

Special Town Meeting Princeton, Ma 01541 March 10, 2009

Warrant duly posted: February 19, 2009
Inhabitants notified by mail: February 23, 2009
Advisory Board Hearing: March 2, 2009
Quorum needed: 81
Voters Present: 95
Moderator: Harry Pape
Checkers/Counters: Judy Dino, Bonnie Steadman
Meeting called to order: 7:40pm
Meeting adjourned: 9:04pm

The Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and then requested a moment of silence for the Town Administrator, Dennis Rindone, who passed away on March 1st, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the full Warrant
Unanimous **7:41PM**

All articles are approved by the Advisory Board unless otherwise noted.

Announcements:

Selectman Alan Sentkowski spoke about Mr. Rindone's family and the memorial service that is planned for Sunday, March 15th.

Town Clerk Lynne Grettum announced the new Town of Princeton website. The site will be launched on March 11, 2009.

ARTICLE 1: Voted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 82A, §2, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to designate the Board or Officer to issue permits for the purpose of making a trench excavation, as set out in M.G.L. c. 82A, § 4 and 520 CMR 14.00, and to perform any obligations pursuant to the terms of said statute and regulations

Unanimous **7:52PM**

ARTICLE 2: Voted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 60 §15, to charge for each written demand issued by the Tax Collector a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) to be added to and collected as part of the tax, effective as of July 1, 2009

Unanimous **7:54PM**

ARTICLE 3: Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$4,500 to satisfy the Town's financial obligation under the Wachusett Earthday contract signed in Fiscal Year 2009

Unanimous **7:55PM**

ARTICLE 4: Voted to amend Chapter XII (Dog Restraint and Regulations) of the Princeton General By laws as follows:

In Section 10, under subsection 1, entitled "Annual License", change the fee for "Male" from \$10.00 to \$15.00, change the fee for "Female" from \$10.00 to \$15.00, and change

the fee for “Spayed/Neutered” from \$6.00 to \$10.00, so that subsection 1 will read as follows:

1. Annual License:	Male	\$15.00
	Female	\$15.00
	Spayed/Neutered	\$10.00
	Transfer Fee	\$ 2.00
	Replacement Tag	\$ 1.00

Motion carried

7:57PM

ARTICLE 5: Voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for and accept a Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 from the Massachusetts Highway Department, said funds to be used for reclaiming and resurfacing Gates Road and making improvements to the drainage system on Gates Road.

Discussion:

Selectman Alan Sentkowski explained that the STRAP program has been in existence for many years for town with fewer than 3000 residents. New legislation has changed the population requirement to less than 7000 which would allow Princeton to apply.

Road Advisory Committee (RAC) member, Michael Splaine, explained that the RAC was always looking to find alternate ways to fund road improvement. In answer to voter questions Mr. Splaine also offered the following:

- STRAP money is a supplement to Chapter 90 funds
- This Article only allows the RAC to apply for the grant with no guarantee of receiving the \$500K grant or possible receiving less.
- Payback of the grant was traditionally 30% over 10 years, now there is no payback of grant funds
- The town must demonstrate that it can pay the cost of the required road improvement above the \$500K request

Selectman Alan Sentkowski explained that the Gates Rd. project was not related to ice storm damage, and that the road has been on the RAC long term plan for several years. Mr. Splaine asked for public acknowledgement of the great job done by the highway dept. after the storm.

Unanimous

8:06PM

ARTICLE 6: Voted to transfer the sum of \$1,347.00 from the Recreation Revolving Y.A.H.O.O. expense account #26-5-630-001 to the 250th Anniversary expense account #03-5-695-781

Unanimous

8:08PM

ARTICLE 7: Voted to accept the provisions of M. G. L. c. 59, §57C to establish a semi-annual preliminary tax payment system, or take any other action relative thereto.

Unanimous

8:17PM

ARTICLE 8: Voted that the sum of \$5,200,000 is hereby appropriated to pay costs of emergency expenses incurred as a result of the ice storm in December 2008, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8(9) of the General Laws, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the town therefore.

Discussion:

Selectman Joseph O'Brien gave a brief overview of the Article. Town was allowed to borrow \$4M for 90 days (due April 6th) under Emergency Authorization from the Dept. of Revenue (DOR) to pay bills incurred during the first few weeks after the ice storm. Emergency Finance Board which is made up of DOR, Atty. Gen. and Sec. of State approved borrowing up to \$5.2M based on FEMA guidelines. Article gives the Town the authority to borrow does not mean that the Town will borrow up to the limit.

Selectman Alan Sentkowski made it clear that \$2.7M had already been spent.

Jonathan Fitch, PMLD manager, made a short presentation which included a spreadsheet explaining the cost of the storm clean up to date and projected future cost for the remainder of the work. Cleanup efforts involve town land, PMLD lines, dangerous trees and hangers, and right of way (10' from edge of road). Approximately 1000 tree removals and 2000 hangers.

All work must go out to bid, and comply with FEMA guidelines. Interest on loan must be paid by the Town as it is not reimbursable. Money can be borrowed in bands. Once the entire cleanup to correct safety issues has occurred, additional work will be evaluated.

2/3 Vote Required

Moderator declared the motion carried on a voice vote. A voter immediately called for a revote.

Moderator called for a counted vote which resulted in the following:

Yes 69

No 12

Moderator declared that the motion carried

8:55PM

ARTICLE 9: Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$18,150 to the Town Environmental Clean-up Account #03-5-420-201 for three years of ground water monitoring at the former town landfill

Unanimous

8:56PM

ARTICLE 10: Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$46,320 to the Town Environmental Clean-up Account #03-5-420-201 for remedial activity of groundwater located at the public safety complex and town hall/library area

Unanimous

8:58PM

ARTICLE 11: Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$20,000 to continue the Town Building Maintenance program to defray the costs for materials and repairs to town buildings, and further to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$10,000 to continue the Grounds Maintenance program for a total of \$30,000

Motion Carried

8:59PM

ARTICLE 12: Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$25,000 to the Infrastructure Stabilization Account #85-5-041-000

Point of order - Voter asked whether the 2/3 vote requirement was for transferring money into or out of the stabilization. Moderator answered that 2/3 was required in both cases

2/3 Vote Required

Unanimous

9:03PM

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting.

Unanimous

9:04PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Grettum, Town Clerk