

TOWN OF PRINCETON, MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 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

- Discuss a PFAS project estimated budget for balance of FY20
- Review draft FY21 Town Budget
- Continue the review of draft Town Financial Budget Policy
- Review draft annual town report AC section
- Updates from committee liaisons
- Approve minutes from previous AC meetings

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

Discussion

PFAS Project:

Karen Cruise informed the AC that the Town will hire an environmental attorney to support the Town in the PFAS environmental matter: Barry Fogel of Keegan Werlin, LLP, located in Boston. TA noted that he has reviewed the Town's insurance policies and determined that we do not have environmental liability coverage.

The Town has not received any additional test results since the prior meeting and as such, there is no updated PFAS budget.

Research into the source of the PFAS in the drinking water is continuing. It is suspected that the source was the May 2017 fire of the former Princeton Inn. At the time, ~20 fire departments participated in fighting the fire and it is suspected that foam containing PFAS was used. At the time, the use of such foam was legal. In 2018 Mass DEP asked the Towns to stop using the PFAS foam and undertook a collection effort. In December 2019, just prior to the Town Center water testing, PFAS became a controlled substance in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Karen Cruise will be in touch with John Bennett, Fire Chief, to provide further detail regarding the fire fighting efforts at the Princeton Inn and the possible use of foam containing PFAS.

FY21 Budget:

A pre-liminary budget was shared. Many items are still in the draft stage to include:

- Capital budget. The Collins Center has provided the documents developed for FY20. The capital plan will need to be updated.
- Assessment of possible grant opportunities
- Repositioning of the Parks & Recreation department
- Building maintenance strategy
- IT strategy
- Revenue items will need to be reviewed and updated

The budget calendar needs to be finalized. It is expected that there will be some delays for the current budget development due to the PFAS issue and the planned Special Town Meeting. The goal is to have a completed budget by early April to include a narrative and projections.

Financial Policy:

- AC reviewed free cash items approved in prior years. It was noted that there were several items related to operating expenses, which will no longer be allowed under the proposed policy. Most items will need to be included in the operating budget. Further research will be done regarding deficits for snow and ice.
- Need finalized budget calendar
- Need revised Capex request form

AC Narrative for Annual Town Report

Wayne Adams will prepare the report for review by the committee

Committee Liaisons

- Rick McCowan volunteered to represent the AC in the negotiations of the Fire Chief employment contract.
- Helga Lyons reported that the Board of Health is planning to start an effort to implement the single hauler pay-as-you-throw plan proposed by EAC and approved by SB.

Approval of AC Meeting Minutes of 1/8/20: 6Y/0N/0A upon corrections.

The next AC meeting was tentatively scheduled for 1/29/2020 which will also be an informational meeting re: PFAS budget to be presented at Special Town Meeting

The AC Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Helga Lyons, Secretary