

Annual Town Meeting Princeton, MA 01541 May 13th, 2008

Warrant duly posted: April 17, 2008
Inhabitants notified by mail: April 28, 2008
Advisory Board Hearing: May 5, 2008
Quorum needed: 78
Voters present: 136
Moderator: Harry Pape
Checkers/counters: Marcia Sands, Jane Weisman, Judy Dino, Ellen O'Brien
Meeting called to order: 7:09PM
Meeting adjourned: 9:33PM

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 full reading of the warrant.

Unanimous

7:10PM

The Moderator made some announcements:

- The town's 250th celebration events are listed on the inside cover of the Warrant. More events are in the planning stage.
- Memorial Day Observance activities will take place on Monday May 26th
- Announced the results of the May 12, 2008 Election

The Selectboard announced that in lieu of dedicating the Town Report to an outstanding citizen there would henceforth be a dedication of the Town Meeting to an outstanding citizen. There will be a plaque in the Town Hall with the names of those who are chosen on an annual basis. Selectboard chairman Joseph O'Brien announced the 2008 recipient as Tom Lynch. Mr. O'Brien spoke of Mr. Lynch's generational impact on the town having served on the Conservation Committee since its inception, as member of the Road Advisory Committee, and as a consultant on many projects which have preserved the beauty and character of the town.

A motion was made and seconded to recess the Annual Town Meeting to convene the Special Town Meeting.

Unanimous

7:23PM

The Special Town Meeting was called to order, business was completed, and the meeting was dissolved.

8:35PM

Annual Town meeting reconvened

8:35PM

All Articles are approved by the Advisory Board unless noted.

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

Unanimous

8:35PM

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

	FY09
Moderator	\$ 25
Selectmen	\$1,500
Assessors	\$4,500

Unanimous

8:36PM

ARTICLE 3. Moved and seconded the FY09 appropriation by department as set forth in Article 3 as printed with the following exceptions: the Wachusett Regional School District Operations Assessment to read \$464,578 and a change to the Bentley Purchase Interest to \$49, 374, and a change under Miscellaneous Expenses Health Insurance to \$285,000, and to transfer the sum of \$31,039 from the overlay surplus account #27-5-999-002 to offset the FY09 tax rate.

ARTICLE 3

DEPARTMENT	FY08	FY09	FY09	FY09
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AB
		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	1,500.00	2,550.00		
Sub-Total	3,000.00		4,050.00	
Annual Audit				
Expense	9,500.00	9,500.00	9,500.00	
Town Administrator				
Salary	82,343.00	86,761.00		

DEPARTMENT	FY08 BUDGET	FY09 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY09 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY09 AB RECOMMENDS
Expense	2,500.00			
Sub-Total	84,843.00		89,261.00	
Administrative Assistants				
Salaries	28,617.00	33,000.00		
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Sub-Total	30,117.00		34,500.00	
Reserve Fund				
Expense	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	
Town Accountant				
Salary	19,573.00	24,336.00		
Expense	2,905.00	2,960.00		
Sub-Total	22,478.00		27,296.00	
Board of Assessors				
Assessors Salaries	4,500.00	4,500.00		
Assessor Clerk Salary	17,264.00	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		
Expense	10,582.00	10,582.00		
Sub-Total	70,968.00		78,132.00	
Treasurer				
Salary	26,514.00	27,633.00		
Expense	7,675.00	7,800.00		
Sub-total	34, 189.00		35,433.00	Sub-total
Tax Collector				
Salary	36,224.00	37,805.00		
Expense	8,225.00	8,225.00		
Sub-Total	44,449.00		46,030.00	
Town Counsel				
Expense	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY08 BUDGET	FY09 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY09 Sub-total To Be Voted On	FY09 AB RECOMMENDS
Salary	26,029.00	30,420.00		
Expenses	5,750.00	5,000.00		
Sub-Total	31,779.00		35,420.00	
Elections & Registration				
Salaries	2,100.00	3,500.00		
Expense	3,150.00	5,463.00		
Sub-Total	5,250.00		8,963.00	
Conservation Commission				
Salaries				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Sub-Total	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Planning Board				
Administrative Assistant Salary	13,307.00	14,188.00		
Expense	2,636.00	2,636.00		
Sub-Total	15,943.00		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	
Town Building Operations				
Salaries	21,410.00	21,453.00		
Expense	45,500.00	49,845.00		
Sub-Total	66,910.00		71,298.00	
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 473,551.00		\$ 509,782.00	
PUBLIC SAFETY:				
Police/Dispatch				
Police non-union Salaries	107,283.00	113,380.00		
Police Union Salaries	275,113.00	293,084.00		
Dispatch Union Salaries	162,482.00	171,069.00		

DEPARTMENT	FY 08 BUDGET	FY09 PROPOSED	FY09 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY09 AB RECOMMENDS
3rd Shift Recall Salary	-	10,000.00		
Expense	82,000.00	88,600.00		
Sub-Total	626,878.00		676,133.00	
Fire Department				
Salaries	104,682.00	115,804.00		
Ambulance Readiness	-	36,000.00		
Expense	67,236.00	69,515.00		
Sub-Total	171,918.00		221,319.00	
Animal Control				
Animal Inspector Salary	500.00	500.00		
Animal Control Salary	8,065.00	8,469.00		
Expense	1,900.00	5,600.00		
Sub-Total	10,465.00		14,569.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:	\$ 809,261.00		\$ 912,021.00	
SCHOOLS				
Wachusett Regional School				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	3,713,470.00	3,824,422.00		
Operations Assessment	443,550.00	464,578.00		
Transportation	121,403.00	75,338.00		
Long Term Debt	166,963.00	185,260.00		
Capital Program Assessment	6,165.00	-		
Environmental Clean-up	-	3,280.00		
Sub-total	4,451,551.00		4,552,878.00	HELD
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	191,525.00	211,475.00	211,475.00	
TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$ 4,643,076.00		\$ 4,764,353.00	
PUBLIC WORKS:				
Highway				
Salaries	272,083.00	284,084.00		
Expense	216,215.00	220,325.00		
Sub-Total	488,298.00		504,409.00	
Snow/Ice Removal				
Expense	120,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY08 BUDGET	FY09 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY09 Sub-total To Be Voted On	FY09 AB RECOMMENDS
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	1,270.00	1,334.00		
Expense	12,000.00	12,000.00		
Sub-Total	13,270.00		13,334.00	
Cemeteries				
Salaries	17,077.00	17,268.00		
Expense	2,406.00	2,872.00		
Sub-Total	19,483.00		20,140.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 825,113.00		\$ 861,945.00	
HUMAN SERVICES:				
Trustee of Trust Funds				
Expense	250.00	-	-	
Council on Aging				
Salary	12,151.00	13,729.00		
Expense	1,300.00	1,300.00		
Sub-Total	13,451.00		15,029.00	
Veterans Services				
Salary	500.00	750.00		
Expense	2,265.00	2,265.00		
Sub-Total	2,765.00		3,015.00	
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	\$ 16,466.00		18,044.00	
CULTURE & RECREATION:				
Library				
Salaries	84,082.00	94,180.00		
Expense	46,100.00	47,944.00		
Sub-Total	130,182.00		142,124.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY08 BUDGET	FY09 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY09 Sub-total To Be Voted On	FY09 AB RECOMMENDS
Parks & Recreation				
Salaries	12,000.00	8,000.00		
Expense	4,100.00	4,100.00		
Sub-Total	16,100.00		12,100.00	
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	\$ 148,782.00		\$ 156,724.00	
DEBT & INTEREST:				
Thomas Prince School	578,783.00	543,033.00	543,033.00	
Library Renovation (Exterior)	4,500.00	39,000.00	39,000.00	
Highway Facility	52,466.00	50,333.00	50,333.00	
Police Cruiser (1)	-	10,600.00	10,600.00	
Police Cruisers (2)	23,528.00	20,946.00	20,946.00	
Fire Truck	92,031.00	83,513.00	83,513.00	
Bentley Purchase	-	49,374.00	49,374.00	HELD
General Interest	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
TOTAL DEBT	\$ 766,308.00		\$ 811,799.00	
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Retirement	116,576.00	127,187.00	127,187.00	
Life & Fringe	6,747.00	6,907.00	6,907.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY08 BUDGET	FY09 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY09 Sub-total To Be Voted On	FY09 AB RECOMMENDS
FICA/Medicare	29,000.00	33,000.00	33,000.00	
Health Insurance	285,000.00	285,000.00	285,000.00	HELD
Town Insurance	105,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 542,323.00		\$ 552,094.00	
GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 8,224,880.00		\$ 8,586,762.00	

In moving through Article 3 the question was divided. There were three budget items held out for discussion. 1. Health Insurance, 2. Bentley Purchase, and 3. Wachusett Regional School.

There were questions from voters on the Expense line item of both the Police and Fire Dept. Police Chief Schmohl explained that the budget was for dispatch, and there were increases for power, heating oil, gasoline and diesel. Fire Chief Laporte also described the increases in fuel and energy costs for his department as well.

A vote was taken on the larger portion of the budget minus the three HELD items.
Unanimous 8:43PM

Discussion of HELD items:

Wachusett Regional School Operations Assessment – An explanation was requested for the reduction in the budget number from \$542,683 to \$464,578. Selectman Joseph O’Brien explained that since the Warrant was printed the school reduced the total assessment by \$1 million, and the decrease is Princeton’s share of that reduction.

Bentley Interest – An explanation was requested for the reduction in the revised budget number from \$52,500 to \$49,374. Selectman Joseph O’Brien explained that the original number was an estimate used when the Warrant went to print, and that the town had subsequently negotiated a lower interest rate.

Health Insurance – Selectman Alan Sentkowski explained that the reduction from the original budget number of \$303,000 to \$285,000 was due to plan design changes that produced lower rate increases.

The Moderator put forth the three HELD items as a package for a vote.
Unanimous 8:48PM

ARTICLE 4. Voted to establish the FY09 ambulance operating budget. Receipts for ambulance services received in FY09 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 FY09 ambulance-operating budget is \$44,000 for salary and \$29,150.00 for expenses for a total budget of \$73,150 any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years

Unanimous

8:50PM

ARTICLE 5. Voted to establish the FY09 trash operating budget. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY09 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 FY09 trash-operating budget is \$80,000. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years

Unanimous

8:52PM

ARTICLE 6. 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

Unanimous

8:53PM

ARTICLE 7. Voted to transfer from the 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

8:54PM

ARTICLE 8.

Voted to authorize revolving funds for certain town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY2008 Spending Limit	FY2009 Spending Limit
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Administrator	Fees from Bldg, Wiring, Fire and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$60,973	\$65,973
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Administrator	Fees from Bldg, Wiring, Fire and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	-	\$25,000
Library	Library Director	Copy Machine, Fax, Fines and Fees	Defray Operational Expenses	\$3,000	\$4,000
Parks and Recreation	Recreation Comm. Chairman	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Provide Recreational Programs & Pay Park Director Salary	\$15,000	\$35,000
Parks and Recreation	Recreation Comm. Chairman	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Maintenance of Parks	\$25,000	\$35,000
Princeton Center	Princeton Center Director	Rental fees	Defray Operational & Maintenance Exp.	\$50,000	\$65,973
Board of Health	Board of Health Town Administrator	Permits & Inspections	Salary & Expense	\$25,000	\$35,000
Total Spending				\$178,973	\$265,946

ADVISORY BOARD APPROVES

Unanimous

8:55PM

ARTICLE 9. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$17,000 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 \$7,000 to continue the Grounds Maintenance program for a total of \$24,000

Unanimous

8:57PM

ARTICLE 10. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$10,000 to the Town Environmental Clean-up Account #03-5-420-201

Unanimous

8:59PM

ARTICLE 11. Voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a contract with Wachusett Earthday, Inc., pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 40, Section 4, and with the towns of Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Rutland, Sterling, West Boylston and any other municipality who joins said contract, pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 40, Section 4A, for planning, development and operation of a household hazardous waste and recycling collection site; and, further, to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$12,000 to satisfy the Town’s financial obligation under the contract for the Fiscal Year 2009; and, further, that the contract is to include but not be limited to the following terms: the planning and development phases are expected to be completed by June 30, 2009; operation will commence upon completion of planning and development and will continue for the duration of the contract; the term of the contract shall be for an initial period of five years, renewable every five years for a maximum term of twenty-five years

A brief presentation was made by Arthur Allen of 13 Town Farm Rd. who is on the Wachusett Earth Day Board of Directors and Princeton’s representative on the site development team for the Earth Day Regional Collection Center. Mr. Allen made the following points:

- 1 day Earth Day Collections were held twice yearly from 1993-2006
- Collections ceased in 2006 to plan for the regional center
- DCR has donated 6 acres of land on Raymond Huntington Dr. which is a bypass situated between Rt. 140 in Sterling and Laurel St. in W. Boylston for the site
- State grants and contributions in the amount of \$117K have been received to cover a portion of the Phase 1 \$337K cost
- Phase 1 includes surveying and land preparing
- Anticipate an early opening in Fall of 2008, but must be open by June 2009
- Items collected would be Household hazardous waste, all items not included in pickup by trash haulers

Unanimous

9:05PM

ARTICLE 12. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$5,000 to the 250th Anniversary account #03-5-695-781 for planning purposes for this town event to be held in 2009, the expenditure of such funds to be authorized by the 250th Anniversary Committee to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen

Unanimous

9:06PM

ARTICLE 13. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$18,000 towards the purchase of a used street sweeper for the Highway Department

Unanimous

9:07PM

ARTICLE 14. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$24,500 for the purchase of 5" hose and valves for three fire trucks and radio equipment upgrades for fire trucks and at station #2

Unanimous

9:08PM

ARTICLE 15. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$6,000 for the purchase of a copier machine for the town hall

Unanimous

9:09PM

ARTICLE 16: Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$50,000 to be used for the annual road reconstruction and maintenance program

Unanimous

9:10PM

ARTICLE 17. Voted to authorize the Selectmen to contract with 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

9:11PM

ARTICLE 18. 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 or take any other action relative thereto.

2/3 vote required

Unanimous

9:12PM

ARTICLE 19: Voted to approve the borrowing of \$2,000,000 by the Wachusett Regional School District as authorized by the vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 25, 2008 for the purpose of paying the costs for environmental remediation and cleanup of the oil contamination of the Jefferson School Building, including ongoing operating, assessment and remediation efforts as required by the Department of Environmental Protection or otherwise, and incurring debt by the issuance of bonds or notes under Chapter 214 of the Acts of 2007 and Section 15 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, and to that end the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Regional District School Committee, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefore; and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into and execute all contracts necessary or otherwise material to such work

Phil Mighdoll asked for a clarification of the \$2M in terms of the Town's share, asked if the number would increase in subsequent years, and what would happen if the article was not approved.

Selectman Joseph O'Brien stated that the \$2M was the number for the entire district Superintendent Pandiscio explained that the \$2M was a solid estimate and that based on progress to date on the cleanup the number could be lower. He also said that not approving the article would force the school district to cover the cost out of the operating budget.

Paper Ballot Vote Required

Yes: 80 No: 7

Moderator announced that the motion carried

9:28PM

ARTICLE 20. Voted to amend Chapter VII of the General Bylaws as follows:
Insert "Meetings" in the title before the words "Records and Reports" so that the new title will read as follows: "Meetings, Records and Reports".

Add a new Section 5: No public meeting of any board, committee or commission of the Town of Princeton shall be scheduled, posted or conducted on a legal holiday in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Add a new Section 6: No public meeting of any board, committee or commission of the Town of Princeton shall be conducted in a non-public space unless said meeting is first convened on town property and then moved to a non-public space for a purpose directly related to the matter at hand. All such meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

Unanimous

9:24PM

ARTICLE 21. Voted pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws c. 41, §110A, to authorize the office of the Town Clerk to remain closed on Saturdays

Unanimous

9:28PM

ARTICLE 22. Voted to approve the amendment of Section 7. ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL TOWNS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement and as written in the warrant.

Unanimous

9:29PM

ARTICLE 23. Voted to approve the various amendments to the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008 and as written in the warrant.

Unanimous

9:30PM

ARTICLE 24. Voted to approve the amendment of Section 11. ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008 and as written in the warrant.

Unanimous

9:31PM

ARTICLE 25. Voted to approve the amendment of Section 15. INCURRING OF INDEBTEDNESS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008 and as written in the warrant.

Unanimous

9:32PM

ARTICLE 26. Voted to approve the amendment of Section 16. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM SURPLUS of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as recommended and approved by vote of the Regional District School Committee on January 28, 2008 and as written in the warrant.

Unanimous

9:33PM

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

Unanimous

9:33PM

Lynne F. Grettum,
Town Clerk