

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Feb 21, 2017

AC members in attendance: John Shipman, George Handy, Wayne Adams, Judy Dino, Don Schoeny

Advisory Committee Agenda

- Chapter 70 project review
- FY 18 Budget Planning
- Other

Meeting started at 5:00 PM
Joint Session with Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

- Joint Session BOS and AC with Attorney Tim Corcoran to review recommendations and considerations in Tim's findings for Princeton's Chapter 70 inequity from previous fiscal years.
 - Do not pursue judicial action for remedy; too costly; spans many years; ruling if favorable may not award full requested amounts and with legal costs further drive town finances in a negative direction; ruling may also be unfavorable
 - Legislative action was attempted with state representatives and did not succeed; though this strategy should be revisited since state finances and budget change year to year.
 - DESE action with formula changes will not be forthcoming, since town is the only town with the disadvantage. Past policy changes did put a cap on inequity and has reduced the issue in FY16 and going forward
 - Applications to DESE Reserve Funds (Pothole funds) and DOR Waivers should be pursued.
 - <http://www.mass.gov/dor/docs/dls/publ/igr/2016/igr16-301.pdf>
 - Past fiscal year, Pothole was unfunded due to State's budget constraints. Previous years, this fund provides release in the tens of thousands to a few towns; typically the aggregate budget is \$1M or less. If the Fund would be replenished, successful grants would need to be several over several years to match the inequity the town has endured in previous years.
 - Tim to invite DESE Deputy Director James Wulfson to a future town meeting with BOS and AC
- Budget planning will resume next week when TA returns to the office
 - BOS have identified some over-budgeted funds and have identified \$100K-\$150K in certain departments for possible downward adjustment
 - AC still has a request to meet with town financial team to further explain the FY15-FY17 expense reports
- 6:00-6:10 , AC continued AC-only meeting in Town Hall meeting room

- 6:10-6:20
 - Lynne provided a tour and discussion of the town vault. Project costs are still being refined from original capital request submission. Project to consider scanning/off-site archival.
- 6:20-6:40
 - Judy to represent Princeton AC, along with TA to attend 5 town WRSD roundtable discussion in Rutland
 - Facilitated round-table discussion between designated members of each of the Wachusett Regional School District town's Board of Selectmen, Finance or Advisory Committee, WRSD School Committee and the Town Administrator/Manager, as well as the District's Superintendent and Business Manager. The round-table will be held on Tuesday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Rutland Community Center at 53 Glenwood Road.
 - The purpose of the round-table is to discuss not only the challenges each of our respective communities and the District face, but to encourage and engage in productive dialogue around our individual successes and our shared interests, as well as opportunities that could result in "Town-Gown" collaborations, regional stability, prosperity, and other long-term benefits. The round-table will not be televised.
 - AC members recounted the past year WRSD budget requests, town of Princeton ATM budget vote, and Advisory Committee's position
 - Draft WRSD budget for coming year has similar concerns for the AC, with above average consumer index industry percentage increases.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Next BOS/AC meeting is 2/27 for budget discussion and 2/28 for fy16 auditor's report/management letter

Handouts

- None

Minutes recorded by Wayne M. Adams, AB Member