

Town of Princeton, MA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting
August 18, 2008

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

FY09 Warrant #4

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

Minutes

July 21, 2008 Regular Meeting – Alan made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (2-0).

August 11, 2008 Tree Hearing – Alan made a motion to accept the minutes. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (2-0).

Committee Openings

There are currently two openings on the Advisory Board. Dennis will check to see if the current members have any recommendations. There is also one opening on the School Committee.

Resignation

Alan moved to accept the resignation of Janet Schoeny from the Personnel Board, with regrets. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (2-0).

Appointments

Catherine LePage was present for the discussion. She is interested in serving on the Personnel Board and currently works in Human Resource management.

- Alan moved to appoint Catherine H. LePage as a member of the Personnel Board with a term to expire on June 30, 2011. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (2-0).
- Alan moved to appoint Terri J. Longtine, an employee of the town and resident of Hubbardston, as a member of the Insurance Advisory Committee with a term to expire on June 30, 2009. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (2-0).
- Alan moved to appoint Andrea Caspari as a member of the Cultural Council with a term to expire on June 30, 2009. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (2-0).

Woodlawn Cemetery Deed

Alan moved to approve the sale of \$450.00 for a (2) two body lot, known as lot 15C spaces C & D in Woodlawn Cemetery for Charles and Barbara Guthrie for a two body lot in Woodlawn Cemetery known as lot 15C spaces C & D. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (2-0).

Election Warrant

Alan moved to sign the warrant for the state primary election to be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008. Raymond seconded. All were in favor (2-0).

Thank You Letter to the Secretary of Administration & Finance

The Board signed the letter to Leslie Kirwan thanking her for her work during the FY09 state budget process and PILOT program.

Public Safety Committee – Scope of Services

The committee will be formalized in September and will consist of the Board of Selectmen, the Chief of Police and Fire, an Advisory Board member and a citizen familiar with public safety. The goal is to address administrative and operational structure, including facility issues, merging of services and ALS recommendations. The committee will be creative in seeking ways to improve the overall structure. It is expected to begin in mid September and be wrap up by December 31st.

Public Comment Policy

The Board reviewed the new Public Comment Policy for meetings to be inserted in the Selectmen's Policy Handbook.

Nonagenarians Birthday Party

Alan will attend the party on August 20th at 1 pm. Raymond will also attend if his schedule allows.

State House Flag Ceremony

The town will present an official Princeton flag during a ceremony at the state house on January 29, 2009. A flag design contest is underway with the official town seal being considered as part of the design.

Wachusett Earth Day Update

Communication between West Boylston and Wachusett Earth Day is ongoing in an effort to resolve concerns.

Four Corners Conservation Project Celebration

The Trust for Public Land, Princeton Land Trust, Four Corners Preservation Society and Mass Audubon Society would like to host a public celebration on October 5th on the Town Hayfields to commemorate the completion of the Four Corners conservation project.

Alan moved to approve the request to hold a public celebration on October 5, 2008 on the Town Hayfields. Raymond seconded. All in favor (2-0).

FY08 Reserve Fund Summary

The Board reviewed the FY08 reserve fund transfers.

FY09 Expense and Revenue Update

The Board reviewed the summaries. The expense summary is still a work in progress. State aid is not yet finalized. There may be a \$25k short fall for oil and electricity.

FY09 Debt Update

The Board reviewed the debt schedule as of June 30, 2008. The Thomas Prince School and fire truck will be paid in FY10 and the highway facility in FY11.

Moody's A3 Long Term Rating

Moody's affirmed Princeton's A3 long-term rating. The manageable debt schedule helped the town achieve the rating.

Krashes Field House Celebration

Kathy Sweeny updated the Board on the celebration and dedication of the Everett Needham Field House. The dedication will take place on Sunday, August 31st from 4 to 7pm at Krashes Fields. It will be a day of free events for residents including a family field day, pony rides, food and fun. The field house will then be turned over to the Parks and Rec Committee. Many people have contributed to the project and commemorative plaques will be on display to show appreciation for their generosity.

Transportation Bond Bill

There is \$125k available to the town for a salt shed. Dennis will work with Mass Highway to receive the funds from the bond bill.

250th Celebration Steering Committee Update

The Committee updated the Board on the status of the celebration. A calendar of events will be on the web site. The "kick-off" will take place on December 31st at Wachusett Mountain. Several events are planned throughout the year including a town fair in the summer, a gala concert to be held at the Dukakis Theater with a grand finale to cap off the ten-month celebration in October. Memorabilia will be for sale on the web site. Plaques will be purchased for Historical Districts. Dennis will work with the Historical Commission on the cost. The 250th Committee has a budget of \$25k; if anything is left over it will be a gift to the town.

Hearts for Heat - 501c3

Cindy Shea, Phil Mighdoll and Steve Mirick were present for the discussion. Cindy began the Hearts for Heat program in March of 2005 in Princeton and is now branching out to surrounding towns. There was discussion about setting up the program as a 501c3. Currently all accounting is done through the town and the Trustees work with Cindy on guidelines for fuel distribution. It may also make sense to set up an account through the Trustees. The Board thanked Cindy for her hard work and dedication to the program. The Trustees will decide if setting up a trust is the best option.

Gift from Princeton, TX - Flag

The town of Princeton, TX sent their town flag as a gift to the town for the 250th birthday celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Secretary