

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2017

AC members in attendance: John Shipman, George Handy, Jimmy O'Coin, Wayne Adams, Judy Dino
BOS members in attendance: Stan Moss, Jon Fudeman, Edie Morgan, and TA Nina Nazarian

Joint BOS/Advisory Committee Agenda

- Review revised drafts of capital spending worksheet and ATM Warrant Articles
- Other new business

Meeting started at 5:15 PM

Meeting Minutes

- Capital Plan Budget
 - Noted updates
 - Revised spend for fire department exhaust system just East Princeton
 - Deleted Library IT placeholder
 - Added Survey Fees for idle asset sale
 - Reflected special appropriation accounts to be closed
 - Discussed OPEB spend, Special 4 building fund, town building maintenance fund, environmental monitoring fund
 - Discussed the Community Compact Plan for a capital spending plan for town buildings as a good foundation for FY19 and beyond for spend and debt. Town of Barre plan is a good example.
- General discussion on budget objectives
 - AC – keep residential taxes flat. This would necessitate find more places to reduce the budget in operating expense and other expenses
 - TA – need to further develop a budget policy and process to streamline the budget development so the near final drafts are not subject to major changes
 - BOS – y-o-y operating expense growth less than 2%, when WRSD not factored in; important to maintain town service levels even if that results in taxpayer increases
- ATM Warrant Discussion
 - Reviewed all articles. BOS first time review of each one, though AC reviewed on 3/27
 - General discussion whether road advisory budget to remain in operating budget or to be a special warrant article. Pro/cons for each. Also factors into how town could reflect building improvement and emergency funds as well.
 - New articles added in, from 3/27 include
 - Town idle assets. 7 parcels identified for sale. Idle asset committee identified 11 parcels, but 4 don't have deeds in place. 11 parcels were estimated in value as \$1M in 2012

- TBD, 3 parcels are <2 acres, are they buildable?
 - Fund for \$250K, for 4 building emergency repairs. Discussion as to how to limit the funds to emergency only. Disposition of the fund in FY19 was discussed.
 - Citizen's article to establish an Environmental Action Committee to develop a town-wide Plan
 - Discussion for the citizen's article to transform the Advisory Committee into a Finance Committee. Should the AC render an opinion or leave it undetermined. Need to review MA COI policies and Rule of Necessity policies.
- Jon Fudeman led a discussion for the rationale for the citizen's article to establish a Finance Committee.
 - Jon soliciting input and may make amendments from the floor at ATM
 - Some sections under consideration include appointments, transition from AC to FC, role of TA
- Stan Moss requested the AC to develop a summary of ATM Warrant Articles to reflect y-o-y budgets and percentage increases, how each and every increase effects the residential tax bill, and how the core services are allocated per residential tax dollar.

AC to meet on April 6th to continue reviewing the Warrant

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

Handouts and Referenced Documents

- 4/3 Budget document Capital Expense
- 4/3 Draft #4 ATM Warrant

Minutes recorded by Wayne M. Adams, AC Member