

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2017

AC members in attendance: John Shipman, George Handy, Jimmy O'Coin, Judy Dino, Bill Lawton, Don Schoeny, Wayne Adams
BOS members in attendance: Jon Fudeman, Edie Morgan, Ritchie Bisk, and TA Nina Nazarian

Advisory Committee Agenda

- Joint meeting with BOS for FY17 Reserve Fund Transfer for COA
- STM Firetruck request proposal
- 5+ year Capital Planning needs
- Rutland letter to WRSD to limit y-o-y budget increase

Meeting started at 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

- COA Director Linda Farineau led a discussion for a funding request to rent space for 11 months at Post Office Place. The space will meet near-term needs for COA due to Princeton Center being closed due to safety reasons. Linda and a committee thoroughly explored all rentable space and town space in Princeton for best fit.
 - George Handy motioned the AC to approve a reserve fund transfer of \$12,377.64 to 11 months of rented space. Jimmy second. Motion passed 6-Y, 0-N, 1-A
- Princeton Fire Chief John Bennett led a discussion for a STM warrant article to purchase a \$600,000.00 fire truck with a large water carrying capacity. Chief discussed how Princeton fire ponds and water trucks are deployed to attack a fire. Current equipment is failing ahead of schedule, hence the request to accelerate the purchase by one year. Chief also discussed the challenges to maintain and develop new fire ponds due to multi-agency approvals including DCR, EPA, and town Conservation Commission. Chief is investigating supplemental strategies to increase available water to fight a fire, including above ground storage tanks and hydrant system based off of Echo Lake. Chief also pointed out that ISO is doing a periodic evaluation for fire-readiness that results in a rating, which insurance companies use to set rates/adjustments to homeowner and business owner policies. More research is needed to understand how taxpayers are effected with the trade-off of increased taxes for improved firefighting and better ISO rating funded by increased taxes, vs increased property policies.
 - BOS selectmen charged AC to render an opinion of the STM warrant article request by August 21st. AC to have first meeting on August 8th to discuss the options the fire chief put forth.
- BOS Chair Jon Fudeman led a discussion that the town needs a capital plan to factor in all current long-term debt, expected expenses in the near-term, and more complete planning of requests across all departments as well as WRSD. Jon offered

an opinion that the current AC is best suited to do capital planning and could start right away, as contrasted to forming a new town committee to focus on capital planning. Several points and questions were made including:

- A successful planning effort can only be led by a single focal point, not multiple stakeholders
- Would the town still use state grant money for a capital plan if a local town committee took on the effort
- Town Administrator brought forth a letter from Rutland that requests all 5 towns in the WRSD to rally behind that would limit the next WRSD budget to no more 2.5% increase with the intent of budget sustainability. Pros and cons of the letter/approach were discussed. All agreed that towns are being asked to cover too much and the state is lagging in their commitments to fully fund the district. Outcome is the TA will recommend a 5-town workshop to form a common position to approach WRSD with for next fiscal year budget planning.

Session adjourned 7:35 PM; BOS continued to meet on other BOS specific agenda business

Upcoming AC meetings

August 8th, 6:00 PM, Town Hall Annex, AC discuss fire dept STM warrant article

September 5th, 7:00 PM, Town Hall Annex, AC hearing for Sept 7th Special Town Meeting for Rte. 140 Project

September 7th, 7:00 PM, Thomas Prince School, STM citizen vote

Handouts and Referenced Documents

- COA analysis of options and funding request made to TA/BOS
- Fire Department materials covering cost of truck, water on wheels analysis, storage tank products, fire pond dashboard
- Rutland proposal letter to WRSD for budget sustainability

Minutes recorded by Wayne M. Adams, AC Member