

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Feb 22 2016

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

BOS members in attendance were: Edith Morgan, Stan Moss, and Jon Fudeman and Town Administrator Nina Nazarian

Presenters: Princeton Treasurer James Dunbar; Police Chief Michele Powers; Fire Chief John Bennett, Phil Migdoll Facilities Committee Chair

Agenda AB

- Joint session BOS and AB to review draft budgets for Police, Fire, Employee Benefits and Town Insurance, Town long term debt ; part of a series of BOS/AB joint sessions to review department budget requests
- Joint session BOS and AB to gain awareness of the working-plan for improving Princeton town buildings from the Facilities Committee

Meeting started at 5:00PM

Budget Review

Highlights and questions

Long Term Debt

- Review size of police department fleet – 5 cars, replacement timetable, whether buy vs lease. AB request for odometer mileage on each vehicle.
- Large increase in debt service from 2016 to 2017 (and the projection through 2019) is due to i) Field Stone Farm project (should it proceed) and ii) Broadband build-out (should it proceed)

Police Dept Expense Budget

- Review size of department. AB request for breakdown of salaries for full-time staff; request for union contract for yearly increases and salary steps
- Review the net effect of the shift to regional dispatcher and its increased cost trend based on call/response volume

Employee Benefits and Other Town Insurance

- Question why the sizeable insurance cost jump from 2015 to 2016 ; needs investigation for what 2017 expense will be
- Desire the budget worksheets have total costs tallied; and cost per employee averaged calculated

Fire Dept

- Review size of department. AB request for breakdown of salaries and applicable compensation steps per title/role.
- Ambulance service. AB request to see revenues on the same sheet to validate the objective of costs being covered 100%
- Reviewed replacement roof capital request. Roof is beyond useful service and safety is now a concern for leaking water into electrical runs and bowing roof between rafters.

Facilities Planning Committee

Highlights and requests

- Refer to Summary report of options to address Bagg Hall, Princeton Center, Public Safety Building,
- Multi-year plans can range from \$11M to \$18M based on options pursued by the town
- AB request another guiding principle be added into the planning efforts: cost effectiveness since it will further give guidance to priorities. Another planning principle to consider is what is the cost of “doing nothing” to help elevate critical near-term requirements over nice-to-haves.
- BOS/Facilities Committee to focus on Bagg Hall first

AB Upcoming Meeting

- AB to meet in 2/29 to resynch on WRSD Budget, Chapter 70 Funding, Broadband Committee/business model, and further discussion of draft budgets received on 2/23/16

Handouts

- Draft department expense budgets for Police, Fire (including Ambulance and emergency), long term debt schedule, and employee benefits (for all departments)
- Facilities Planning Committee 2/22/2016 Interim Report

AB Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Adams, AB Member