

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
April 23 2016

AB members in attendance were: John Shipman, George Handy, Jimmy O'Coin, Dave Cruise, and Wayne Adams

Agenda AB

- Budget review, warrant review and draft position per article
- Chapter 70 Letter Status

Meeting started at 5:05 PM

Town of Princeton Budget

- Summary of the review and suggested changes are to further reduce budget (from \$10.1M to \$9.6M) and provide the option to reduce tax levy (reduction in residential taxes) and maintain Free Cash at DOR recommended range. The AB reviewed a list of recommendations and then placed the list of recommendations into the draft warrant. The AB place initial positions of Yes, No, or TBD for each article. The next step is for the AB to meet with the BOS on 4/25/2016 to discuss the recommendations. For those few articles with a AB position is to seek clarification
- AB Board position on the Warrant Articles with the budget recommendations.
 - YES for Articles 1 ,2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 . Y-6, N-0, A-0.
 - NO for Article 3. Recommendations for changes include
 - Reduce reserve fund from \$75K to \$40K
 - Reduce WRSD Ops Assessment from \$709, 563 to \$515,219
 - Add-in OPEB expense under Misc, under retirement and treat as a yearly operating expense. Amount to fund is \$82,472
 - Recalculate all affected sub-totals and grand total
 - There is also a \$40K difference in the ATM warrant grand total vs the last TA provided spreadsheet. Further review to determine where the discrepancies are and why. GH to reach out to TA
 - All other line item amounts are voted YES
 - TBD for Article 7. AB does not understand what is the cause of the DUA deficit
 - NO for Article 8.
 - Funding for Road Construction and Mass Works, total amount is \$40K can be covered from Article 3 Road Reconstruction line item and not Free Cash.
 - YES for the transfer from WRSD to TPS Tile Replacement
 - TBD for Article 9. AB believes keeping the Grant accounts open is a transparent reminder to all responsible parties to follow-through to have the grants paid.
 - NO for Article 12. Recommendation is
 - Stabilization be funded at \$35K instead of \$50K. Accumulated amounts in the account are large with no planned spend
 - Infrastructure Stabilization be funded at \$0K instead of \$100K.

Accumulated amounts in the account are large with no planned spend.

- The concern is the town continues to build these accounts, while taking Free Cash below DOR recommended levels and continue to tax residents in FY17.
- NO for Article 13. Recommendation is to move OPEB into Article 3 under MISC category. Also, amount in the ATM is slightly different than the last budget info.
- NO for Article 18. Recommendation is for the town to develop an in-house strategy for all the buildings before funding studies. For example, if Town secures 20 acre parcel in the Field Stone Farm project, funds would be needed to design a modern building that could serve several town departments, alleviating the option to retro-fit Bagg Hall.
- TBD for Article 23. AB desires to know the maximum amount town will spend for a parcel. YES in concept to acquire land at favorable price for future town buildings.
- TBD Article 30. AB wants to know what other towns are planning to vote, school committee too.
- Prior to the article review, the following budget changes were motioned and voted on. Initials represent the Advisory Board member by name. A board member who motions and or seconds reflects the need to advance the topic to a vote and does not necessarily represent that AB's individual position on the motion whether to be in favor, disfavor, or to abstain. Those passing favorably were factored into the Warrant
 - Motion by GH to change WRSD Operations budget amount from \$709,563K to \$515,219. Second by DC. Y-5, N-0, A-0
 - Motion by GH to change Reserve Fund amount from \$75K to \$40K. Second by JO. Y-4, N-1, A-0
 - Motion by GH to move OPEB into the Operational Budget starting in FY17. Second by JO. Y-3, N-2, A-0
 - Motion by GH to remove the funding of a Bagg Hall feasibility study. Second by JO. Y-3, N-2, A-0
 - Motion by GH to reduce Stabilization Fund amount from \$50K to \$35K. Second by WA. Y-3, N-2, A-0
 - Motion by GH to not fund Infrastructure Stabilization for \$100K. Second by WA. Y-3, N-2, A-0
 - Motion by GH to remove Massworks Funding of \$40K. Second by WA. Y-3, N-2, A-0. Discussion from past BOS meeting and review of the draft article reflect the \$40K reduction in Article 8. While BOS meeting on 4/13 stated that Road Construction budget was one place that could be reduced.

Chapter 70 Letter Status

- Dave Cruise has received several suggested changes. Plan is to incorporate changes and send off to State Rep Kim Ferguson and State Senator Harriette Chandler by 4/25. Letter reflects the harm DESE Chapter 70 funding inequality has done to Town of Princeton over the past several years.

Handouts

- Draft ATM Warrant

AB Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Adams, AB Member