

**Town of Princeton, MA  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Regular Meeting  
February 4, 2008**

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**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 #16**

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

**Minutes:**

*January 22, 2008 Regular Meeting* – Alan made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (3-0).

**Health Insurance Discussion – David Lively**

David Lively discussed estimated annual increases. Fallon has the largest increase which is expected to be between 17-20%, PMLD has used with a \$500.00 deductible. Tufts is expected to be between 4-5%. Harvard Pilgrim is very aggressive in municipal markets and David is working on getting quotes. He will also check into GIC.

The estimated insurance share is 50/50 in the private sector and 80/20 in municipalities. David will work with Dennis and more information will be available for the next meeting.

**Quarterly Report – Fire Chief Ray LaPorte**

Ray discussed staffing challenges. On average he has three people responding to a call. He is working to keep trained, up to date people focusing on the calls. He would like to provide incentives for enhanced response with the current staff. The EMS side is working well. There was discussion about a full time Fire Chief.

The town has been compensated for equipment used during the Fratacelli oil spill, however hours worked need to be submitted for compensation.

**Liquor License Application – Public Hearing**

The hearing for the application submitted by Peter J. Allard, Princeton Vineyards and Hops for a wine & malt license opened at 5:36 pm.

An issue with unpaid taxes from the previous occupant created a problem with the liquor license originally approved by the Board last year. The license stays with the property and is now in tax hold for this location. The Board will write a letter in support of Princeton Vineyards and Hops to the ABC.

Alan moved to approve a new license for Princeton Vineyards and Hops, located at Post Office Square, Suite 203. Raymond seconded. All in favor (3-0).

The hearing was closed at 5:45 pm.

### **FY09 Budget**

The Board reviewed the updated draft which adds the library project back in as a borrow as well as a reduction in new education. Budget items will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting.

### **CIP Letter**

The updated letter reflects a change in the amount for a Land Acquisition Account from \$65,000 to \$25,000, the Princeton Center shingle replacement has been moved to FY10, the WRSD oil spill was removed, the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was reduced by \$10,000, and the Wachusett Earthday amount was reduced from \$17,000 to \$12,000.

### **STM Final Warrant Summary**

The summaries will be mailed to all residents and the full warrant text will be posted by February 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Town Counsel Correspondence**

A letter from Town Counsel dated January 29, 2008 confirms recent developments to the Four Corners Project, Article 3 of the October 30, 2007 STM, does not negate the Article.

### **Resignation**

Alan moved to accept the resignation of Leslie Regh from the Agricultural Commission, effective February 1, 2008, with regrets. Raymond seconded. All in favor (3-0).

### **Single Hauler Update**

The next step is to meet with Hubbardston and Templeton to discuss a single hauler for all three towns, using third party billing. If everyone is on board a three town BOS meeting will be held. Dennis expects the new plan to be implemented by July 1, 2009.

### **Wachusett District Strategic Plan Update**

Kathy Sweeney presented an overview of the Strategic Plan. It's similar to the Master Plan in that feedback was gathered from a large variety of groups including parents, teachers, students and administrators. The goal is to coordinate across the district to think as one unit. Teacher testing, opportunities for students, cost savings and better relationships with parents and the community are part of the plan as well as better education to reach all levels of kids in the classroom, a lot is MCAS driven. Themes include:

- School culture and climate – safety and connections within communities
- Curriculum- focus on middle school - cross district testing
- Support services- students and teachers
- Personal and profession development - teachers work better together
- Structured support - planning
- Community relations – meet together, more communication
- Organized leadership – school committee itself to improve communication
- Funding – bulk rate purchases, reevaluate high student fees

The Board thanked Kathy and the School Committee for their work on the plan.

**Proposed Changes to Regional Agreement**

Bob Imber provided an update on the proposed changes. The Board reviewed correspondence from Margaret Watson with regard to the changes.

**FY09 School Budget**

Kathy Sweeney reviewed the budget. The expected increase to Princeton is 4.5%.

**Other Business**

Raymond and Joe signed a letter of support of House Docket #4651.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Secretary