

TOWN OF PRINCETON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

For the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

**TOWN MEETING AT
THOMAS PRINCE SCHOOL**

**7:00 PM
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014**



Princeton Advisory Board Report

Advisory Board Members

John W. Shipman, Chair
Wayne Adams
David Cruise

George Handy
Joseph P. Lotuff
James M. O'Coin

The Advisory Board is primarily responsible for submitting recommendations on all articles and particularly the annual budget to the Princeton Annual Town Meeting. The AB members participate in developing the budget. It consults with the Select Board, the Town Administrator and the town departments.

Advisory Board members met a number of times in 2013 and 2014 to review departmental budgets, capital requests and anticipated town borrowing requirements and to review and vote on articles in the town warrant.

Some significant topics analyzed in the proposed FY15 operating budget:

- The reduction of the Wachusett Regional School District assessment to the town of \$301,063.
- Highway Department request for an additional \$10,000 for the snow and ice budget.
- Implementation of Regional Animal Control program with the Towns of Barre and Rutland.
- Road Advisory Committee request for additional \$50,000 for Princeton roads reconstruction.
- An increase of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District assessment of \$107,928.
- Continued funding of the OPEB (retiree health insurance) liability and a mandated adjustment to retirement funding.
- **Overall, proposed budget increase of \$12,287 or 0.14 % over FY14. Based on FY 14 values, this results in an estimated decrease of the tax rate for FY 15 from \$17.24 to \$17.21, and a decrease of the average tax bill from \$5, 236 to \$5,226 (\$10 or 0.19%).**

Special Articles (from free cash and/or available funds – no tax impact projected):

- Rt. 140 East Princeton reconstruction – funding a portion of 3rd and final phase of engineering study (\$60,000 of total \$108,000 for Phase 3).
- Funding for a new Ambulance
- Continue Fire Pond improvements and expansion
- Fund continued Broadband network study.
- Continue funding for our Stabilization accounts.

Respectfully,

John W. Shipman, Chair
Princeton Advisory Board

The Advisory Board hearing on this warrant will be held on Monday May 5, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester SS.

To a Constable of the Town of PRINCETON in the County of WORCESTER

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of Princeton who are qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at:

**The Town Hall Annex
4 Town Hall Drive**

on **MONDAY, THE TWELFTH DAY OF MAY 2014**, from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Annual Town Election for the candidates for the following offices:

ONE Selectman for three years
ONE Assessor for three years
ONE Electric Light Commissioner for three years
ONE Trustee of Trust Funds for three years
TWO Planning Board members for three years
ONE Wachusett Regional District School Committee member for three years
ONE Moderator for one year

POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM TWELVE O'CLOCK P.M. TO EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M.

You are further hereby directed to notify and warn the said inhabitants of the Town of Princeton to meet at the Thomas Prince School, in said Town on **TUESDAY, THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF MAY, 2014** at seven o'clock post meridian to act on the following articles of Town affairs:

ARTICLE 1. To hear the reports of the Town Officers and any outstanding committees and act thereon.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote under the provisions of Section 108, Chapter 41, of the Massachusetts General Laws to fix the salaries of the following Town Officers for the ensuing year (FY15), or take any other action relative thereto.

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>
Moderator	\$ 25	\$ 25
Selectmen	\$1,500	\$1,500
Assessors	\$4,500	\$4,500

This article establishes the salaries of paid elected officials

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, including transferring from available funds, Massachusetts School Building Authority reimbursements, and from Overlay Surplus, a sum or sums of money to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including debt and interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the ensuing fiscal year (FY15), or take any other action relative thereto.

This article establishes the FY15 operating budget for all town departments.

Advisory Board Recommendations appear in the extreme right-hand column of the Budget document.

ARTICLE 3

DEPARTMENT	FY14 BUDGET VOTED	FY15 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY15 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY15 AB RECOMMENDS
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:				
Moderator				
Salary	25.00	25.00		
Expense	75.00	75.00		
Sub-Total	100.00		100.00	100.00
Board of Selectmen				
Salaries	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Expense	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Sub-Total	4,500.00		4,500.00	4,500.00

DEPARTMENT	FY14 BUDGET VOTED	FY15 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY15 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY15 AB RECOMMENDS
Annual Audit				
Expense	9,500.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Town Administrator				
Salary	92,071.00	93,912.00		
Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00		
Sub-Total	94,571.00		96,412.00	96,412.00
Administrative Assistants				
Salaries	25,000.00	25,500.00		
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Sub-Total	26,500.00		27,000.00	27,000.00
Reserve Fund				
Expense	60,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Town Accountant				
Salary	29,164.00	30,207.00		
Expense	3,730.00	3,881.00		
Sub-Total	32,894.00		34,088.00	34,088.00
Board of Assessors				
Assessors Salaries	4,500.00	4,500.00		
Assessor Clerk Salary	19,800.00	20,804.00		
Principal Assessor Salary	28,504.00	29,074.00		
Info. Tech. Mgr. Salary	13,303.00	13,569.00		
Revaluation Salary	6,494.00	6,624.00		
Expense	12,582.00	12,582.00		
Sub-Total	85,183.00		87,153.00	87,153.00
Treasurer/Tax Collector				
Salary	72,239.00	74,400.00		
Expense	16,170.00	16,170.00		
Sub-Total	88,409.00		90,570.00	90,570.00
Town Counsel				
Expense	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00

DEPARTMENT	FY14 BUDGET VOTED	FY15 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY15 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY15 AB RECOMMENDS
Town Clerk				
Salary	33,692.00	34,575.00		
Certification	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Expenses	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Sub-Total	39,692.00		40,575.00	40,575.00
Elections & Registration				
Salaries	1,400.00	3,700.00		
Expense	2,850.00	5,700.00		
Sub-Total	4,250.00		9,400.00	9,400.00
Conservation Commission				
Salaries				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Sub-Total	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Planning Board				
Administrative Asst. Salary	18,043.00	18,250.00		
Expense	2,636.00	2,636.00		
Sub-Total	20,679.00		20,886.00	20,886.00
Board of Appeals				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Open Space Committee				
Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Agricultural Commission				
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Town Building Operations				
Salaries	27,200.00	28,100.00		
Expense	53,095.00	53,095.00		
Sub-Total	80,295.00		81,195.00	81,195.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	570,573.00		597,879.00	597,879.00

DEPARTMENT	FY14 BUDGET VOTED	FY15 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY15 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY15 AB RECOMMENDS
PUBLIC SAFETY:				
Police/Dispatch				
Police non-union Salaries	121,855.00	150,529.00		
Police Union Salaries	383,148.00	406,900.00		
Dispatch Union Salaries	205,589.00	206,688.00		
Expense	96,900.00	98,100.00		
Sub-Total	807,492.00		862,217.00	862,217.00
Fire Department				
Salaries	167,235.00	120,000.00		
Ambulance Readiness	64,000.00	79,000.00		
Expense	92,489.00	124,974.00		
Emergency Management Exp.	2,340.00	2,340.00		
Sub-Total	326,064.00		326,314.00	326,314.00
Animal Control				
Animal Inspector Salary	500.00	500.00		
Animal Control Salary	9,167.00	0.00		
Expense	1,900.00	6,953.00		
Sub-Total	11,567.00		7,453.00	7,453.00
Emergency Notification System	0.00	2,466.00	2,466.00	2,466.00
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY:	1,145,123.00		1,198,450.00	1,198,450.00
SCHOOLS				
Wachusett Regional School				
Wachusett Min. Contribution	4,046,051.00	3,650,842.00		
Operations Assessment	367,565.00	431,892.00		
Transportation	140,476.00	185,471.00		
Long Term Debt	198,706.00	183,694.00		
Capital Program Assessment	-			
Environmental Clean-up	6,225.00	6,062.00		
Sub-total	4,759,024.00		4,457,961.00	4,457,961.00
Montachusett Reg. Vocational	181,770.00	289,698.00	289,698.00	289,698.00
TOTAL SCHOOLS	4,940,794.00		4,747,659.00	4,747,659.00

DEPARTMENT	FY14 BUDGET VOTED	FY15 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY15 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY15 AB RECOMMENDS
PUBLIC WORKS				
Highway				
Salaries	350,085.00	361,100.00		
Expense	267,058.00	267,058.00		
Sub-Total	617,143.00		628,158.00	628,158.00
Snow/Ice Removal				
Expense	180,000.00	190,000.00	190,000.00	190,000.00
Road Reconstruction	225,000.00	275,000.00	275,000.00	275,000.00
Street Lights				
Expense	9,614.00	9,614.00	9,614.00	9,614.00
Tree Warden				
Salary	1,444.00	1,473.00		
Expense	12,000.00	12,000.00		
Sub-Total	13,444.00		13,473.00	13,473.00
Cemeteries				
Salaries	26,406.00	28,670.00		
Expense	4,372.00	4,372.00		
Sub-Total	22,696.00		33,042.00	33,042.00
Broadband Committee				
Expense		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	1,075,979.00		1,150,287.00	1,150,287.00
HUMAN SERVICES				
Council on Aging				
Salary	14,862.00	15,159.00		
Expense	1,700.00	1,700.00		
Sub-Total	16,562.00		16,859.00	16,859.00
Veterans Services				
Salary	1,500.00	1,500.00		
Expense	6,825.00	18,800.00		
Sub-Total	8,325.00		20,300.00	20,300.00
TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	24,887.00		37,159.00	37,159.00

DEPARTMENT	FY14 BUDGET VOTED	FY15 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY15 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY15 AB RECOMMENDS
CULTURE & RECREATION:				
Library				
Salaries	100,282.00	105,610.00		
Expense	58,860.00	61,710.00		
Sub-Total	159,142.00		167,320.00	167,320.00
Parks & Recreation				
Salaries	4,269.00	4,526.00		
Expense	4,100.00	4,100.00		
Sub-Total	8,369.00		8,626.00	8,626.00
Historical Commission				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Memorial Day				
Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	170,511.00		178,946.00	178,946.00
Debt & Interest				
Police Cruisers (3)	25,185.00	43,000.00	43,000.00	43,000.00
Fire Vehicle	14,512.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
Bentley Purchase	42,350.00	40,880.00	40,880.00	40,880.00
General Interest/Borrowing Fees	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Thomas Prince/Green Repair	28,476.00	39,700.00	39,700.00	39,700.00
Thomas Prince/PCBs	40,625.00	39,750.00	39,750.00	39,750.00
TOTAL DEBT	166,148.00		191,330.00	191,330.00

DEPARTMENT	FY14 BUDGET VOTED	FY15 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY15 Sub-Total To Be Voted On	FY15 AB RECOMMENDS
MISCELLANEOUS:				
Retirement	222,414.00	250,077.00	250,077.00	250,077.00
Life & Fringe	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
FICA/Medicare	36,995.00	36,995.00	36,995.00	36,995.00
Health Insurance	345,800.00	320,000.00	320,000.00	320,000.00
Town Insurance	185,000.00	190,000.00	190,000.00	190,000.00
Wachusett Earthday	1,393.00	1,393.00	1,393.00	1,393.00
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	803,602.00		810,465.00	810,465.00
GRAND TOTAL:	8,897,617.00*	8,912,175.00	8,912,175.00	8,912,175.00

*Reflects Reconfigured WRSD Budget of 8/10/2013

ARTICLE 4. To see if the town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with MGL Chapter 164 section 47E and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the MA Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable, a municipal lighting plant for the purpose of operating a telecommunications system and related services, or taken any action relative thereto.

This is the second vote of two required votes to establish the necessary telecommunication Municipal Lighting Plant (MLP).

The telecommunications MLP is the required legal managing entity for the town of Princeton to own the potential broadband network. The MLP ("Princeton Broadband"), following state procurement guidelines, will select and manage the Internet Service Provider and network maintenance vendors, and separately hold funds raised from network subscribers for network maintenance and network equipment depreciation.

Approval requires a 2/3 vote by ballot per Mass. General Law.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the town will raise, appropriate, or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purposes of broadband network readiness, including, but not limited to, network consulting, legal and membership fees, or take any action thereto.

The Broadband Committee expects that the town would be directly responsible for environmental permitting and studies, telecommunications infrastructure make ready, police details during network construction and two telecommunications facilities to house the active electronic network components.

The network consultant will assist the Board of Selectmen in negotiating a contract for the proposed public/private fiber optic network, and ensure the network make ready (assessing and reconfiguring or replacing poles and wiring placements in the aerial infrastructure), and procurement and installation of the telecommunications 'huts' are cost effective and meet industry standards.

Member ship in the Wired West consortium, an affiliation of 30-some towns in western Massachusetts (each with their own approved telecommunications MLP) formed to gain lobbying presence at the state and federal levels, would enhance buying power, provide for shared legal costs and the gains from collective experience. Joining Wired West will greatly enhance Princeton's standing in receiving potential state and federal grants.

Cost of building and operating the broadband network will borne by network subscribers. The Town of Princeton, through the "Princeton Broadband" telecommunications MLP, will own the network.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to establish the FY15 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 FY15 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 FY15 ambulance-operating budget is \$51,958.00 for salary and \$44,273.00 for expenses for a total budget of \$96,231.00 any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years, or take any other action relative thereto.

This article establishes the FY 15 receipts reserved for appropriation account from which ambulance operating expenses will be paid.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to establish the FY15 trash operating budget. Receipts for trash disposal services received in FY15 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 FY15 trash-operating budget is \$60,000, of which \$50,000 be appropriated from Solid Waste Enterprise and \$10,000 be appropriated from Solid Waste Enterprise-Available Retained Earnings. Any balance in said account to be carried forward to subsequent years, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Town pays directly to Wheelabrator Millbury, Inc. where the trash incinerator is located for solid waste disposal. This article allows the town to receive offsetting payments from trash haulers which are deposited into this account.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 8: DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS AUTHORIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize revolving funds for certain town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E 1/2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, or take any other action relative thereto.

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY 2014 Spending Limit	FY 2015 Spending Limit
Building Department	Bldg. Inspector Town Admin.	Fees from Bldg, Wiring, and Plumbing Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$76,017	\$78,253
Library	Library Director, Town Admin.	Copy Machine, Fax, Fines and Fees	Defray Operational Expenses	\$4,000	\$5,000
Parks and Recreation (P&R)	P&R Commission Chairman, P&R Director, and Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Provide Recreational Programs & Pay Salaries	\$38,008	\$39,126
Parks and Recreation (P&R)	P&R Commission Chairman, P&R Director, and Town Admin.	Fees Collected from Recreational Programs	Maintenance of Parks	\$38,008	\$39,126
Princeton Center	Princeton Center Director, Town Admin.	Rental fees	Defray Operational & Maintenance Exp.	\$76,017	\$78,253
Board of Health	Board of Health Town Admin.	Permits & Inspections	Salary & Expense	\$35,000	\$35,000
Cemetery	Cemetery Comm. Chairman, Town Admin.	Burial Fees	Salary & Expense	\$5,000	\$7,500
Fire Department	Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Town Admin.	Fees from Fire Permits	To Pay Administrative & Inspector Salary & Expenses	\$0	\$7,500
Total Spending				\$272,050	\$289,758

ADVISORY BOARD APPROVES.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to add to the Town of Princeton, Massachusetts, Zoning Bylaws, Section XIX “Village Overlay District” from the northerly edge of Stagecoach Road as far north as the Business District on the westerly side of Worcester Road exists or may be extended, to the back of all lots existing at the time of enactment of this Section XIX that have frontage on Worcester Road, and to amend the Zoning Map, or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board Explanation: This would apply to parcels that are in the existing Business District and that have backland that currently is limited to residential-agricultural uses. The proposed bylaw would allow limited mixed business and residential uses, and allow multiple principal buildings on a parcel. The Village Overlay District would include the existing Business District north of Stagecoach Road, and extend to the rear boundary of any existing parcel in that portion of the Business District with frontage on Worcester Road. Any applicant wishing to develop a mixed use project under the Village Overlay District provisions would need Planning Board approval through a Special Permit which would include appropriate safeguards for adjacent residences as set out in the proposed bylaw. Approval requires a 2/3 vote.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section II, 2, (B), (c), of the Zoning Bylaws to read, “On the west side of Highway 31 and beginning at the northern boundary of Parcel 33-5 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps, extending to the southern boundary of Parcel 33-10 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps a strip of land 700 feet in depth, thence southerly to the southern boundary of Parcel 33-2 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps a strip of land 410 feet in depth, and thence southerly to the southern boundary of Parcel 32-2 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps a strip of land 330 feet in depth. On the east side of Highway 31 and beginning at the northern boundary of Parcel 43-1 on Map 15C of the Assessors Maps, extending southerly to the southern boundary of Parcel 47-8 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps, a strip 300 feet in depth,” and to amend the Zoning Map, or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board Explanation: Most of the area in the current Business District south of Stagecoach Road on the west side of Worcester Road, and south of the northerly section on Hickory Drive on the east side of Worcester Road, is fully developed for residential use. Rezoning those areas as Residential-Agricultural recognizes the existing use. Approval requires a 2/3 vote.

Advisory Board Opinion to be Determined.

ARTICLE 11. (By Petition). To see if the Town will vote to amend Section II, 2, (B), (c), of the Zoning Bylaws to read, “On the west side of said Highway 31 and beginning at the northerly end of Parcel 33-5 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps and continuing southerly a distance of 1,014 feet, a strip of land 700 feet in depth, thence southerly approximately 459 feet to Jillian Drive a strip of land 410 feet in depth, and thence continuing southerly a distance of 310 feet, a strip of land 330 feet in depth to the southern boundary of Parcel 33-1; and on the east side of Highway 31 and beginning at the northern boundary of Parcel 43-1 on Map 15, extending southerly to the southern boundary of Parcel 44-1R on Map 15, a strip 300 feet in depth,” and to amend the Zoning Map, or take any other action relative thereto.

Petitioners' Explanation: Following the Master Plan this change will reduce the current business zone of Worcester Road to approximately Post Office Place and north. It will encourage future business development off of Worcester Road and reduce the possibility of strip mall development along Worcester Road. This will not affect existing or future some occupations south of Post Office Place. There are no businesses south of Post Office Place. The southern part of the current business zone is fully developed with residential homes.

Approval requires a 2/3 vote.

Advisory Board Opinion to be Determined.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section II, 2 (B), (c) of the Zoning Bylaws to read “On the west side of Highway 31 and beginning at the northern boundary of Parcel 33-5 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps, extending to the southern boundary of Parcel 33-10 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps a strip of land 700 feet in depth, thence southerly to the southern boundary of Parcel 33-2 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps a strip of land 410 feet in depth, thence southerly to the southern boundary of Parcel 32-2 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps a strip of land 330 feet in depth, and thence southerly to the southern boundary of Parcel 55 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps a strip of land 300 feet in depth. On the east side of Highway 31 and beginning at the northern boundary of Parcel 43-1 on Map 15C of the Assessors Maps, extending southerly to the southern boundary of Parcel 53 on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps, a strip 300 feet in depth,” and to amend the Zoning Map, or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board Explanation: The current language in the Zoning By-laws defining the Business District and the current zoning map of the Business District do not coincide, and in some cases cuts through the middle of parcels and/or buildings (Mountain Barn). This language serves to approximately maintain the current boundaries with clearly identifiable parcels. On the west side of Highway 31, the Business District would be from the parcel bordering the southern edge of the Municipal Light Department (but not the Municipal Light Department Parcel) to the southern edge of the Norton property. On the east side, the Business District would be from the northern boundary of the Yaglou parcel to the southern boundary of the DCR land.

Approval requires a 2/3 vote.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to amend Section II, 2, (B), (c), of the Zoning Bylaws to add Parcels 33-4 and 33-7, a strip of land 700 feet in depth on Map 15 of the Assessors Maps, to the Business District and to amend the Zoning Map, or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board Explanation: This would add the Light Department parcel and an adjacent undeveloped strip approximately 150 feet wide to the north of the Light Department to the Business Zone.

Approval requires a 2/3 vote.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws to make the following corrections and clarifications:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| III.1 (G) (a), (b) | Correct references to other sections of the Zoning Bylaws by changing references to XVII to XVIII |
| III.1 (J) | Remove duplicative provision by deleting the reference to sand and gravel pit |
| VI.1 (E) | Correct typo by inserting “lot” so that last phrase shall read “. . .side or rear lot line of any new lot recorded or registered. . .” |
| VII.7 | Clarify earth removal procedures by amending VII.7 to read “No more than twenty-five (25) cubic yards of earth materials shall be removed from any parcel of land within the Town without first obtaining permission from the Board of Appeals |
| VIII.3(C) | Clarify Planning Board role for special permits by amending the first sentence of VIII.3(C) to read: The Planning Board shall act as the special permit granting authority for such developments and uses as may be assigned to the Planning Board under this Bylaw.” |

- XVII.1(B)(1) Clarify plot plan requirements for accessory apartments by amending XVII.1(b)(1) to read: “A plot plan and scaled architectural drawings of the existing dwelling unit and proposed addition (if any) shall be submitted, showing the location of all buildings, septic systems, wells, and parking.”
- XVII.1(B)(2) Clarify accessory apartment conditions by amending XVII.1(B)(2) to read: “The accessory apartment shall be located within a single-family dwelling or in an accessory structure on the same lot, such as an attached garage or a detached garage or barn, and shall clearly be subordinate to the single family dwelling.”
- XVII.1(B)(3) Clarify the size calculations for an accessory apartment by amending XVII.1(B)(3) to read: The accessory apartment shall not exceed 900 square feet or one-third of the resulting gross living area of the structures and shall not contain more than two bedrooms.”
- XVII.1(B)(7) Remove same driveway condition for an accessory apartment by amending XVII.1(B)(7) to read: There shall be at least one additional off street parking space to serve the accessory apartment.”
- XVII.1(B)(10) Clarify the use of an accessory apartment by a subsequent landowner by amending XVII.1(B)(10) to delete the term “rent” and substitute the term “make use of”
- XVIII.3(A)(1-3) Clarify that special permit is intended to allow uses rather than waiving requirements by amending XVIII.3(A)(1-3) to read
- (A) In its discretion, in a special permit proceeding, the Planning Board may
- (1) Allow a home occupation employing not more than three (3) persons on site who are not residing on the premises.
 - (2) Allow a home occupation located in a detached accessory building, such as a barn or detached garage.
 - (3) Allow a home occupation exceeding twenty-five percent (25%) of the gross floor area of the dwelling where the home occupation is conducted in an attached or detached accessory building.

Planning Board Explanation: In the course of acting of various applications for special permits and site plan review, the Planning Board discovered some inconsistencies, ambiguities, and confusion in the Bylaws. These “housekeeping” amendments address those situations, but make no substantive changes in the Bylaws.

Approval requires a 2/3 vote.

Advisory Board Opinion to be Determined.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay departmental bills from previous years or take any other action relative thereto.

*Approval of this article by the **required 4/5 vote** pays any bills from previous fiscal years recently discovered to be unpaid.*

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to re-allocate among certain line items within the FY14 budget approved under Article 3 of the May 14, 2013 Annual Town Meeting or take any other action relative thereto.

This article relates to addressing the current year (FY14) general fund budget. The intended funding will be inter/intra departmental transfers presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

Advisory Board Opinion to be Determined.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to either or both of the Town's Stabilization Funds (Infrastructure Stabilization Account #85-5-041-000 and General Stabilization Account # 83-5-041-000) or take any other action relative thereto

*These accounts are the town's savings accounts. Infrastructure Stabilization is strictly used for future capital purchases, infrastructure improvements and projects. General Stabilization may be used for any lawful purpose. **A 2/3 vote is required** to appropriate funds to or from any Stabilization account. As of 4/16/14 the Board of Selectmen plans to propose adding \$25,000 to General Stabilization.*

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$101,252 to be deposited in the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund in order to offset future health insurance costs for retirees, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Approval of this article will authorize a contribution to a trust fund established by the May, 2011 Annual Town Meeting to fund future health insurance liabilities for retirees, similar to funding future pension obligations.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Town Building Maintenance program, Account #03-5-192-204 to defray the costs for materials and repairs to town buildings, and further to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to continue the Grounds Maintenance program, Account 03-5-192-205, or take any other action relative thereto.

This article supports a program to repair, maintain and restore town buildings and grounds. This program will preserve and protect valuable town assets.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to contract 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 or to take any other action relative thereto.

This article authorizes the Selectmen to accept any grants or contracts with the state for road or road-related projects.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$60,000 to fund a portion of the third phase of engineering and design services related to the East Princeton Rt 140 Reconstruction, or take any other action relative thereto.

Approval of this article provides for continued engineering and design for the East Princeton/Route 140 project. Additional funding will be sought at a future Town Meeting.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from the undesignated fund balance (free cash) account # 27-5-999-000 the sum of \$35,000 to the Town Environmental Clean-up Account #03-5-420-201 to fund expenses associated with environmental issues with any town-owned property or take any other action relative thereto.

Approval of this article maintains a source of funds to make response to ongoing and/or unexpected environmental issues. Required monitoring of closed landfill, Town Hall parking area and the Thomas Prince School for FY 2015 is estimated to cost \$35,000.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$10,000 to provide for fire pond upgrades and construction of new fire ponds by the Fire Department, or take any action relative thereto.

This is a proposed year three of a five year plan to improve fire protection.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$252,000 to purchase a Class I ambulance and to convert the current ambulance chassis into a utility truck with plow, or take any action relative thereto.

The current ambulance is a 2001 model that does not meet current Federal and State standards and has no trade-in value. It was originally slated for replacement in 2007. Approval of this article authorizes purchase of a new ambulance (value: \$230,000 per State Bid List) and also authorizes conversion of current ambulance's chassis into a utility truck (value: \$22,000 per quote) that can snowplow water holes, hydrants and fire station yards; support fire ground overhaul, water evacuation and other activities of the Fire Department.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 25. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$3,500 to continue the ongoing restoration of Meetinghouse Cemetery and historic grave stones threatened with erosion, or to take any other action relative thereto.

This project was initially approved by TM in 2007. To date, 90 gravestones have been addressed and 76 more need work, much of it urgent. The Princeton Historical Commission will continue to solicit and employ volunteer efforts and will use this appropriation to help see this important task to completion.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$50 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, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Deed of Gift requires an annual payment of \$50.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 27. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,000 for town concerts, the expenditure of such funds to be authorized by the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.

This article funds the summer concerts on the Town Common.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 28. To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter XII Dog Restraint and Regulations as follows:

Delete Section 1 (c) in its entirety and replace it with the following:

1(c) "Nuisance dog": a dog that:

1. By excessive barking or other disturbance, is a source of annoyance to a sick person residing in the vicinity; OR
2. By excessive barking, causing damage or other interference, a reasonable person would find such behavior disruption to one's quiet and peaceful enjoyment; OR
3. Has threatened or attacked livestock, a domestic animal, or a person, but such a threat or attack was not a grossly disproportionate reaction under all circumstances OR
4. Is elsewhere than on the premises of its keeper unless such dog (a) is then under control of a person competent to control and restrain such dog or (b) is not a threat to public safety, OR
5. Any unspayed female dog in season and not confined.

Delete Section 1 (d) in its entirety and replace it with the following:

(d) "Animal Control Officer (ACO): Shall mean a person appointed by the Board of Selectmen to enforce M.G.L. Chapter 140 sections 136A to 174E, inclusive and this bylaw.

Add the following language to Section 1:

(g) “Kennel” –a pack or collection of dogs on a single premise, including a commercial boarding or training kennel, Commercial breeder kennel, domestic charitable corporation, personal kennel, or veterinary kennel per M.G.L.Chapter 140, Section 136A.

Amend Section 2 by replacing the following sentence:

“No keeper of a dog shall permit such dog(s) to be a public nuisance in the Town of Princeton”

With the following:

“No keeper of a dog shall permit such dog(s) to be a nuisance dog in the Town of Princeton.”

Amend Section 3 by deleting the words “Public Nuisance” and replacing it with “Nuisance Dog” so that the sentence reads as follows: “He shall also apprehend any dog found by him to be a nuisance dog and impound such dog in a suitable place or order the keeper thereof to restrain it.”

Amend Section 4 Section (b) 1 by deleting the words “Board of Selectmen” and replacing it with Town of Rutland so that Section (b) 1 reads as follows:

“reimburse the Town for its expenses for initial handling of such dog plus an amount for each day of impoundment thereof according to fees set annually by the Town of Rutland.”

Amend Section 5 by deleting the words “ten (10)” and replace it with “seven (7)” so that the sentence reads as follows: “

Any dog which has been impounded under the provision of this by-law and has not been redeemed by the owner within seven (7) days and/or the owner is unknown, the dog may be disposed of as provided by Section 151A, Chapter 140 of the General Laws as amended.

Amend Section 5 by deleting the following language:

“The Animal Control Officer may try to find a new home for any such impounded dog. He may waive impound fees to a new owner.

An adoption fee of \$50 will be assessed at the time of adoption. No dog or cat shall be released for adoption as a pet without the written agreement from the adopter guaranteeing that the animal will be neutered or spayed. Vaccination fees, licensing fees, and veterinary costs shall be charged if applicable, and are above and beyond the adoption fee.”

Amend Section 8 by deleting the words “A fine shall be imposed on the owner of a dog who has not licensed such dog” and replacing it with “Under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, section 141 a fine of not less than \$50.00” so that the sentence reads as follows:

“Under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, Section 141 a fine of not less than \$50.00 shall be imposed on the owner of a dog who has not licensed such dog on or before the close of the last business day in the month of April.”

Amend Section 10, Dog Fees, 1. Annual License, to add the following language:

“Service Animal* - \$0

*As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder.”

Amend Section 10, 3. Impound Fees by changing the Initial Handling fee from \$15.00 to \$25.00 and by changing the Each day of confinement fee from \$10.00 (per day) to \$25.00 (per day)

Amend Section 11 by deleting the following language:

Definition: One (1) pack or a collection of dogs on a single premise, whether maintained as pets or for breeding, boarding, sale, training, hunting or other purposes and including any shop where dogs are on sale, and also including every pack or collection of more than three (3) dogs, three (3) months or older, owned or kept by a person(s) on a single premise irrespective of the purpose for which they are maintained.

Amend Section 11 by deleting the following language:

“In lieu of individual licenses, the owner(s) or keeper(s) of four (4) dogs or more is required to purchase a kennel license for the number of dogs kept on a single premise. Fees are as follows:”

Amend Section 11 to add the following language:

“Under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, Section 137A no kennel license will be issued until the kennel has passed inspection by the Animal Control Officer.”

Amend Section 11 to add the following language:

“Kennel Types are defined by M.G.L Chapter 140, Section 136A

- Personal Kennel –a pack or collection of more than 4 dogs, 3 months old or older, owned or kept under single ownership, for private personal use.
- Commercial Boarding or Training Kennel
- Commercial Breeder Kennel
- Domestic Charitable Corporation Kennel
- Veterinary Kennel

To determine the amount of the license fee for a kennel, a dog under the age of 6 months shall not be counted in the number of dogs kept in a kennel.

Fees for all kennel types are as follows:”

Mass General Law regarding animal licensing and control was updated by the passage of Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2012 – Animal Control. The majority of changes to this by law are necessary to align with Mass General Law Chapter 140, Sections 136A-174D. The remainder of the changes, Sections 4, 5, and Section 10.3 reflect terms of the Regional Animal Control Agreement signed on October 7, 2013.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 29. To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter VI, (Legal Affairs) of the General Bylaws as follows:

Delete in its entirety:

“SECTION 2. The Selectmen may at their discretion compromise or settle any claim or suit to which the Town is a party, which does not require the payment by the Town of an amount in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). No settlement of a claim or suit obligating the Town in an amount in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be made, except as authorized by law, without the consent of the Advisory Committee.”

And replace it with the following new language:

“SECTION 2. The Selectmen may at their discretion compromise or settle any claim or suit to which the Town is a party. The Selectmen shall consult with the Advisory Committee any settlement of \$25,000 or greater.”

or take any action relative thereto.

The Board of Selectmen believes that the five hundred dollar limit established in this Bylaw in 1955 is simply not realistic in 2014. It further believes that as the chief elected executive body of the Town it should be able to make settlements in the best interest of the town without the consent of the Advisory Board. Should this amendment be approved, the Board of Selectmen would still need to seek funding through appropriation by the Town Meeting or with the approval of the Advisory Board for a Reserve Fund transfer, unless there was an appropriate existing appropriation. With the article's approval, the Board of Selectmen would need to consult with the Advisory Board for any settlement of \$25,000 or greater.

Advisory Board Approves.

ARTICLE 30. To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter II, (Town Meetings) of the General Bylaws as follows:

Amend the existing Section 11:

“SECTION 11. When a question is put, the sense of the meeting may be determined by a show of hands, and the Moderator shall declare the vote as it appears to him. If the decision of the chair is doubted, or a division of the house is called for, the Moderator shall request all persons in the house to be seated. The question shall then be distinctly stated, and those voting in the affirmative and negative respectively shall rise and stand in their places until they are counted by the Moderator and tellers. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the taking of a vote by ballot in the first instance if a motion to that effect shall be duly made and carried by a majority of the voters present and voting thereon. All votes on the appropriation of money in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) shall be taken in the first instance by ballot, as above provided, unless said appropriation shall be recommended or approved by the Advisory Committee.

If a two-thirds vote of a town meeting is required by statute, the count need not be taken unless the vote declared by the Moderator is immediately questioned by one (1) or more voters.”

by deleting the following sentence:

“All votes on the appropriation of money in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) shall be taken in the first instance by ballot, as above provided, unless said appropriation shall be recommended or approved by the Advisory Committee.”,

or take any action relative thereto.

The Board of Selectmen believes that except when required by statute, only the Town Meeting itself should determine when and if Town Meeting should vote by paper ballot. Under the present Bylaw, for appropriations in excess of one thousand dollars, the appointed Advisory Board can mandate that Town Meeting must vote by ballot vote.

If approved the amended Bylaw would then read,

“SECTION 11. When a question is put, the sense of the meeting may be determined by a show of hands, and the Moderator shall declare the vote as it appears to him. If the decision of the chair is doubted, or a division of the house is called for, the Moderator shall request all persons in the house to be seated. The question shall then be distinctly stated, and those voting in the affirmative and negative respectively shall rise and stand in their places until they are counted by the Moderator and tellers. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the taking of a vote by ballot in the first instance if a motion to that effect shall be duly made and carried by a majority of the voters present and voting thereon. ~~All votes on the appropriation of money in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) shall be taken in the first instance by ballot, as above provided, unless said appropriation shall be recommended or approved by the Advisory Committee.~~

If a two-thirds vote of a town meeting is required by statute, the count need not be taken unless the vote declared by the Moderator is immediately questioned by one (1) or more voters.”

Passage of this article does not affect the Town Meeting’s ability for it to vote to hold a ballot vote on any article.

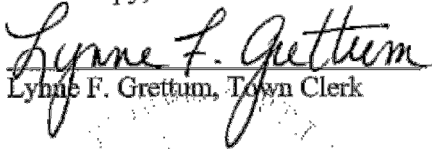
Advisory Board Approves.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies thereof seven days at least before time of said meeting at Bagg Hall, Mechanics Hall and the Princeton Post Office.

Hereof fail not, and make return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of said meeting, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands on this May 1st, 2014.

A true copy, ATTEST:

A circular seal of the Town of Princeton, featuring a central emblem and the words "TOWN OF PRINCETON" around the perimeter.

Lynne F. Grettum, Town Clerk


Stan Moss, Chairman


Edith M. Morgan, Clerk


Neil A. Sulmasy

Selectmen of the Town of Princeton

I have this day posted the above warrant at Bagg Hall, Mechanics Hall and Princeton Post Office.

Date: May 2nd, 2014


Constable