

Annual Town Meeting Princeton, Ma 01541 May 12, 2009

Warrant duly posted: May 4, 2009
Inhabitants notified by mail: May 5, 2009
Advisory Board Hearing: May 4, 2009
Quorum needed: 81
Voters Present: 115
Moderator: Harry Pape
Checkers/Counters: Suzanne Dolphin, Alexander Hilton, Susan Schlaikjer
Meeting called to order: 7:08
Meeting adjourned: 8:36

Moderator Harry Pape opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator asked all non-voters to identify themselves for the tellers.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the full warrant.

Unanimous

7:09PM

Announcements made by the Moderator:

Date and time of the Memorial Day Parade – Sunday, May 24, 1PM

250th event – Princeton Center Day – May 16th

Citizen of the Year – Awarded to Anne Littlefield

Moderator read the election results from the May 11th Annual Town Election.

Advisory Board has approved all articles except as noted.

ARTICLE 1. Voted to hear the reports of the Town Officers and any outstanding committees

Advisory Board – No opinion

Unanimous

7:22PM

ARTICLE 2. Voted under the provisions of Section 108, Chapter 41, of the Massachusetts General Laws to fix the salaries of the following Town Officers for the ensuing year (FY10)

Unanimous

7:24PM

	<u>FY09</u>	<u>FY10</u>
Moderator	\$ 25	\$ 25
Selectmen	\$1,500	\$1,500
Assessors	\$4,500	\$4,500

ARTICLE 3. Voted the FY10 appropriation by department as set forth in Article 3 with the following exceptions: Police/Dispatch line item “3rd Shift Recall Salary” (\$10,000) was deleted in its entirety, and “Health Insurance” was amended to \$290,000.00. The Ice Storm BAN account was HELD for separate discussion.

There was no discussion and a vote was taken on the budget with the above amendments.

Unanimous

7:28PM

HELD Article – Ice Storm BAN \$23,625

Discussion:

Resident Rick McCowan – If the state does not come through with the 25% funding what’s it going to cost us? Selectboard member Joe O’Brien responded that the amount shown represents the interest on the original borrowing of \$1.8M through January 6. If the state does not cover the 25% it is unknown at this time what the additional cost would be. Bids are coming in lower than estimated, but until the town goes out to bid the amount cannot be determined.

With no further discussion a vote was taken on the HELD item:

Unanimous

7:31PM

ARTICLE 3

DEPARTMENT	FY09	FY10	FY10	FY10
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AB
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:				
Moderator				
Salary	25.00	25.00		
Expense	50.00	50.00		
Sub-Total	75.00		75.00	
Board of Selectmen				
Salaries	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Expense	2,550.00	1,500.00		
Sub-Total	4,050.00		3,000.00	
Annual Audit				
Expense	9,500.00	14,500.00	14,500.00	
Town Administrator				
Salary	86,761.00	86,761.00		
Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00		
Sub-Total	89,261.00		89,261.00	
Administrative Assistants				
Salaries	33,000.00	33,000.00		
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Sub-Total	34,500.00		34,500.00	
Reserve Fund				
Expense	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY09	FY10	FY10	FY10
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AB
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
Town Accountant				
Salary	24,336.00	24,336.00		
Expense	2,960.00	3,319.00		
Sub-Total	27,296.00		27,655.00	
Board of Assessors				
Assessors Salaries	4,500.00	4,500.00		
Assessor Clerk Salary	18,428.00	18,428.00		
Principal Assessor Salary	26,333.00	26,333.00		
Info. Tech. Mgr. Salary	12,289.00	12,289.00		
Revaluation Salary	6,000.00	6,000.00		
Expense	10,582.00	10,582.00		
Sub-Total	78,132.00		78,132.00	
Treasurer				
Salary	27,633.00	27,633.00		
Expense	7,800.00	7,800.00		
Sub-Total	35,433.00		35,433.00	
Tax Collector				
Salary	37,805.00	37,805.00		
Expense	8,225.00	8,225.00		
Sub-Total	46,030.00		46,030.00	
Town Counsel				
Expense	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Town Clerk				
Salary	30,420.00	30,420.00		
Expenses	5,000.00	4,700.00		
Sub-Total	35,420.00		35,120.00	
Elections & Registration				
Salaries	3,500.00	1,200.00		
Expense	5,463.00	3,025.00		
Sub-Total	8,963.00		4,225.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY09	FY10	FY10	FY10
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AB
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
Conservation Commission				
Salaries				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Sub-Total	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Planning Board				
Administrative Assistant Salary	14,188.00	14,188.00		
Expense	2,636.00	2,636.00		
Sub-Total	16,824.00		16,824.00	
Board of Appeals				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Open Space Committee				
Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Agricultural Commission				
Expense		1,000.00	1,000.00	
Town Building Operations				
Salaries	21,453.00	21,453.00		
Expense	49,845.00	49,845.00		
Sub-Total	71,298.00		71,298.00	
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 509,782.00		\$ 510,053.00	
PUBLIC SAFETY:				
Police/Dispatch				
Police non-union Salaries	113,380.00	219,116.00		
Police Union Salaries	293,084.00	208,725.00		
Dispatch Union Salaries	171,069.00	176,763.00		
3rd Shift Recall Salary	10,000.00	0	Amended at Town Meeting	
Expense	88,600.00	88,600.00		
Sub-Total	676,133.00		693,204.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY09	FY10	FY10	FY10
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AB
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
Fire Department				
Salaries	112,804.00	112,804.00		
Ambulance Readiness	36,000.00	36,000.00		
Vehicle Allowance; Chief	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Expense	69,515.00	69,515.00		
Sub-Total	221,319.00		221,319.00	
Animal Control				
Animal Inspector Salary	500.00	500.00		
Animal Control Salary	8,469.00	8,469.00		
Expense	5,600.00	1,900.00		
Sub-Total	14,569.00		10,869.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:	\$ 912,021.00		\$ 925,392.00	
SCHOOLS				
Wachusett Regional School				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	3,824,422.00	3,909,858.00		
Operations Assessment	464,578.00	368,206.00		
Transportation	75,338.00	146,368.00		
Long Term Debt	185,260.00	227,214.00		
Capital Program Assessment	-	-		
Environmental Clean-up	3,280.00	9,770.00		
Sub-total	4,552,878.00		4,661,416.00	
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	211,475.00	212,545.00	212,545.00	
TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$ 4,764,353.00		\$ 4,873,961.00	
PUBLIC WORKS:				
Highway				
Salaries	284,084.00	284,084.00		
Expense	220,325.00	220,325.00		
Sub-Total	504,409.00		504,409.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY09	FY10	FY10	FY10
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AB
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
Snow/Ice Removal				
Expense	140,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00	
Road Reconstruction	175,000.00	175,000.00	175,000.00	
Street Lights				
Expense	9,062.00	9,062.00	9,062.00	
Tree Warden				
Salary	1,334.00	1,334.00		
Expense	12,000.00	12,000.00		
Sub-Total	13,334.00		13,334.00	
Cemeteries				
Salaries	17,268.00	17,268.00		
Expense	2,872.00	2,872.00		
Sub-Total	20,140.00		20,140.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$861,945.00		\$ 861,945.00	
HUMAN SERVICES:				
Trustee of Trust Funds				
Expense	-	-	-	
Council on Aging				
Salary	13,729.00	13,729.00		
Expense	1,300.00	1,700.00		
Sub-Total	15,029.00		15,429.00	
Veterans Services				
Salary	750.00	750.00		
Expense	2,265.00	6,765.00		
Sub-Total	3,015.00		7,515.00	
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	18,044.00		22,944.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY09	FY10	FY10	FY10
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AB
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
CULTURE & RECREATION:				
Library				
Salaries	94,180.00	94,180.00		
Expense	47,944.00	47,944.00		
Sub-Total	142,124.00		142,124.00	
Parks & Recreation				
Salaries	8,000.00	4,000.00		
Expense	4,100.00	4,100.00		
Sub-Total	12,100.00		8,100.00	
Historical Commission				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Memorial Day				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	\$156,724.00		\$ 152,724.00	
DEBT & INTEREST:				
Thomas Prince School	543,033.00	542,553.00	542,553.00	
Library Renovation (Exterior)	39,000.00	34,620.00	34,620.00	
Highway Facility	50,333.00	48,200.00	48,200.00	
Police Cruiser (1)	10,600.00	-	-	
Police Cruisers (2)	20,946.00	21,572.00	21,572.00	
Fire Truck	83,513.00	80,108.00	80,108.00	
Bentley Purchase	49,374.00	48,230.00	48,230.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY09	FY10	FY10	FY10
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AB
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
General Interest	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Ice Storm BAN		23,625.00	23,625.00	HELD
TOTAL DEBT	\$ 811,799.00		\$ 813,908.00	
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Retirement	127,187.00	140,251.00		
Life & Fringe	6,907.00	10,607.00		
FICA/Medicare	33,000.00	34,000.00		
Health Insurance	285,000.00	290,000.00	Changed from 295,000 to 290,000	
Town Insurance	100,000.00	92,000.00		
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 552,094.00		\$ 566,858.00	
GRAND TOTAL:	\$8,586,762.00		\$ 8,727,785.00	

ARTICLE 4. Voted to pass over this article.

Advisory Board – No opinion

Unanimous

7:32PM

ARTICLE 5. Voted to establish the FY10 ambulance operating budget. Receipts for ambulance services received in FY10 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into a receipt reserved for appropriation account established in FY01. Appropriations from said account to be made at either the annual or special town meetings for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Town's ambulance service, i.e. salary for ambulance employees, vehicle maintenance, fuel, equipment and operating supplies. The requested appropriation for the FY10 ambulance-operating budget is \$44,000.00 for salary and \$33,150.00 for expenses for a total budget of \$77,150.00 any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years.

Unanimous

7:35PM

ARTICLE 6. Voted to establish the FY10 trash operating budget. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY10 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into a trash enterprise fund account established in FY08. Appropriations from said account to be made at either the annual or special town meetings for the purpose of paying for the proper disposal of solid waste generated within the town. The requested appropriation for the FY10 trash-operating budget is \$80,000.00. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years.

Unanimous

7:36PM

ARTICLE 7. Voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract with Waste Management, Inc., pursuant to Section 4, Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, for a term of five (5) years to establish a curbside waste collection program under the HPT (Hubbardston/Princeton/Templeton) Trash Reduction Program, which includes a pay as you throw (PAYT) component to defray the cost of disposal of the solid waste collected; and to authorize the Board of Health to set a fee per container for the disposal of the town's solid waste; said program will not be included in the tax base, and will be self sufficient and voluntary.

Motion Carries

7:46PM

ARTICLE 8. Voted to authorize FY10 revolving funds for certain Town departments as written under Article 8

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY2009 Spending Limit	FY2010 Spending Limit
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Administrator	Fees from Bldg, Wiring, Fire and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$65,973	\$65,973
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Administrator	Fees from Bldg, Wiring, Fire and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$25,000	\$25,000
Library	Library Director	Copy Machine, Fax, Fines and Fees	Defray Operational Expenses	\$4,000	\$4,000
Parks and Recreation	Recreation Comm. Chairman	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Provide Recreational Programs & Pay Park Director Salary	\$35,000	\$35,000
Parks and Recreation	Recreation Comm. Chairman	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Maintenance of Parks	\$35,000	\$35,000
Princeton Center	Princeton Center Director	Rental fees	Defray Operational & Maintenance Exp.	\$65,973	\$65,973
Board of Health	Board of Health Town Administrator	Permits & Inspections	Salary & Expense	\$35,000	\$35,000
Total Spending				\$265,946	\$265,946

ADVISORY BOARD APPROVES

Unanimous**7:47PM**

ARTICLE 9. Voted to transfer from the library expense account #01-5-610-780 the sum of \$50 to the Goodnow Book Expense Account for the purchase of books for the Library, as required by the terms of the Goodnow Deed of Gift.

Unanimous**7:48PM**

ARTICLE 10. Voted to transfer from the FY09 undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$2,000 for town concerts, the expenditure of such funds to be authorized by the Board of Selectmen.

Unanimous**7:49PM**

ARTICLE 11. Voted to authorize the Selectmen to contract and accept any grants from the Mass. Highway Department for the construction of any road or related work that may be allotted to the Town for the ensuing year.

Unanimous**7:50PM**

ARTICLE 12. Voted to amend Chapter XII (Dog Restraint and Regulations) of the Princeton General Bylaws as follows with the exception of Section 1(c) (1) as noted below.

Amend Section 1(c)(1) by deleting the following language:

“or (b) is not a threat to public safety”, so that Section 1(c)(1) reads as follows:

”Public nuisance” - Any dog shall be deemed a public nuisance when such dog:

(1) is elsewhere than on the premises of its keeper unless such dog is then under the control of a person competent to control and restrain such dog.

Discussion:

Resident David Krashes spoke against amending Section 1 (c) (1) as written in the warrant. Mr. Krashes made a motion which was seconded to remove all of the words from “amend Section 1 (c) (1)” to the definition of public nuisance and ending with the words restrain such dog so that the present bylaw definition of public nuisance remains unchanged.

Motion was seconded and a vote taken.

Motion carried**8:00PM**

Amend Section 1(d) by deleting the word “Dog” and replacing it with “Animal Control” and deleting the word “dogs” and replacing it with “animals” so that Section 1(d) reads as follows:

(d) “Animal Control Officer”: Shall mean a person appointed by the Board of Selectmen to enforce the laws relating to animals.

And throughout Chapter XII replace all references to “Dog Officer” with “Animal Control Officer”

Amend Section 5 “Disposition of Unclaimed dogs” by adding the following new language at the end of said section:

“An adoption fee of \$50 will be assessed at the time of adoption. No dog or cat shall be released for adoption as a pet without the written agreement from the adopter guaranteeing that the animal will be neutered or spayed. Vaccination fees, licensing fees, and veterinary costs shall be charged if applicable, and are above and beyond the adoption fee.”

And amend the second paragraph of Section 7 “penalty” by reducing the number of “notices of violations” from 5 to 3, so that the second paragraph of Section 7 reads as follows: “Owners of dogs who receive (3) or more

notices of violations of the by-law shall be subject to a hearing before the Selectboard under the provisions of Chapter 140, Section 157 of the General Laws.”

And to amend Section 10 “fees” under subsection 4 “Penalty for Violations of Bylaws by deleting the penalty schedule and replacing it with the following:

First Offense	\$10.00
Second Offense	\$25.00
Third and subsequent offenses	\$50.00

The remaining amendments were discussed and voted.

Unanimous

8:05PM

ARTICLE 13. Voted to amend the Zoning Map to include the Rural Preservation Overlay District (RPOD) boundaries as approved under Article 4 of the February 26th, 2008 Special Town Meeting.

Unanimous

8:07PM

ARTICLE 14. Voted to amend Section X “Definitions” of the Zoning By-Laws by deleting the definition of “Lot Frontage” and replacing it with the following language:

Lot Frontage: A lot line coinciding with the sideline of a street, which provides legal rights of vehicular access to the lot, said line to be measured continuously along a single street

Unanimous

8:10PM

ARTICLE 15. Voted to amend the Princeton Zoning By-Laws by adding the following new Section XVII Special Residential Use Regulations, Accessory Apartment Bylaw;

And to amend Section III, Residential-Agricultural District, by adding a new subsection (Q) to read as follows:

(Q) Subject to a Special Permit from the Planning Board acting pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 9 and Section XVII of this Bylaw, Special Residential Use Regulations, an Accessory Apartment.

And to amend Section III 1 (A), Residential-Agricultural District, which currently reads:

One family detached dwelling, provided that there shall be only one (1) such dwelling per lot, together with garage, private stable, wood shed, and similar accessory buildings normal to such use.

To read:

One family detached dwelling, provided that there shall be only one (1) such dwelling per lot except as otherwise allowed under this Section, together with garage, private stable, wood shed, and similar accessory buildings normal to such use.

SECTION XVII SPECIAL RESIDENTIAL USE REGULATIONS:**1. Accessory Apartment****A) Purposes**

The purposes of the Accessory Apartment bylaw are to provide small dwelling units to rent without adding to the number of buildings in the Town or substantially altering the appearance of the Town; to provide alternative housing options; and to enable owners of detached single-family dwellings larger than required for their present needs to share space and the burdens of homeownership.

B) Procedures

Application for a Special Permit may be made in accordance with Section VIII (3) of this Bylaw and M.G.L. c.40A, Section 9. In any district in which an accessory apartment is allowed by Special Permit, the Planning Board, serving as the Special Permit Granting Authority as set forth in the regulations of the applicable zoning district, may grant a Special Permit for an accessory apartment provided that all of the following conditions are met.

- (1) A plot plan and scaled architectural drawings of the existing dwelling unit and proposed addition (if any) shall be submitted, showing location of the building on the lot, location of septic system, and parking. For an accessory apartment, a plot plan conforming to these requirements shall satisfy the requirement for a Site Plan under Section XII.
- (2) The accessory apartment shall be located within a single-family dwelling or in an accessory structure on the same lot, such as an attached garage or a detached garage or barn, and shall clearly be a subordinate part of the building.
- (3) The accessory apartment shall not exceed 900 square feet or one-third of the gross living area of the dwelling, nor shall it contain more than two bedrooms; provided, however, that this condition may be modified or waived in the discretion of the Planning Board.
- (4) The applicant shall be an owner occupant of the premises. As part of the special permit application, the owner shall certify in writing that he or she is, and shall remain, an occupant of either the principal single-family dwelling or the accessory apartment.
- (5) Not more than one accessory apartment shall be permitted on a lot.
- (6) The exterior appearance of the buildings shall remain, to the extent practicable, that of a single-family dwelling. Unless otherwise required by the Massachusetts State Building Code, any new exterior stairs and any new entrance needed to provide primary or secondary means of egress for the accessory apartment shall be located on the side or rear of the buildings.
- (7) There shall be at least one additional off street parking space to serve the accessory apartment, with access to the driveway serving the single-family dwelling.
- (8) The septic system serving the accessory dwelling shall meet current Title V regulations and the regulations of the Princeton Board of Health.

(9) Upon filing the application for a special permit for an accessory apartment, the Applicant shall forward a copy of the application to the Princeton Historical Commission.

(10) The Special Permit shall provide that in the event that the title to the lot is transferred to a new owner, or the owner-occupant ceases to reside on the premises, the Special Permit expires automatically

and the new owner(s), if they desire to rent an accessory apartment on the premises, shall be required to file a new application for a Special Permit in accordance with this bylaw.

(11) Any accessory apartments in existence at the time of adoption of this bylaw and which are not entitled to protection pursuant to M.G.L. c 40A §§6 or 7 or Section VII.2 of this Bylaw, must be brought

into compliance with the requirements of this section by filing an application for Special Permit and satisfying the procedures and requirements set forth herein. Fines shall be levied in accordance with Section VII. 1. (A) of this bylaw if the owner of an existing accessory apartment fails to apply to the Planning Board for a special permit for an accessory apartment before December 31, 2010.

C) Other

No construction shall commence without issuance of a building permit by the Building Inspector, and there shall be no use or occupancy of the accessory apartment until the Building Inspector has issued a certificate of occupancy.

Discussion:

Planning Board member Mark Canfield stated after he moved the Article that Section XVII was slightly different than the Warrant article as follows: Section B3 of section 1 was deleted, and the other items in section 1 were renumbered.

Resident Phil Connors offered an amendment to strike section 1 B3 (9) from the bylaw. The motion was seconded. There was no discussion of this amendment, and a vote was taken

Motion failed 8:27PM

A vote was taken on the full warrant article as amended.

**2/3 Vote Required
Motion carried by voice vote 8:30PM**

Point of order by Town Counsel - Was the vote the 2/3s necessary to pass a zoning amendment?

Moderator called for voters to hold up voting cards, and then declared the vote was 2/3.

ARTICLE 16. Voted to transfer from the Town Administrator Salaries account #01-5-123-100 the sum of \$3500.00 and from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 the sum of \$16,500.00 for a total of \$20,000.00 to the Town Administrator Transition account #035-123-780 to cover the costs incurred during the transition to a new Town Administrator in FY09 and FY10.

**Advisory Board – No opinion
Unanimous 8:33PM**

ARTICLE 17. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #27-5-999-000 the sum of \$52,000.00 and from the Wachusett Regional School District account #01-5-320-600 the sum of \$26,654.00 and from the Ambulance Readiness account #01-5-231-780 the sum of \$6,520.23 for a total of \$85,174.23 to the Snow/Ice removal expense account #01-5-423-780 to offset the FY09 Snow and Ice Removal expenses.

Unanimous

8:35PM

ARTICLE 18. Voted to pass over this article

Unanimous

8:36PM

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the Town Meeting.

Unanimous

8:36PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne F. Grettum, Town Clerk