

**Town of Princeton, MA
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting
September 2, 2008**

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

FY09 Warrant #5

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

Minutes

August 18, 2008 Regular Meeting – Alan made a motion to accept the minutes. Raymond seconded. Joe abstained. (2-0).

FY09 & FY10 Budget Pressures

- Currently there is an estimated budget shortfall between \$25,000 and 30,000 for energy cost. Dennis will check on the percentage of energy expense as it relates to the total budget.
- Veteran's benefits are estimated to be a \$5,000 shortfall.
- Parks & Rec – the cost of electricity & operating expense for the new field house – currently all fields are self-sustaining. Fees for leasing the fields may be increased to cover the cost and a comparison of fees charged by other towns will be completed.
- Regional Animal Control – Dennis will budget the remaining half in FY10.

FY09 Preliminary Tax Bill

The new tax rate may not be ready until after the bills are due. A preliminary tax bill may be sent if necessary, however the Board would like to avoid if possible. The Board will discuss further when they meet with the Assessors.

DOR will meet with Dennis and the Assessors on Thursday. Raymond or Joe will attend if available.

Route 140 Task Force

The first meeting will take place on Thursday. It's an organizational meeting to bring the group together and discuss how to move forward.

Committee Openings

There are currently two full positions and two alternates on the Advisory Board. John Shipman and Rudd Mason may be interested.

No one has expressed interest in serving on the School Committee. Dennis will keep this on the agenda until the position is filled.

WRSD FY09 Third Revised Assessment Letter

The Board reviewed the letter – Princeton's assessment will not be increased.

WRHS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Board has been invited to a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of the newly renovated high school on September 21st.

MMA Statewide 6th Grade Essay Contest

Alan will talk with the school to peak interest in the contest. He is a member of the MMA.

PMLD Town Common – Evergreen Planting Request

PMLD would like to the town to plant evergreen trees in the Common to avoid cutting live trees. The Board will send a letter to PMLD letting stating they will consider the request but will need a tree for this year.

State Reimbursements Received

Library grant - \$47,000

Four Corners Hayfields - \$500,000

Waste Reduction Task Force Update

Dennis reviewed the household hazardous waste disposal policy for Hubbardston, Leominster and Westminster. A workshop will take place on Thursday for the Waste Reduction Task Force. The goal is to send out to bid in November.

Employee Appreciation Barbecue

The barbecue will be held in September. Dates are being reviewed.

DCR Forest Cutting Plan

The Board reviewed the cutting plan schedule in October for property on East Princeton Road that abuts the DPW and Krashes Fields.

Regional Animal Control Officer Update

Progress is being made and Dennis is working with the Town Administrator in Sterling.

Public Safety Committee – Scope of Services Discussion

Police Chief Charlie Schmohl and Fire Chief Raymond LaPorte were present for the discussion. With Chief Schmohl likely to retire in June, the Board wants to look at the overall structure of public safety and determine the vision for the future. Staffing, facility, IMC software integration and reorganizing public safety in Princeton in a way that makes sense for the future will be reviewed. A needs assessment will be completed by looking at how the fire and police departments operate and anything that overlaps will be considered to allow better staffing. The goal is for the Board to set forth the vision and expectation of public safety. Raymond will draft the scope of services for the next meeting.

Charlie and Ray will work with Dennis on ideas and names of people to serve on the committee.

At 6:45 pm the Board voted to go into executive session to return to regular meeting in the Town Hall. All were in favor (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Secretary