

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019

AC members in attendance: Wayne Adams, Judy Dino, Bill Lawton and Helga Lyons

Absent: George Handy, Krista Penning, Mary Jo Wojtusik

Selectboard members in attendance: Richard Bisk, Edith Morgan, Karen Cruise, Town Administrator Nina Nazarian

Monty Tech Presenters: Dr. Sheila Harrity, Tammy Crockett

Advisory Committee (AC) Agenda

5:00-6:00 PM

- Joint SB/AC MontyTech budget review
- Other business

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Started at 5:00 PM

Monty Tech

After room introductions, Dr. Harrity lead a discussion of Monty Tech achievements, new programs, and trends. Monty Tech is the second largest regional vocational school in Massachusetts, serving over 1,400 students from two cities and sixteen towns. A lot of discussion of the news is the new veterinary program and facility – whereby many grants and community donations funded the facility and many in-house trades were involved in constructing the facility. Tammy Crockett lead a discussion of the Monty Tech FY20 budget, chapter 70 formula's, minimum contributions and town assessments. Princeton FY2020 assessment is \$385K, an increase from FY 19 by \$52K due to two incremental students enrolling in Monty Tech. Princeton and Harvard have the largest percentage contribution share of 82.5%. Several questions were asked and answered, no outstanding information to be forthcoming.

Other business

Selectboard informed AC they did receive AC input for the Collins Center and had decided to move forward with the Center's suggested capital spend percentages as targets. AC further advised additional language to be added to the final report to enable the town to make any and all required budget adjustments to meet the needs and taxpayers abilities

to fund the town for expenses. AC recommendation is to continue the focus on debt as a percentage of total budget instead of capital-only spend percentages without consideration of operating budget and other special warrant articles. AC also advised town needed to further segregate road construction into a maintenance/operating budget and a capital budget. The Collins Center preliminary report has treated 100% of the Princeton road budget as a capital budget with a growth rate exceeding 2.5% y-o-y which will compete with other town operations and potentially lead the town to future over-rides.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Handouts:

- Monty Tech Overview and FY20 Budget Presentation
- Monty Tech FY20 Budget Book

Minutes recorded by Wayne Adams, AC Chair

Scheduled AC meetings:

- March 20th, 5PM, Highway Department Review and budget discussion
- March 27th, 5PM, Library Department Review and budget discussion
- April 24th, 6PM – Draft ATM review and AC decisions
- May 1st, 6PM – Public Hearing for ATM and AC decisions
- May 14th 6:15 – Pre-ATM Meeting to finalize remaining AC decisions
- May 14th – 7PM – ATM