

TOWN OF PRINCETON, MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

AC members in attendance: Peter Giumette, Jennifer Greene, Michael Cote, Josh Tanenbaum, Forrest Finkler
The AC meeting commenced at 6:01 p.m. (via GoToMeeting)

Approval of January 16, 2024 meeting minutes

Forrest made a motion to approve the minutes; josh Seconded; 5Y/N/A

Liaison updates

Parks and Rec: Peter

- Winter Carnival was last Saturday
- Well attended

Selectboard: Peter

- Working on grant for Trails Around Princeton trails behind Thomas Prince
- Doing 360 review for Town Administrator
- May have to upgrade single POETs to double POETs with changes to PFAS limits
- Survey for when to have ATM came back 50/50 so meeting is set for May 14 6pm
- Spending for 8th officer is moot as we've lost another FT officer and only got 1 of the 2 candidates

PSB: Mike

- RE: jail cells
 - It is possible to have just 1 cell as we generally have none to only 1 detainee. Must have a solution in rare cases with multiple detainees of different genders/ages. This could revert to a hook in a wall or secured bench.
 - Possible to have mixed gender locker rooms with single-occupancy unisex changing or shower rooms.
- There was more discussion about source of water for PSB fire suppression and where that water would be stored. It might be possible to use well at Bagg Hall/campus if it has sufficient flow. It could also be possible to put storage cistern on the campus which would provide approx 80' of height down to the PSB for pressurization. Putting well and/or cistern at campus opens up the PSB site quite a bit as the well has significant site offset conditions.
- It is possible to use the second floor as "non-public space" only for active police and fire members. Both of those activities have pre-existing physical requirements. This would open up uses for second floor without needing ADA access as long as public and admin spaces remain on the first floor. Sterling did this in their PSB building.
- These are the points that came out of having the plan reviewed by Barre & Sterling chiefs.

New business

- Police Budget Requests
 - Fleet: 5 vehicles, 1 has been out of service due to hybrid problems
 - 1 engine hour is 30 miles added
 - P4 has been the biggest maintenance problem
 - Last July got 2 hybrids – 1 useless, the other is ok
 - Plus ATV as P6
 - Working to auction off vehicles
 - Quotes are \$74k per vehicle for full new vehicle. May be able to transfer some equipment but some things don't fit in newer vehicles
 - Hybrids stop ICE when idle and periodically recharge battery
 - Mass State Police also see problems with hybrid vehicles

- Why 5 vehicles
 - 1 on patrol
 - 1 for an overlap of patrol
 - 1 for court, transport, training, etc
 - Leaves 1 spare really.
 - got ATV via grant and it can be useful but not critical, might not replace
 - Chiefs vehicle does shut off during idle. But keeping blue lights on can be tricky
 - Staffing
 - 4 FT officer - just lost one
 - Lost most of the part timers
 - Will continue to ask for 8 FT
 - With 8 there is a surplus of 640 hours.
 - Covers sick, vaca, some possible extra night coverage or school duty
 - Trying to reduce overtime budget. Already at \$76k FY24 overtime and 6 months to go, may be double last year.
 - Crime stats
 - Working on web site with transparent metrics
 - Crime and calls for service slowly increasing
 - Prior to getting the new web site, Paul will work with Alissa to get crime logs for the past year posted to the town web site as a series of PDFs
- Review upcoming meetings
 - AC public hearing for STM is 2/27 at 6:30
 - AC/SB public meeting for FY25 review is 3/6 at 6:30
 - STM is 3/11 at 6:30
 - AC/SB public meeting on WRSD budget is 3/26 at 6pm
 - ATM is 5/14 at 6pm
 - Advisory Committee has a new email address ac-committee@town.princeton.ma.us
 - Use of Free Cash or Reserve Fund for police budget shortfall
 - True statement that the SB should have included an earmarked reserve fund for police contract renegotiations but that didn't happen. Committing the AC Reserve Fund this early does not seem wise as that is often needed at the end of the year to cover a number of shortfalls.
 - While use of Free Cash is against policy, it is legal given the town votes to approve use that way at STM.
 - Regarding social media, the AC takes no stand on individual comments.

Next AC Meeting

The AC will meet next on Friday, 2/24 at 6pm – rescheduled for Tuesday 2/27/at 6:30pm

Jen motioned to adjourn the meeting; Josh seconded: 5Y/N/A

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Michael Cote (secretary)

Attachments: