

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2017

AC members in attendance: John Shipman, George Handy, Jimmy O'Coin, Judy Dino, Don Schoeny, Wayne Adams
Guests: Fire Chief John Bennett, TA Nina Nazarian

Advisory Committee Agenda

- STM Firetruck Recommendation
- Approve Minutes
- Princeton Long Term Financial Planning and Obligations

Meeting started at 6:05 PM

Meeting Minutes

- Princeton Fire Chief John Bennett led a discussion about the past, current, and future desired fleet. The acquisition cost for fire truck had been adjusted downward from \$600K to \$525K. Chief expects the ISO requested evaluation for fire-readiness would be before years end, before any new equipment would be in service. ISO rating from 1980 was 6; rating is likely to change to a 7 or higher reflecting poorer rating that can increase homeowner insurance rates, and based on more detailed mapping of water sources to house distance, some homeowners may no longer be able to get fire insurance. Summary of the discussion included:
 - Request for a 5+ year plan that encompasses fleet, staff, storage tanks/hydrants, buildings, training/certifications, fleet financing options
 - Defer STM Article to early 2018 or May 2018 ATM, once more details and options are documented, ISO rating/insurance ramifications are understood.
 - Concerns expressed that deferring a major infrastructure purchase that the town needs may reflect the ongoing pattern of critical infrastructure being ignored. Though all agreed not enough details will be in place by Sept 7th to answer all voter questions. There is the option to call another STM before ATM when more details and options are understood.
 - AC recommendation to BOS is to not have Fire Truck article on Sept 7th STM Warrant. Motion by George, second by Don. Vote Y-4, N-1, A-1
- John tasked all AC members to review the draft list of large financial obligations current and future, and make further additions to the list, recommendations for the process, and other commentary to fulfill the request made by BOS Chair Jon Fudeman to identify the scope of current and future long-term debt, and what can the town afford to take on for new debt.
 - Discussion points included the state best practices of yearly debt service to be 5-7% of total town budget, lack of data such as building costs, some projects have options that effect upper/lower ranges of ballpark costs.
 - Everyone to look-over the August 2nd email from George that contained the current debt obligations and schedule.

- Responses to John requested no later than by early next week. John to pull the responses to a draft response to provide back to BOS at the 8/21 meeting
- Approved AC meeting minutes for June 7, June 12, July 10, and August 2. Y-5, N-0, A-1.
- Route 140 100% Design Documents now available in town hall for review

Session adjourned 7:30 PM

Upcoming AC meetings

August 21st, Joint session with BOS for STM Fire Truck 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

- Fire Department fleet summary status comparing 2017 to 2001

Minutes recorded by Wayne M. Adams, AC Member