

TOWN OF PRINCETON, MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

AC members in attendance: Wayne Adams, Helga Lyons, Rick McCowan, Bill Lawton, Judy Dino, Mary Jo Wojtusik

Also Present: TA Sherry Patch and SB Chair Karen Cruise

Advisory Committee (AC) Agenda

- Reserve Fund Transfer
- Budget Discussion
- New Hire
- Continue discussion on proposed Financial Policy
- Approve Minutes of 12/12/19 and 12/18/19

Meeting Minutes: Meeting started at 6:05 p.m.

Discussion

Reserve Fund Transfer:

At the request of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), the Town recently sampled the drinking water well that serves the Princeton Town Hall complex to determine baseline water quality. As part of the sampling, the Town tested for a group of compounds called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. MassDEP's current drinking water guideline for PFAS in public water supply wells is 70 parts per trillion (ppt, nanograms/liter) for five PFAS compounds combined. The sum of the results for these five compounds was over the 70 parts per trillion guideline. Because of these detections in the public water supply well, MassDEP required the Town to develop an Immediate Response Action (IRA) Plan that includes sampling of private wells within 500 feet of the Town Hall for PFAS. The initial IRA has been submitted to the MassDEP.

Sampling of private wells within 500 feet of the Town Hall revealed elevated levels of PFAS, requiring the installation of water treatment systems at respective homes. It also requires the testing of additional homes (~23) within the next 500 feet radius. The IRA is being implemented by Tighe & Bond (residential) and Whitewater (Town Hall complex).

Thus far, total estimated costs incurred amount to \$120.9K not including additional testing and remediation needed. A Special Town Meeting will be needed to appropriate funds to meet the requirements of the IRA. In the meantime, AC was asked for a Reserve Fund transfer in the amount of \$37.5K to cover incoming invoices until a Special Town Meeting can be scheduled.

AC unanimously approved the transfer of \$37.5K from the Reserve Account to the Environmental Clean-up Sub-Account 420-5300-021019.

The Town plans to apply for reimbursement from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which established a fund for this purpose. The level of reimbursement is not known as PFAS has been detected in other public water supplies. TA also informed the Town's insurance.

Budget Discussion: Details of the FY21 budget are still being compiled to include capital budget, debt plan and IT needs. An initial combined budget will be discussed at the next AC meeting.

New Hire: TA presented the need for better building maintenance to include supervision of planned building projects. It was suggested to define needs and to research firms offering building maintenance and project management on a contract basis. Respective costs could be covered from funds budgeted for TA. It was also noted that the Director for Parks & Recreation recently resigned and there are no immediate plans to hire a replacement.

Financial Policy: No update

Approval of Minutes of 12/12/19 and 12/18/19 AC meetings: 6Y/0N/0A

SB was seeking AC liaison for contract negotiations with Police Union: Rick McGowan will represent AC

The next AC meeting was scheduled for 1/15/2020.

The AC Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Helga Lyons, Secretary