# Annual Town Meeting <br> Princeton, Ma 01541 <br> May 15, 2012 

Warrant duly posted:
Inhabitants notified by website posting:
Advisory Board Hearing:
Quorum needed:
Voters Present:
Moderator:
Checkers/Counters:
Constable:
Meeting called to order:
Meeting dissolved:

April 25, 2012
May 3, 2012
May 7, 2012
79
119
Harry Pape
Ellen O'Brien, Helen Townsend
Michele Powers
7:05PM
8:29PM

The Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the full warrant.
Unanimous
7:07PM
Moderator read the charge to the Constable, noting that this warrant included the Town Election as well as the Town Meeting, and the Return of the Warrant.

The Moderator asked that all non-voters identify themselves for the tellers.
The Constable for the meeting was identified by the Moderator as Chief Michele Powers
All motions are approved by the Advisory Board unless otherwise noted

## Announcements

- The Moderator introduced the new Fire Chief, David Cobb
- Citizen of the Year Award was given to Joe O'Brien for his 11 years as a Selectman, participation on many boards and committees, and his role as a crisis manager in the aftermath of the 2008 Ice Storm.
- Election results from the May 15, 2012 Annual Town Election were read by the Moderator.

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

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 (FY13).

## FY13

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

## 7:22PM

ARTICLE 3. Voted the bulk of the FY13 appropriation by department as set forth in Article 3 of the Warrant with the following exception:
Total Schools Budget - 5,188,194.00 - This portion of the budget was HELD for discussion
Unanimous
7:29PM

| DEPARTMENT | FY12 <br> BUDGET <br> VOTED | FY13 PROPOSED BUDGET | FY13 <br> Sub-Total <br> To Be Voted On | FY13 AB RECOMMENDS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GENERAL GOVERNMENT: |  |  |  |  |
| Moderator |  |  |  |  |
| Salary | 25.00 | 25.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 50.00 | 75.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 75.00 |  | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Board of Selectmen |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 4,500.00 |  | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| Annual Audit |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 9,500.00 | 9,500.00 | 9,500.00 | 9,500.00 |
| Town Administrator |  |  |  |  |
| Salary | 88,496.00 | 90,266.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 2,500.00 | 2,500.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 90,996.00 |  | 92,766.00 | 92,766.00 |
| Administrative Assistants |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 34,333.00 | 36,273.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 35,833.00 |  | 37,773.00 | 37,773.00 |
| Reserve Fund |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 |
| Town Accountant |  |  |  |  |
| Salary | 25,319.00 | 27,913.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 3,478.00 | 3,624.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 28,797.00 |  | 31,537.00 | 31,537.00 |


| DEPARTMENT | $\begin{array}{c}\text { FY12 } \\ \text { BUDGET } \\ \text { VOTED }\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c}\text { FY13 } \\ \text { PROPOSED } \\ \text { BUDGET }\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c}\text { FY13 } \\ \text { Sub-Total } \\ \text { To Be Voted } \\ \text { On }\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c}\text { FY13 } \\ \text { AB }\end{array}$ |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| RECOMMENDS |  |  |  |  |$]$


| DEPARTMENT | FY12 BUDGET <br> VOTED | FY13 PROPOSED BUDGET | FY13 <br> Sub-Total To Be Voted On | $\begin{gathered} \text { FY13 } \\ \text { AB } \end{gathered}$ <br> RECOMMENDS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Elections and Registration |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 1,525.00 | 4,000.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 4,485.00 | 5,640.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 6,010.00 |  | 9,640.00 | 9,640.00 |
| Conservation Commission |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 1,000.00 |  | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Planning Board |  |  |  |  |
| Administrative Asst. Salary | 14,761.00 | 16,936.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 2,636.00 | 2,636.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 17,397.00 |  | 19,572.00 | 19,572.00 |
| Board of Appeals |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Open Space Committee |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Agricultural Commission |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Town Building Operations |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 22,320.00 | 23,110.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 53,095.00 | 53,095.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 75,415.00 |  | 76,205.00 | 76,205.00 |
| TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT | 555,934.00 |  | 561,236.00 | 561,236.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |


| DEPARTMENT | FY12 VOTED BUDGET <br> VOTED | FY13 BUDGET PROPOSED <br> BUDGET | Sub-Total To Be Voted On | RECOMMENDS AB <br> RECOMMENDS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PUBLIC SAFETY: |  |  |  |  |
| Police/Dispatch |  |  |  |  |
| Police non-union Salaries | 118,825.00 | 119,140.00 |  |  |
| Police Union Salaries | 332,050.00 | 349,525.00 |  |  |
| Dispatch Union Salaries | 193,201.00 | 201,111.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 95,100.00 | 96,900.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 739,176.00 |  | 766,676.00 | 766,676.00 |
| Fire Department |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 142,361.00 | 160,423.00 |  |  |
| Ambulance Readiness | 36,000.00 | 64,000.00 |  |  |
| Vehicle Allowance; Chief | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 75,471.00 | 92,489.00 |  |  |
| Emergency Management Exp. |  | 2,340.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 256,832.00 |  | 322,252.00 | 322,252.00 |
| Animal Control |  |  |  |  |
| Animal Inspector Salary | 500.00 | 500.00 |  |  |
| Animal Control Salary | 8,811.00 | 8,987.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 1,900.00 | 1,900.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 11,211.00 |  | 11,387.00 | 11,387.00 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY: | 1,007,219.00 |  | 1,100,315.00 | 1,100,315.00 |
| Wachusett Regional School |  |  |  |  |
| Wachusett Min. Contribution | 4,053,653.00 | 4,070,202.00 |  | 4,070,202.00 |
| Operations Assessment | 321,607.00 | 542,303.00 | 468,846.00 | 468,846.00 |
| Transportation | 225,823.00 | 205,208.00 |  | 205,208.00 |


| DEPARTMENT | FY12 BUDGET <br> VOTED | FY13 PROPOSED BUDGET | FY13 <br> Sub-Total <br> To Be Voted On | $\begin{gathered} \text { FY13 } \\ \text { AB } \end{gathered}$ <br> RECOMMENDS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Long Term Debt | 235,696.00 | 234,173.00 |  | 234,173.00 |
| Capital Program Assessment | - |  |  |  |
| Environmental Clean-up | 7,735.00 | 7,886.00 |  | 7,886.00 |
| Sub-total | 4,844,514.00 | 5,059,772.00 | 4,986,315.00 | 4,986,315.00 |
| Montachusett Reg. Vocational | 185,190.00 | 201,879.00 | 201,879.00 | 201,879.00 |
| TOTAL SCHOOLS | 5,029,704.00 | 5,261,651.00 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { HELD } \\ 5,188,194.00 \end{array}$ | 5,188,194.00 |
| PUBLIC WORKS: |  |  |  |  |
| Highway |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 299,773.00 | 306,120.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 231,000.00 | 241,188.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 530,773.00 |  | 547,308.00 | 547,308.00 |
| Snow/Ice Removal |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 140,000.00 | 160,000.00 | 160,000.00 | 160,000.00 |
| Road Reconstruction | 175,000.00 | 175,000.00 | 175,000.00 | 175,000.00 |
| Street Lights |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 9,746.00 | 9,575.00 | 9,575.00 | 9,575.00 |
| Tree Warden |  |  |  |  |
| Salary | 1,388.00 | 1,416.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 13,388.00 |  | 13,416.00 | 13,416.00 |
| Cemeteries |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 17,965.00 | 18,324.00 |  |  |


| DEPARTMENT | FY12 <br> BUDGET <br> VOTED | FY13 <br> PROPOSED <br> BUDGET | FY13 <br> Sub-Total To Be Voted On | FY13 AB RECOMMENDS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Expense | 4,372.00 | 4,372.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 22,337.00 |  | 22,696.00 | 22,696.00 |
| TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS | 891,244.00 |  | 927,995.00 | 927,995.00 |
| HUMAN SERVICES: |  |  |  |  |
| Council on Aging |  |  |  |  |
| Salary | 14,284.00 | 14,570.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 1,700.00 | 1,700.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 15,984.00 |  | 16,270.00 | 16,270.00 |
| Veterans Services |  |  |  |  |
| Salary | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 6,765.00 | 6,765.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 8,265.00 |  | 8,265.00 | 8,265.00 |
| TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES | 24,249.00 |  | 24,535.00 | 24,535.00 |
| CULTURE \& RECREATION: |  |  |  |  |
| Library |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 97,985.00 | 99,945.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 53,857.00 | 54,360.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 151,842.00 |  | 154,305.00 | 154,305.00 |
| Parks \& Recreation |  |  |  |  |
| Salaries | 4,080.00 | 4,162.00 |  |  |
| Expense | 4,100.00 | 4,100.00 |  |  |
| Sub-Total | 8,180.00 |  | 8,262.00 | 8,262.00 |
| Historical Commission |  |  |  |  |
| Expense | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 |



| DEPARTMENT | FY12 | FY13 | FY13 | FY13 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | BUDGET | PROPOSED | Sub-Total <br> To Be Voted <br> On | AB <br> RECOMMENDS |
| TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS | $692,271.00$ |  | $711,509.00$ | $\mathbf{7 1 1 , 5 0 9 . 0 0}$ |
| GRAND TOTAL: | $8,490,064.00$ | $8,873,677.00$ | $8,800,220.00$ | $8,800,220.00$ |

## Discussion of Total Schools Budget

The following language was included in the original Article 3 motion put forth by the Selectboard.

## SCHOOLS Wachusett Regional School:

FY 13 Proposed Budget - Strike $\$ 542,303.00$ from Operations Assessment and replace it with $\$ 468,846.00$. FY 13 Sub-Total To Be Voted On - Strike \$5,059,772.00 and replace it with \$4,986,315.00.

TOTAL SCHOOLS:
FY 13 Sub-Total To Be Voted On - Strike \$5,261,651.00 and replace it with \$5,188,194.
GRAND TOTAL
FY 13 Sub-Total To Be Voted On - Strike $\$ 8,873,677.00$ and replace it with \$8,800,220.
Ed Cichon- 28 Radford Rd. - What is the unfunded liability for pensions and benefits?
Mr. Brennan, representing Wachusett Reg. District Admin. - \$10, 200,000 is the unfunded amount
Michele Sciabarrasi, School Committee Rep. - 24 Calamint Hill Rd. NO

- Explained the budget process between old and new budget numbers
- District and school Committee Reps. working very hard to improve communication to residents. District website has budget information, and Michele receives an information packet every two weeks that she will share. Contact Michele with your email address.
With no further discussion a vote was taken on the HELD Total Schools budget item of \$5,188,194.00


## Moderator declared on a voice vote that the article carried

7:37PM

ARTICLE 4. Voted to establish the FY13 ambulance operating budget of $\$ 94,213.00$. I further move to appropriate $\$ 49,940.00$ for salary and $\$ 44,273.00$ for expenses from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account \#15-5-231-000. I further move to transfer the amount of \$57,500 from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \# 27-5-999-000 to the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account\#15-5-231-000. Receipts for ambulance services received in FY13 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into said account. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years.

Unanimous
7:40PM

ARTICLE 5. Voted to establish the FY13 trash operating budget and appropriate $\$ 80,000.00$ from the Solid Waste Enterprise Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account \#65-5-460-000 for that purpose. Voted further to transfer $\$ 10,000$ from Solid Waste Enterprise-Available Retained Earnings. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY13 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into the Solid Waste Enterprise Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account \#65-5-460-000 established in FY08. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years.

Unanimous

## 7:42PM

ARTICLE 6. Voted to authorize FY13 revolving funds for certain Town departments as written under Article 6 in the town warrant.

| Revolving <br> Fund | Authorized to <br> Spend Fund | Revenue <br> Source | Use of Fund | FY 2012 <br> Spending Limit | FY 2013 <br> Spending Limit |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Building <br> Department | Bldg. Inspector <br> Town Admin. | Fees from Bldg, <br> Wiring, Fire and <br> Plumbing Permits | To Pay Administrative \& Inspector <br> Salary \& Expenses | $\$ 69,371$ | $\$ 73,404$ |
| Library | Library Director, Town <br> Admin. | Copy Machine, Fax, <br> Fines and Fees | Defray Operational Expenses | $\$ 4,000$ |  |
| Parks and <br> Recreation | Recreation Comm. <br> Chairman, Town Admin | Fees Collected from <br> Recreational Programs | Provide Recreational Programs \& Pay <br> Salaries | $\$ 34,685$ | $\$, 000$ |
| Parks and <br> Recreation | Recreation Comm. <br> Chairman, Town Admin | Fees Collected from <br> Recreational Programs | Maintenance of Parks | $\$ 36,702$ |  |
| Princeton <br> Center | Princeton Center <br> Director, Town Admin. | Rental Fees | Defray Operational \& Maintenance Exp. |  |  |

## Unanimous

ARTICLE 7. Voted to pass over this article.
Unanimous

## 7:43 1/2PM

ARTICLE 8. Voted to authorize the Selectmen to contract with and accept any grants from the Mass. Department of Transportation-Highway Division for the construction of any road or related work that may be allotted to the Town for the ensuing year.

Unanimous 7:44PM
ARTICLE 9. Voted to amend Chapter II, Section 7 (Town Meetings) of the General Bylaws as follows:

## Amend SECTION 7 by deleting the first sentence:

"The number of voters necessary to constitute a quorum at any Town Meeting shall be three (3) percent of the voters as of the previous January $1^{\text {st }}$, but any number may adjourn any meeting to a stated time and place."

## And replacing it with the following new language:

"The number of voters necessary to constitute a quorum at any Annual Town Meeting shall be three (3) percent of the voters as of the previous January $1^{\text {st, }}$ and at any Special Town Meeting shall be two (2) percent of the voters as of the previous January $1^{\text {st, }}$, but any number may adjourn any meeting to a stated time and place."

## Discussion

Joe Lotuff- 73 Worcester Rd. - spoke against the article, concerned that there would not be proper representation with a smaller quorum
Edith Morgan- Selectboard member- explained research behind the decision, survey of other towns Judy Dino - 84 Main St. - spoke in favor of the article

A hand count was requested and called. The vote is as follows:
Yes - 59
No - 46
Total 105

## Moderator declared that the motion carried

## 7:54PM

ARTICLE 10. Voted to amend Section VI: Area, Yard and Height Regulations and Section X: Definitions of the Zoning By-Laws by the following:

Deleting the second sentence in Section $\mathrm{VI}(1)(\mathrm{B})$ and substituting "Frontage shall be computed along the edge of the property line where it borders the street right of way line.";

Deleting Section VI(1)(D) and substituting "No structure or part thereof in any district shall be so located as to extend within fifty (50) feet of a property line where it borders the street right of way line, except that this shall not apply to uncovered steps."

Deleting the first sentence in Section $\mathrm{VI}(1)(\mathrm{G})$ and substituting "For any lot created after the adoption of this section, the width of the lot between the property line where it borders the street right of way line and the nearest part of the principal building to be constructed on the lot shall be not less than fifty (50) feet."

Deleting in Section X the definition of "Yard, front" and substituting "Yard, front: A yard extending the full width of the lot and situated between the property line where it borders the street right of way line and the nearest point of the building."

## 2/3 Vote Required <br> Unanimous, Moderator declares that it clearly carries the 2/3rds 8:01PM

ARTICLE 11. Voted to raise and appropriate the sum of $\$ 45,620$ and deposit said funds in the General Stabilization Account \#83-5-041-000, to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \# 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$50,000 to the General Stabilization Account \#83-5-041-000, and further move to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \# 27-5-999-000 the sum of $\$ 75,000$ to the Infrastructure Stabilization Account \#85-5-041-000.

## 2/3 Vote Required

Moderator declared the motion carried $\quad \mathbf{8 : 0 3 P M}$
ARTICLE 12. Voted to transfer from the Infrastructure Stabilization account 85-5-041-000 the sum of $\$ 225,000$ to pay a portion of the debt authorized by the action of the October 11, 2011 Special Town Meeting under Article 6 to fund expenses related to hazardous waste abatement at the Thomas Prince School, 170 Sterling Road.

## 2/3 Vote Required

## Unanimous

8:10PM

ARTICLE 13. Voted to transfer from the General Stabilization account \# 83-5-100-000 the sum of $\$ 99,146$ to fund student transportation expenses related to the hazardous waste abatement at the Thomas Prince School, 170 Sterling Road.

ARTICLE 14. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \# 27-5-999-000 the sum of $\$ 755.16$ to pay departmental bills from previous years.

## 4/5 Vote Required

## Unanimous

## 8:14PM

ARTICLE 15. Voted to transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \# 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$90,597 to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund.

Friendly amendment accepted by Moderator to restate the motion which read, \$90,057 to read the correct amount of, \$90,597.00, as stated in the Warrant.

## Unanimous 8:16PM

ARTICLE 16. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 40,000$ from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \# 27-5-999-000 to the Town Building Maintenance Program account \#03-5-192-204 to continue to defray the costs for materials and repairs to town buildings.

## Unanimous

## 8:17PM

ARTICLE 17. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 25,000$ from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \#27-5-999-000 to the Town Environmental Clean-up Account \#03-5-420-201 to fund expenses associated with environmental issues with town-owned property.

Unanimous

## 8:19PM

ARTICLE 18. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 18,500$ from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \#27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to purchase for public safety purposes a repeater radio and any related equipment.

$$
\text { Unanimous } \quad \text { 8:20PM }
$$

ARTICLE 19. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 25,000$ from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \#27-5-999-000 to the fund established under Mass. General Law Chapter 44, section 53C for off-duty or special detail work.

## Unanimous

## 8:21PM

ARTICLE 20. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 19,000$ from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \#27-5-999-000 to the Fire Department Turnout Gear account \#03-5-220-206 to purchase turnout gear for the use of the Fire Department.

## Unanimous <br> 8:21 1/2PM

ARTICLE 21. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 15,000$ from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \#27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund for fire pond upgrades and construction of new fire ponds by the Fire Department.

## Unanimous

## 8:22PM

ARTICLE 22. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 30,000$ from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \#27-5-999-000 to establish a Special Fund to either rebuild the fire pump on Engine 5 or purchase a used fire engine to replace Engine 5.

## Unanimous

## 8:24PM

ARTICLE 23. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 50$ to the Goodnow Book Expense Account from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \# 27-5-999-000 for the purchase of books for the Library, as required by the terms of the Goodnow Deed of Gift.

Unanimous

ARTICLE 24. Voted to transfer the sum of $\$ 1,000$ from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account \#27-5-999-000 to the Band Concert Expense account \#03-5-692-781 for town concerts, the expenditure of such funds to be authorized by the Board of Selectmen.

Unanimous 8:27PM

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting. Unanimous

8:27PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne F. Grettum
Town Clerk

