

Town of Princeton, Mass. -- Selectboard Meeting Minutes March 24, 2020 – 7 PM – Remote participation

Present: Chair Karen Cruise, Matthew Moncreaff, Richy Bisk and TA Sherry Patch. Also, Advisory Cmte. members, Judy Dino, Mary Jo Wojtusik, Richard McCowan and Chairman Wayne Adams.

PFAS Update– Sherry reported that notifications are going out to residents to be included in Round 4 of well testing for PFAS/PFOS. A public info session on April 7 will be postponed. The board plans to meet in executive session with environmental legal counsel Barry Fogel from Keegan Werlin LLP. The town is waiting for another update from Mass DEP.

Local ‘Declaration of Emergency’ – Given that federal and state agencies have declared a state of emergency, there is an option for such a declaration on the local level. Sherry researched this issue and reported that a local declaration is not really necessary. Flexibilities regarding deadlines, open meeting laws, procurement regulations and spending in excess of the town’s appropriation are allowed under the state declaration. There was concern about reimbursement from FEMA or other agencies and some discussion about how far-reaching the power of emergency management can be on the local level (under a local declaration). Sherry offered to contact MEMA and research further as to limits or benefits of a local ‘declaration of emergency.’ The group will consider the issue at the next S.B. meeting.

ATM and Town Election dates - Sherry noted that towns may change date of the ATM and/or local election but state requires the budget must be in place by June 30. The board agreed to pass over any action on changing the dates.

Public comment – Dr. Dan Ervin, 30 Mountain Road, was online with a question about how the well water sampling was going in the ongoing PFAS investigation/mitigation. He was told that the sampling itself was on hold while the COVID-19 precautions were in place.

Advisory Cmte. members serving on other boards – Under town bylaw the Adv. Cmte. cannot serve as a regular member of other boards/committees. Group discussed allowing it with certain condition, such as with S.B. approval, and limit to one A.C. member on any given board. It requires approval at Town Meeting as a bylaw change. The A.C. chair is proposing an article for the upcoming ATM.

Memorial Day events – Currently Kimberly Union is only member of Memorial Day Cmte., and Terry Hart is offering to volunteer in organizing events. Kim is asking about scope and budget for the day—in past years a band was hired for a parade. Karen suggests keep the day low-key and hold off on committing funds—group agreed and plans to hold off decisions until after April 7.

Minutes – The board voted all in favor to approve the minutes, as amended, from March 17

T.A. report – Sherry noted that the scheduled move of Town Hall staff to POP (Post Office Place) in place, after waiting for an air quality test to meet approval. She had a bid opening on Tuesday for install of HVAC in public safety bldg. A bid opening for cemetery mowing drew only one

bidder at \$18,000/year and will probably be re-bid. The Library trustees have reported a favored candidate with a master's degree in library science for the library director position.

7:30 PM -- Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Auger, land use coordinator

Referenced Documents: Outline of local 'Declaration of Emergency'; Memo of H4580 allowing waivers/exceptions in municipal government processes during COVID-19 limitations.