

TOWN OF PRINCETON, MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.

AC members in attendance: Peter Giumette, Jennifer Greene, Michael Cote, Josh Tanenbaum, Forrest Finkler
The AC meeting commenced at 6:02 p.m. (via GoToMeeting)

Approval of November 28, 2023 meeting minutes

Jennifer made a motion to approve the minutes; Josh Seconded; 5Y/0N/0A

Approval of January 9, 2024 meeting minutes

Jennifer made a motion to approve the minutes; Josh Seconded; 5Y/0N/0A

Public Comment

- Holly Burgess:
 - Request that the AC indicate that comments made by Josh T are not indicative of the opinion of the AC.
 - Has questions whether the revenue neutral plan presented by the Police Chief was, in fact, neutral and whether the officer would be laid off if the budget was not approved at Town Meeting

Liaison updates

Council on Aging: Jennifer

- New flooring will be the only significant increase. This is on the capital plan and was asked for last year. There is a question whether it will be carpet or wood laminate, it has gone back and forth.

EAC: Josh

- Self funded so not making any requests on the budget

Housing Implementation Committee: Jennifer

- Main thrust is how to build out additional dwelling units (ADU) to increase the stock of dwellings in town.
- There may be quite a few under-the-radar ADUs in town that are not listed. It may make sense to have an amnesty plan to get them listed with no penalty. Seniors in big houses may have caretaker units or other rental units that have not been previously permitted. There may also be shared family units with no rent.
 - An ADU in a house will increase the value (and tax) on the house
 - Amnesty could avoid paying back-taxes. Still an issue moving forward.

Parks and Rec: Peter

- Finalized date of 2/3/24 for Winter Festival

Selectboard: Peter

- Princeton Land Trust bought land off Worcester Rd and is turning it over to
- Fire Dept requests a second Lucas device for automated resuscitation to be put on second ambulance - SB said to wait for FY25 ATM to make that request.
- Change the Holiday Lighting Committee to a working group under Town Admin as there was only 1 member of the committee.
- Appointed 2 additional members to BOH to make a 5 member board.
- Approved Memo of Agreement for the new police union contract. Have not used an arbitrator yet.

- Approved \$10k placeholder for a grant writer. Sherry suggested several towns sharing a grant writer and is looking into that option.
- Approved new police officer for an existing open position. Candidate has already gone through the academy and will start a 6 month probationary period.
- Approved special town meeting for March 11 to handle retroactive police union budget
- Approved an 8th full time police officer
- Direction of the SB for FY25 budget is level funding for everything other than salaries

Financial Management Team: Peter

- Working on FY25 Capital Plan

PSB: Mike

- A new PSB committee has been formed and had their first meeting.
- Several procedural decisions were made:
 - Karen Cruise was selected as chair
 - The committee will meet every 2 weeks on Thursdays @ 6:30pm in a hybrid model
 - Meetings will be recorded and the recordings posted online
 - Public comments will be accepted at the discretion of the chair and/or presenter
- The focus of the group is to obtain design documents sufficient for accepting bids on implementation.
 - In addition to the committee, at least 2 external unpaid consultants will be asked to review the full design. Each chief (police & fire) will choose a person familiar with public safety and recent experience with public safety building requirements.
- The group will not revisit the question of alternate locations, however will do additional vetting of the current site design with regards to water supply engineering and storm run-off into surrounding wetlands issues.

Old Business

- AC web site page update
 - Ready to make updates to the AC page on the web site.
 - Send comments to Forrest by 1/19/24
- Peter is still working to get an official AC email account as part of Princeton town domain.
- As we move forward with FY25 budget planning via the FMT, when discussing any particular department or committee, the AC liaison for that dept/committee should be included in the meeting.

New business

Capital Budget Presentation

- If we want to get to the large cost for a new PSB, then some of the capital asks must be reduced.
- Police vehicle replacement needs to have a much better data-driven justification
 - What cars do we have and how are they being used?
 - How to make them last longer? What about a feature to turn off the engine while idle on detail.
 - Why is it suggested to have a 3-year lease? - Forrest: it is a 3 year lease to own, i.e. splitting up payment over 3 years but with a longer life cycle.
- Similar question about police & fire radios
 - What do you have now (how many, how old)?
- As for cisterns, is there a prioritized list?
 - If we are building PSB and that will have a cistern, do we need to do fixes at the campus cistern?

- What is the immediate need for cisterns given the only “failure” of water access seems to have been the Princeton Inn fire in the past several decades.
- There is a sense in Police department that they have been insufficiently trained in how to handle an active shooter incident at TPS. AC will bring that up with Police Chief.

Next AC Meeting

The AC will meet next on Tuesday, Feb 6, 2024

Jennifer motioned to adjourn the meeting; Josh seconded: 5Y/0N/0A

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Michael Cote (secretary)

Attachments: