

**Town of Princeton, MA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting
January 7, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. Present were Chairman - Joe O'Brien, Members -Alan Sentkowski, Raymond Dennehy and Town Administrator - Dennis Rindone.

FY08 Warrant #14

The Board reviewed and signed the payroll and vendor warrants from the Treasurer & Accountant.

Minutes:

December 26, 2007 Regular Meeting – Alan made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Joe seconded. All were in favor (2-0).

Annual Renewal

Joe moved to approve the renewal for the sale of second hand automobiles to Chris Goodnow, Goodnow Auto Sales. Alan seconded. All in favor (3-0).

FY09 Budget Draft

Dennis revised the budget. He was able to reduce it from a \$400,000 deficit from the first draft to a \$69,000 deficit. All new requests were eliminated and the estimated education increase was reduced from 10% to 8%. The library renovation program was removed with the idea that the funds could be taken out of stabilization. The revision includes increases for two employees as recommended by the Wage Study. The increases are scheduled to be implemented over a two year period. The Board will review the budget in detail and discuss further at the next meeting.

CIP Budget Request Summary

The summary of requests will be reviewed in detail at a future meeting.

Final Report of the ALS Ambulance Study Committee

Anne Littlefield, Chair of the Committee presented the final report. The findings include:

- Patient care is not a problem; however maintaining coverage by skilled paramedics is a serious concern.
- ALS capability is important to residents considering the town's distance from medical facilities.
- Currently the town uses revenue from ambulance transports to cover the entire cost of services as well as the replacement of an ambulance, this is not sustainable.

Final Report of the ALS Ambulance Study Committee – continued

Four issues that must be addressed:

- 24/7 Staffing - Dennis and Ray LaPorte will meet to discuss staffing and the possibility of entering into a collaborative agreement with Hubbardston and Sterling.
- Finances and Funding – fund readiness and capital costs from appropriations and taxation. Fund service costs from receipts reserved from the Appropriation account.
- Vehicle Replacement – adopt a fact-based vehicle replacement policy and fund from apportions and taxations.
- Operations & Administration- immediately implement the EMS module of the IMC software system.

The Board thanked the committee for a job well done. They will review the report in further detail during the budget season and will meet with the committee again at the end of March.

Other Business

- A letter from MMA was reviewed. The town did not win the Kenneth E. Pickard Memorial Innovation Contest, but will try again next year.
- The Board signed thank you letters to JoEllen Ferm, Shelia Dubman and Ken Whitney.
- The Board signed the “discharge of liens” document for the Town Pound.

At 7:00 pm the Board met with the Land Preservation Committee to discuss the final report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Secretary