEB and stabilization funding to operation budget has increased \$1,226,453 (35.27%) since FY14 and \$224,713 (5.01%) since FY16.
 - Wages and Salaries are up 3.7% from FY16 and 20.1% since FY14.
 - Debt Service is up \$80,325 (29.3%) since FY16 and \$231,045 (187%) since FY14
 - General Government payroll is increasing 7.4% in FY 17 and 19.6% since FY14.
- AB to convene meeting on 4/23 at 5PM in prep for 4/25 AB 7PM open comment on ATM Warrant meeting
- 7:01PM, entered into exec session with BOS. John moved and Wayne seconded to go into executive session: in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, §21: Exemption Six - To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. John called for a vote and in roll call Wayne voted "Aye," Dave voted "Aye", Bill voted "Aye", Jimmy voted "Aye", Don voted "Aye" , and George voted "Aye." John then announced that the AB would enter into executive session with BOS to discuss Fieldstone Farm.
- 7:30PM, AB adjourned

Handouts

- Draft list of capital requests and unfunded items
- Draft ATM Warrant
- Draft Source of Revenues
- Draft Dept Budgets
- List of previous years Police Dept grants not granted yet by the state

AB Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Adams, AB Member