

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2018

AC members in attendance: Jimmy O'Coin, John Shipman, George Handy, Judy Dino, Wayne Adams

AC members absent: Bill Lawton, Don Schoeny

Advisory Committee (AC) Agenda

- Review draft town budget
- Review draft town warrant article

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Started at 5:00 PM

George led a discussion about a few line item variances on the Revenue Projections budget sheet 1) FY 18 estimated and actual tax levy and a what if scenario if growth would have been restricted to not exceed 2.5%; 2) Reserve for Abatement ballooned to \$249K, while since January there has only been 66 abatements filed for totaling \$34K – much inline previous years. Discussion then led to the AC inability to make budget recommendations with questions still looming as to what the specific reason is for a line item, the amount forecasted, and if it changed from a previous year, the reason.

Motion to have AC provide list of questions to the SB for all 3 summary budget worksheets (revenue, operating expense, and capital expense). Vote 5-Y, 0-N, 0-A.

Action, John to request all questions be submitted by end of day Saturday, John to aggregate and send to TA and Selectman Richy Bisk on Sunday mid-day for researched answers to be discussed at SB meeting on Tuesday April 17th. TBD whether all questions can be researched and addressed. AC invited to SB meeting on the 17th for joint budget discussion, whereby each AC member will have 3 minutes to state anything about the budget.

AC to schedule its next budget discussion meeting on Wednesday, April 18th at 6PM

John Shipman led a discussion through the revised draft warrant article and entered previous AC decisions of Yes, No, TBD from the April 4th meeting. No new decisions were made for articles previously left as TBD. The major items left to be decided are the operating budget, the capital budget, free cash allocations, and facility engineering/construction budgets. Some comments made about the facilities articles whether other cost effective alternatives have been thoroughly pursued and investigated, such as pre-fabbed buildings for new public safety building [<https://metalbuildinghomes.org/morton-buildings/>].

AC meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM

Upcoming AC meetings

- Upcoming SB meetings, tbd whether there will be additional budget discussions and decisions: April 17th 7:30PM
- AC meeting April 18th, 6:00 PM
- AC public hearing for ATM Warrant, May 7th
- ATM May 15th

Handouts and Referenced Documents

- FY19 Budget – Revenue Projections v 3/30/2018
- Draft Warrant Article, from TA on 4/2/2018
- AC email from John Shipman on 4/12 (see below)

Minutes recorded by Wayne M. Adams, AC Member

AC Meetings Next Week



Inbox x



John W. Shipman

Apr 12 (6 days ago) ☆



to ghandy131, jimocoin, lawtonw877, me, don.schoeny, onidju, townadministra., biskselect, emorgan ▾

AC Members:

We are scheduled to meet next week as follows:

- **Tuesday, 4/17/18 @ 7:50 PM at the Annex** in a joint meeting with the Select Board to discuss the '19 budget and warrant articles. The Select Board meeting will start at 7:30 PM but an agenda item will precede our meeting. We are scheduled and posted at 7:50PM.

- **Wednesday, 4/18/18 @ 6:00 PM at the Annex** to continue our discussion on the budget and warrant.

At last night's AC meeting, Selectman Bisk invited us to join the Select Board at their Tuesday, 4/17/18 meeting. A suggestion was made for the AC to write a few questions to help guide the discussion so as to find common ground and understanding of our individual opinions regarding Princeton's '19 budget.

So, with that background, please e-mail me your questions by this Sunday at noon. I will compile the questions and send them to Nina on Monday, Patriot's Day, so she will be able to send the questions to the Select Board for their consideration prior to the Tuesday evening joint meeting. Most likely, 2-3 questions from each of us will be sufficient.

John