May 15, 2021

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES



Annual Town Meeting Princeton, MA 01541 May 15, 2021

Warrant duly posted: May 6, 2021 Inhabitants notified by website posting: May 6, 2021 Advisory Board Hearing: June 10, 2020

Quorum needed: 89 Voters Present: 332

Moderator: Harry Pape

Checkers/Counters: Lynn Grettum, Frances Thomas, Barbara Gates, Carolyn

Nelson

Constable: Michele Powers

Meeting called to order: 10:26AM Meeting dissolved: 3:00PM

The Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the full warrant.

Moderator declared the vote was Unanimous at 10:27AM

Moderator read the charge to the Constable, and the Return of the Warrant.

The Moderator asked that all non-voters identify themselves for the tellers.

The Moderator read the results from the May 10, 2021, Annual Town Election.

ARTICLE 1. Moved and seconded to hear the reports of the Town Officers and any outstanding committees and act thereon.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 10:45AM

ARTICLE 2. Moved and seconded that under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.), c. 41, §108, to fix the salaries of the following Town Officers for the ensuing year (FY22) or take any other action relative thereto.

	<u>FY 21</u>	<u>FY 22</u>
Moderator	\$ 25	\$ 25
Selectmen	\$3,600 (\$1,200 per member)	\$3,600 (\$1,200 per member)
Assessors	\$1,500 (\$500 per member)	\$1,500 (\$500 per member)

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 10:47AM

Treasurer Collector Jim Dunbar announced that the Town had received correspondence changing the Wachusett Regional School District amount to \$5,200,865.00

ARTICLE 3. Moved and seconded to raise and appropriate \$11,093,876.34 including debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year (FY22) as set forth in Article 3. *Requires* $2/3^{rd}$ majority to pass.

DEPARTMENT	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY22
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(TBD)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:				
Moderator				
Salary	25.00	25.00		
Expense	86.00	86.00		
Sub-Total	111.00		111.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY22
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(TBD)
Board of Selectmen				
Salaries	3,600.00	3,600.00		
Expense	6,150.00	6,085.00		
Sub-Total	9,750.00		9,685.00	
Town Administrator				
Salary	100,000.00	104,040.00		
Special Projects Coordinator Salary		15,699.04		
Expense	3,700.00	3,700.00		
Sub-Total	103,700.00		123,439.04	
Reserve Fund				
Expense	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	
Town Accountant				
Salary	52,977.00	54,037.00		
Accountant Certification	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Annual Audit Expense	14,500.00	14,500.00		
Expense	8,654.00	7,594.00		
Sub-Total	77,131.00	·	77,131.00	
Board of Assessors				
Board Salaries	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Department Salary	58,099.13	64,177.35		
Principal Assessor Certification	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Expense	17,490.39	22,556.39		
Sub-Total	78,089.52	·	89,233.74	
Treasurer/Tax Collector				
Department Salary	102,993.04	105,055.55		
Certification	2,000.00	2,000.00		
Expense	18,692.50	17,942.50		
Sub-Total	123,685.54		124,998.05	
Town Counsel				
Expense	28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	
Information Technology				
Info. Tech. Salary	27,027.00	27,567.54		
Info Tech Expense	30,850.00	47,757.00		
Sub-Total	57,877.00	, <u> </u>	75,324.54	

DEPARTMENT	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY22
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(TBD)
Administrative Assistants				
Salaries	25,819.54	26,337.60		
Expense	400.00	400.00		
Sub-Total	26,219.54		26,737.60	
Town Clerk				
Salary	40,092.72	50,290.16		
Certification				
Expenses	5,380.00	5,980.00		
Sub-Total	45,472.72		56,270.16	
Elections & Registration				
Salaries	5,975.00	5,800.00		
Expense	7,805.00	5,805.00		
Sub-Total	13,780.00		11,605.00	
Conservation Commission				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Environmental Action Committee				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Planning Board				
Admin. Asst. Salary	20,964.18	21,416.57		
Expense	1,866.51	1,866.51		
Sub-Total	22,830.69		23,283.08	
Board of Appeals				
Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Open Space Committee				
Expense	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Agricultural Commission				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Town Building Operations				
Salaries	50,776.72	52,812.26		
Expense	70,341.48	72,242.00		
Sub-Total	121,118.20	·	125,054.26	
TOTAL GENERAL GOV'T.	786,765.21		850,372.47	

DEPARTMENT	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY22
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(TBD)
PUBLIC SAFETY:				
Police				
Police non-union Salaries	165,118.00	167,373.00		
Police Union Salaries	557,027.00	585,130.00		
Expense	121,536.00	122,716.00		
Sub-Total	843,681.00		875,219.00	
Fire Department				
Salaries	145,384.00	148,984.00		
		•		
Expense	137,574.00	133,974.00		
Ambulance Readiness	100,256.00		202.050.00	
Sub-Total	383,214.00		282,958.00	
Regional Services				
Animal Inspector Salary	500.00	500.00		
Animal Control Expense	12,465.56	14,433.00		
Police Dispatch	62,165.00	68,686.00		
Sub-Total	75,130.56	,	83,619.00	
Emergency Response	2,000,00	2 000 00		
Emergency Mgt. Exp.	3,060.00	3,060.00		
Emergency Notification Sys	3,699.00	3,699.00		
COVID-19 Expenses	12,000.00	12,000.00	40 === 00	
Sub-Total	18,759.00		18,759.00	
Tree Warden				
Salary	1,665.00	1,665.00		
Expense	11,935.00	11,750.00		
Sub-Total	13,600.00		13,415.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:	1,334,384.56		1,273,970.00	
SCHOOLS				
Wachusett Regional School				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	3,697,913.00	3,631,718.00		
Operations Assessment	1,045,013.00	1,217,827.00		
Transportation	294,015.00	291,783.00		
Long Term Debt	147,641.00	131,293.00		
Sub-total	5,184,582.00	131,233.00	5,272,621.00	
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	429,474.00	425,147.00	425,147.00	
Smith Vocational	60,000.00	61,200.00	61,200.00	
TOTAL SCHOOLS	5,674,056.00	01,200.00	5,758,968.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY22
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
	_			(TBD)
				,
PUBLIC WORKS:				
Highway				
Salaries	388,119.04	388,119.04		
Expense	256,031.79	256,031.79		
Road Reconstruction	350,000.00	350,000.00		
Sub-Total	994,150.83		994,150.83	
Snow/Ice Removal				
Expense	210,000.00	210,000.00	210,000.00	
Street Lights				
Expense	3,095.95	3,500.00	3,500.00	
2,001100	0,000.00	3,555.55	0,000.00	
Wachusett Earthday	1,849.00	1,849.00		
Wachusett Greenway	800.00	800.00	2,649.00	
Tracinate Crocinia,	000.00	000.00	2,0-10100	
Environmental				
Expense	19,980.00	26,530.00		
PFA's Monitoring/Testing	10,000.00	262,500.00		
PFA's Water/Filters		37,500.00		
Sub-Total		01,000.00	326,530.00	
Cemeteries			0_0,000.00	
Salaries	10,000.00	10,200.00		
Expense	26,424.28	33,959.28		
Sub-Total	36,424.28	00,000.20	44,159.28	
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,266,300.06		1,580,989.11	
TOTAL TOBLIC WORKS	1,200,300.00		1,500,909.11	
HUMAN SERVICES				
Council on Aging				
Salary	33,506.60	34,507.00		
Expense	61,509.00	65,285.00		
Sub-Total	95,015.60		99,792.00	
Veterans Services	+			
Salary	3,000.00	3,600.00		
Expense	35,100.00	35,100.00		
Sub-Total	38,100.00	,	38,700.00	
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	133,115.60		138,492.00	
I O I AL HUMAN SLIVICES	133,113.00		130,432.00	l

DEPARTMENT	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY22
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(TBD)
CULTURE & RECREATION:				
Library				
Salaries	124,712.84	126,028.69		
Expense	67,150.00	71,360.00		
Sub-Total	191,862.84		197,388.69	
MISC/Band Concerts		2,000.00	2,000.00	
Parks & Recreation				
Salaries	10,000.00	11,096.80		
Expense	11,000.00	20,717.88		
Sub-Total	21,000.00		31,814.68	
Historical Commission				
Expense	1,500.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
Memorial Day				
Expense	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	216,162.84		243,003.37	
DEBT & INTEREST:				
Police Cruisers	17,000.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	
Thomas Prince/Green Repair	119,900.00	117,700.00	117,700.00	
PFAS Remediation	13,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
Broadband Make Ready	121,300.00	118,300.00	118,300.00	
Fire Truck Debt/Int	130,500.00	126,300.00	126,300.00	
Bagg Hall Stab. Debt/Int	18,700.00	41,299.00	41,299.00	
General Interest/Borrowing Fees	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
TOTAL DEBT	445,400.00		460,599.00	

DEPARTMENT	FY21	FY22	FY22	FY22
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	Sub-Total	AC
	VOTED	BUDGET	To Be Voted On	RECOMMENDS
				(TBD)
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Retirement	258,577.00	291,513.00	291,513.00	
Town Insurance	160,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00	
Health Insurance	348,864.22	347,785.22	347,785.22	
Life & Fringe	8,900.00	8,900.00	8,900.00	
FICA/Medicare	45,137.42	46,040.17	46,040.17	
Wage/Salary Reserve	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	846,478.64		859,238.39	
GRAND TOTAL:	10,702,662.91		11,165,632.34	

Moderator declared that the vote for Article 3 Carried at 11:58 AM establishing the FY22 operating budget for town departments.

ARTICLE 4. RECURRING BUSINESS - Moved and seconded to approve Article 4 as proposed in subsections A through F. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.*

- A. **VOTED** to establish the FY22 ambulance operating budget by use of receipts for ambulance services received to date and if necessary, by raising and appropriating or by appropriating from available funds. Receipts for ambulance services received in FY22 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into a receipt reserved for appropriation account established in FY01. Appropriations from said account to be made at either the annual or special town meetings for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Town's ambulance service, i.e., salary for ambulance employees, vehicle maintenance, fuel, equipment, and operating supplies. The requested appropriation for the FY22 ambulance-operating budget is \$47,620 for salary and \$70,000 for expenses and \$174,360 for ambulance readiness for a total budget of \$291,980 with any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years.
- B. **VOTED** to establish the FY22 trash operating budget. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY22 and all subsequent fiscal years to be deposited into a trash enterprise fund account established in FY08. Appropriations from said account to be made at either the annual or special town meetings for the purpose of paying for the proper disposal of solid waste generated within the town. The requested appropriation for the FY22 trash-operating budget is **\$21,000**, to be appropriated from Solid Waste Enterprise. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years.

- C. **VOTED** to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 01-000-3591-000000 the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be deposited in the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund to offset future health insurance costs for retirees.
- D. **VOTED** to raise and appropriate \$50.00 to the Goodnow Book Expense Account for the purchase of books for the library, as required by the terms of the Goodnow Deed of Gift.
- E. **VOTED** to transfer from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 01-000-3591-000000 the sum of \$2,047 to the School Septic System Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reserving funds for the replacement and/or repair of the septic system at the Thomas Prince School.
- F. **VOTED** to authorize the Selectmen to contract with and accept any grants from the Mass. Department of Transportation-Highway Division for the construction of any road or related work that may be allotted to the Town for the ensuing year.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 12:01 PM

Article 5. Moved and seconded to authorize the FY22 revolving funds for certain Town departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.*

ARTICLE 5: DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION

			ze revolving funds for certain tov		
			hapter 44 Section 53E 1/2 for t		
	ŀ	peginning July 1, 2021, or to	ake any other action relative the	reto.	
Revolving	Authorized to	Revenue	Use of Fund	FY 2021	FY 2022
Fund	Spend Fund	Source		Spending Limit	Spending Limit
Building	Bldg. Inspector	Fees from Bldg,	To Pay Administrative		
Department	Town Admin.	Wiring, and	& Inspector Salary	\$55,000	\$55,000
•		Plumbing Permits	& Expenses		
	Library	-			
Library	Director,	Copy Machine, Fax,	Defray Operational	\$4,000	\$4,000
	Town Admin.	Fines and Fees	Expenses		
	P&R Commission				
Parks and	Chairman,	Fees Collected from	Provide Recreational	\$20,000	\$20,000
Recreation	P&R Director, and	Recreational Programs	Programs & Pay		
(P&R)	Town Admin.		Salaries		
	P&R Commission				
Parks and	Chairman,	Fees Collected from	Maintenance of Parks	\$30,000	\$20,000
Recreation	P&R Director, and	Recreational Programs	Pay Salaries		
(P&R)	Town Admin.		-		
Board	Board of Health				
of Health	Town Admin.	Permits & Inspections	Salary & Expense	\$21,000	\$21,000
	Cemetery				
Cemetery	Comm.	Burial Fees	Salary & Expense	\$8,000	\$10,000
Connectif	Chairman,	Burni 1 ces	Suary & Expense	ψο,σσσ	Ψ10,000
	Town Admin.				
	Fire Chief,	Fees from	To Pay Administrative		
Fire	Deputy Chiefs,	Fire	& Inspector Salary	\$8,500	\$8,500
Department	Town Admin.	Permits	& Expenses	+-,	7.0,000
	Conservation	Lease Payments	To Pay for the		
Conservation	Commission Chair.	from Four Corners	Upkeep of & Improvements	\$3,500	\$3,500
Commission	Town Admin.	Hayfields	to Conservation Property	ψ3,500	ψ5,500
Maximum Spending					\$142,000
Spending	J				\$142,000

Moderator declared the vote carried at 12:09 PM

ARTICLE 6. Moved and seconded to transfer \$152,000 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 and \$218,000 from the Town's General Stabilization Account #80-000-5780-801001 to the Public Safety Building Account #33-000-5200-331002 for final design and engineering services, including the production of construction documents, for a new public safety complex to be located on the former Center School Site. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass*.

Moderator declared this vote defeated using the Electronic Voting System 174 - 112 at 1:19 PM

ARTICLE 7. Moved and seconded transfer \$37,350.00 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 01-000-3591-000000 to purchase and install new garage doors at Station 2 in East Princeton. *Requires* $2/3^{rd}$ *majority to pass*.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 1:23 PM

ARTICLE 8. Moved and seconded to transfer \$34,500 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 for purchase and installation of an exhaust evacuation system at Station 2 in East Princeton. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass*.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 1:26 PM

ARTICLE 9. Moved and seconded to transfer $\underline{\$30,000}$ from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to purchase turnout gear for the Fire Department. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.*

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 1:26 PM

ARTICLE 10. Moved and seconded to transfer \$24,605 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to fund parking lot improvements at the Thomas Prince Elementary School; or take any other action relative thereto. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass*.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 1:26 PM

ARTICLE 11. Moved and seconded to transfer \$43,000 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account #01-000-3591-000000 to purchase and install a generator at the Highway Department. *Requires* $2/3^{rd}$ *majority to pass*.

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 1:31 PM

ARTICLE 12. Moved and seconded to appropriate \$\frac{\\$125,000}{\}\$ to purchase and pay related costs for a new salt barn for the Highway Department, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, \\$7(1), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, \\$20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 1:36 PM

ARTICLE 13. Moved and seconded to authorize, under General Laws Chapter 44, Section 21C, upon the recommendation of the Selectboard, the following lease purchase financing agreements for the acquisition of equipment that may be acquired through the issuance of debt under G.L. c. 44, the term of such agreement not to exceed the useful life of the equipment or improvement as determined by the Selectboard, and to authorize the departments below to enter into such agreements on behalf of the Town, subject to appropriation for the first year payments of the agreements as stated below, or take any other action relative thereto. *Requires 2/3rd majority to pass*.

Equipment/Capital	<u>Maximum</u>	Authorized	Appropriation
<u>Asset</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Department</u>	
Pickup Truck w/Plow	5 years	Highway Department	FY 22 Operating
Front End Loader	7 years	Highway Department	FY 23 Operating
Cruiser-Chief/Patrol	5 years	Police Department	FY 23 Operating
Cruiser-Patrol	3 years	Police Department	FY 23 Operating

Moderator declared the vote unanimous at 1:39 PM

ARTICLE 14. Moved and seconded to transfer \$152,000 from undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 01-000-3591-000000 and to appropriate \$388,000 for renovation and restoration of the Princeton Library Clock Tower, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said amount under G.L. c. 44, § 7(1) or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 2:07 PM

ARTICLE 15. Moved and seconded to supplement each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money to pay costs of capital projects to provide that, in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 2:09 PM

ARTICLE 16. Moved and seconded to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to formalize the name change of the Board of Selectmen to Selectboard, as set forth below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves such amendments to the bill prior to enactment by the General Court, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve such amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, or to take any other action relative thereto.

An Act Relative to the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Princeton.

Section 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there shall hereby be established in the town of Princeton a Selectboard, which board shall have the powers and authority of a board of selectmen under any general or special laws.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 2:10 PM

ARTICLE 17. Moved and seconded to accept G.L. c. 64N, § 3 to impose an excise on the retail sales of marijuana for adult use at the rate of three percent; or take any other action relative thereto.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 2:14 PM

ARTICLE 18. Moved and seconded to amend paragraph 1(B) in SECTION VI, AREA, YARD AND HEIGHT REGULATIONS of the Princeton Zoning By-Laws by changing the reference to a minimum area for a building or structure dedicated to municipal use from five (5) acres to two (2) acres so that the provision shall read as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

This requirement shall not apply to a building or structure dedicated to municipal use or service so long as the lot contains a minimum of two (2) acres and there is actual access by way of easement or otherwise.

Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.

Moderator declared the vote carried by 2/3rds majority at 2:24 PM

ARTICLE 19. Moved and seconded to amend paragraph 1 in SECTION VII GENERAL REGULATIONS of the Princeton Zoning By-Laws by adding a provision for principal and accessory uses and structures or take any other action relative thereto.

1. Any building, use of building, or use of land not herein expressly permitted for the zone in which the building or land is located is hereby forbidden, except a building, use of building, or use of land legally existing at the adoption of this by-law, unless permission is obtained from the Board of Appeals as provided in Section VIII of this by-law.

Proposed additional sentence:

There shall be only one principal use or building on a lot and such accessory uses or buildings as are specifically enumerated in these By-Laws or as are necessarily or customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use or building.

Requires 2/3rd majority to pass.

Moderator declared the vote failed at 2:49 PM

Motion made and seconded to take Article 23 Out of order

Moderator declared the motion passed at 2:50 PM

ARTICLE 23. Moved and seconded to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 15 and all other enabling authority, to convey to Russell Mason, Trustee of the Robert G. Mason Trust, the fee or some lesser interest, which may include an easement, with respect to a portion the land shown as Lot 2 on Map 11 of the Assessors' Maps, also being a part of Lot 1 as shown on a certain "Plan of Land in Princeton, MA / Hubbardston Road" on file with the Town Clerk, in order to resolve a claim by the said Trustee of adverse possession and/or prescriptive rights, or take any other action relative thereto.

Moderator declared the vote carried at 2:56 PM

Meeting ADJORNED due to lack of quorum at 3:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan R. Boudreau, Town Clerk

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Town of Princeton