

PRINCETON COUNCIL MEETING
January 2, 2014

The organization meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on this date at 5:30 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room in the municipal complex.

The audience participated in a salute to the Flag.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Clerk read the following statement.

The following is an accurate statement concerning the providing of notice of this meeting and said statement shall be entered in the minutes of this meeting. Notice of this meeting as required by Sections 4a, 3d, 13 and 14 of the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided to the public in the form of a written notice. On December 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., said schedule was posted on the official bulletin board in the Municipal Building, transmitted to the Princeton Packet, the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, the Town Topics, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

OATH OF OFFICE TO ELECTED MEMBERS OF PRINCETON COUNCIL

The Mayor reported that at the General Election held last November, that Jenny Crumiller was elected to office on Princeton Council, beginning today.

Susan Crumchau, Esq. administered the oath of office to Ms. Crumiller.

The Mayor reported that at the General Election held last November, that Patrick Simon was elected to office on Princeton Council, beginning today.

Marc Weiner, Esq. administered the oath of office to Mr. Simon.

ROLL CALL

The Municipal Clerk then called the roll.

Present: Mesdames Butler, Crumiller Howard and Messers Liverman, Miller and Simon and Mayor Lempert.

Absent: None.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Lempert entertained nominations for the Council President of Princeton for 2014.

Mr. Simon nominated Bernard P. Miller as Council President. Mr. Liverman seconded Mr. Simon's motion. On a roll call vote, the motion to elect Mr. Miller as Council President of Princeton for 2014 was carried unanimously.

Simon Miller, Esq, administered the oath of office to Mr. Miller.

OATHS OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO FIRE CHIEFS

Dan Tomalin - Fire Chief

Kyle Rendall - Deputy Fire Chief

Alex Ridings - Assistant Fire Chief

Edwin W. Schmierer, Esq, administered the oaths of office to Mr. Tomalin, Mr. Rendall and Mr. Ridings.

CONSENT AGENDA

14-1 Resolution Authorizing Council Departmental Assignments

14-2 Resolution Authorizing Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees

14-3 Professional Services Agreements

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| Attorney: | Edwin W. Schmierer, Esq. (1/1/2014-2/28/2014) |
| Assistant Attorneys: | Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C. (1/1/2014-2/28/2014) |
| Auditor: | Hodulik & Morrison, P.A. |
| Bond Counsel: | McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC |
| Labor Counsel: | Robert T. Clarke, Esq. Apuzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy, P.C. |
| Tax Attorney: | Harry Haushalter, Esq. |
| Public Defender: | Michael Barrett, Esq. Bergman & Barrett |
| Municipal Prosecutor: | Reed Gusciora, Esq. |
| Planning and/or Zoning Consultants: | Ostergaard Accoustical Associates Land Concepts Group SWM Consulting, Inc. AECOM Technical Services, Inc. Snyder Environmental Engineering Associates |

Gregory Sandusky, P.E., L.S.

Princeton Hydro, L.L.C.

Daniel Dobromilsky & Associates

Weidlinger Associates

Dr. Bruce Eisenstein

Consulting Psychiatrist,
Corner House:

Dhwani B. Shah, M.D.

Website Consultant:

City Connections, LLC

- 14-4 Staff Appointments
- 14-5 Adoption of Resolution Authorizing the Assessor to File Tax Appeals
And Rollback Assessments
- 14-6 Adoption of 2014 Meeting Schedule
- 14-7 Adoption of Resolution Providing for Adequate Notice of Meetings
- 14-8 Adoption of Resolution Designating Official Newspapers
- 14-9 Adoption of Resolution Authorizing an Annual Tax Sale
- 14-10 Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Officers to Execute Promissory Notes
- 14-11 Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Officers to Sign Checks
- 14-12 Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Rate of Interest and Penalties to be Charged on
Delinquent Taxes
- 14-13 Adoption of Resolution for Cancellation of Tax Balances Under \$10.00
- 14-14 Adoption of Resolution Designating the Public Agency Compliance Officer
- 14-15 Adoption of Resolution Concerning Cash Management Plan
- 14-16 Adoption of Resolution for Temporary Budgets
- 14-17 Adoption of Resolution Appointing Local Emergency Planning Committee

Ms. Butler moved approval of the consent agenda with resolution 14-15 amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crumiller and carried unanimously.

(Resolutions appended to this set of minutes)

MAYORS REMARKS

Mayor Lempert welcomed dignitaries in the audience then delivered her reorganization day remarks for 2014.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Council President Miller then delivered his reorganization day remarks for 2014.

Mesdames Butler, Crumiller, Howard and Messrs. Liverman and Simon added their reorganization day remarks for 2014.

(Remarks appended to the original set of minutes)

Mr. Liverman offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Linda S. McDermott
Municipal Clerk

**Bernie's Remarks
Reorganization Meeting
2 Jan 2014**

I want to first thank my son, Simon, for administering my oath of office. As this is the start of my 12th year as an elected official, I'd hazard a guess that he can recite the oath from memory. I also want to thank my son, Toby and grandson, Noah, for holding the bible. They did an excellent job, but I know that they are both accustomed to be on stage with speaking roles, so that standing center stage without speaking is really not their gig. Most of all, I'd like to thank my wife, Ruth, for aiding and abetting my passion for public service. Through it all she has been my political consultant, editor, speech writer - and most of all my best friend.

I also want to thank my colleagues for re-electing me Council President. In 2013 we faced many challenges and had many successes. We already know that we will have major challenges to deal with in 2014. I know that we all want the best for Princeton, although at times we may not agree on exactly what is the best and how to get there. Through the democratic process of debate and discussion we will work together, the challenges will become successes and at the end of 2014 Princeton will be a better community.

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Happy New Year and Happy First Birthday, Princeton! I'd like to thank all of you, Princeton's most active citizenry, for attending today.

I'd also like to thank my husband Jon for his support, and my daughter Susan, a Princeton High School graduate, for coming from New York on this snowy day to swear me in.

2013 was a great first year and I want to thank our mayor, my council colleagues and the staff for that. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you as we've spent many hours in meetings, bonded by our common goal, the greater good for our town.

Liz, you jumped into the hot frying pan as our first mayor with courage and grace – first having the gumption to run for Mayor and then for actually serving as mayor. We've had great successes due to your leadership. You have kept up the momentum with your boundless energy, keeping us all on our toes and working hard. You expect the best from everyone and you get it.

Bernie, it's a pleasure to work with you as our Council president. We all benefit from your executive experience as well as your diligence and organization in communications. Thank you for agreeing to be our council president again!

Lance, you seem to be able to be in two places at once as you attend so many meetings. Your friendship and kind-hearted generosity are invaluable both to me and the residents of Princeton, who may not realize all you do behind the scenes. You know everybody! You really bring people together and solve problems.

Jo, you are always thoroughly prepared, organized and you are on top of whatever issue we face, often with a considered opinion that challenges us – in a good way – to think differently. Your forthright questions and your strong independence make us a better team.

Heather, I can always rely on your progressive voice and sharp mind to help clarify thorny issues. Like all good attorneys, you have a way of asking a question that actually points toward the right answer. Your amazing people skills making connections throughout the state benefit us all.

Patrick, you've been an amazing first-year council member. The town is fortunate to have your super analytical skills. With your attention to detail, and your insistence on the highest standard, you raise the bar but with such tact and a friendly manner, it has been truly a pleasure.

-- But turning to 2014 and the upcoming year -- we will be working on much of what we started last year. We've begun reconciling the former Borough and Township ordinances but we have a long way to go. The Planning Board is reconciling land use ordinances as well, with the first issue being the historic preservation ordinance. We're still working out the kinks in our leaf and brush pickup program, which has not been easy but we're getting there. The Shade Tree Commission celebrated completing our tree inventory and we look forward to documenting a new, required, five year plan for tree maintenance in support of our consolidated Tree City. The Environmental Commission continually strives to reduce our town's carbon footprint and to decrease the amount of permanent garbage we produce, as well as working to decrease negative environmental impacts through improvements in our land use process. We hope to eventually make our composting program economically viable for individuals -- for now, environmentally conscious residents who want to take part can join at a cost of less than about \$6 per month. I encourage those with the means to give it a try!

We have some new challenges for the upcoming year as well. We have to face the dreaded day when we say goodbye to our administrator Bob Bruschi at the end of the year when he retires. That's not going to be easy and not just because Bob is such a nice guy. He's been central to the consolidation effort and he does an amazing job keeping the town running and making it look easy. // We will have to decide whether to finally build a cold storage garage for our heavy machinery or continue to allow expensive equipment to rust and deteriorate ahead of its time from exposure to the elements. //It looks like we'll face a controversial request from the University for rezoning lower Alexander Road.

But however challenging these decisions are, it will be a pleasure to work them out as the team up on the dais and with the public through your input and conversation. Please email me! The push and pull of ideas through healthy debate are what makes this job interesting and I love hearing from you. It is both a pleasure and an honor to serve. //Thank you again!

STATEMENT OF COUNCILWOMAN HEATHER HOWARD
PRINCETON COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2014

It's a great pleasure to be here celebrating the one year anniversary of a consolidated Princeton and to look ahead to 2014. I want to start by thanking my colleagues for their hard work – it's been a pleasure serving with you. I want to particularly call out Jenny, who has been a terrific neighbor up on the dais, and Mayor Lempert, who led us through our first year with grace, dignity and a clear vision of the public's priorities.

I also want to thank my family. I'm proud that Nate was here earlier to help lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and know that now he's praying for a snow day tomorrow.

I. Achieving the promise of consolidation

A year ago we were here celebrating the historic consolidation of Princeton. We were full of pride about doing our part to end New Jersey's multiple municipal madness, and hope about achieving the promise of consolidation. Today I'd like to briefly highlight what we've achieved, and look ahead to some of the challenges and opportunities we face in 2014.

II. What we've achieved

Consolidation offered the chance to get a handle on the escalating property taxes that threatened to make our town unaffordable for many. By finding efficiencies and eliminating duplicative spending, we reduced our budget and were able to cut property taxes. And working with the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, we have begun implementing budget best practices, including adopting a budget calendar. Our sound financial footing was recently recognized by ratings agency with the award of the highest bond rating.

But consolidation was not just about financial savings. It was also about creating a better and more effective government for our residents. I want to focus on a few areas where we've seen this play out.

Public safety services were the largest components of both the Princeton Borough and Township's budget, and the merger of the two departments through consolidation has already resulted in significant savings, and we anticipate additional savings once consolidation is fully implemented.

The force is smaller due to attrition, yet because of a more cost-effective command structure, we have been able to provide better services and reinstated services previously

trimmed due to budget cuts. The Traffic Unit is focused on enforcement and safety, and the Safe Neighborhoods Unit is dedicated to proactive community policing.

The department standardized police technologies and upgraded the consolidated dispatch center to provide better 911 services, including reduced call transfer and centralized dispatch planning and management.

Completing a new agreement with the Princeton University Public Safety Department was an important piece of unfinished business and will ensure better cooperation between the two departments and more effective responses to public safety threats.

And the department is on track to receive accreditation. This recognition -- that we are among the top departments in terms of best practices for operations and procedures -- is all the more impressive (fewer than a quarter of NJ forces have it) given how quickly it's been achieved.

Let's be clear -- there's no doubt that the police department faced challenges earlier in the year, but it has responded under Captain Sutter's leadership and worked tirelessly to strengthen relations with the community. Starting with the community expectations survey, which identified issues of priority and concern, the department has been conducting neighborhood meetings, instituted bike patrols, increased foot patrols in the central business district, pursued more directed traffic enforcement, and has initiated several school-based security initiatives.

This fall, the police department adopted an order clarifying the role of local police with regard to federal immigration enforcement. The order was the result of a long and close collaboration with the Human Services Commission and LALDEF. It builds on new outreach by Spanish speaking officers in the community, and sends a strong message to the community that witnesses or victims should not be afraid to come forward and work with local law enforcement. Later this winter, the department will operationalize the order with innovative training for its officers.

An outside review from the Rodgers Group found that the former Boro and Township departments, with their very distinct cultures, are coming together successfully and morale has improved. As a result of that organizational review, the department now has the tools for more effective management. And the fact the department has turned the corner has been noted by many in the community.

As I noted earlier, the police department has had an invaluable partner in the **Human Services** Department and Commission.

At the department, we have new leadership – Director Elisa Neira – who has reinvigorated the mission to provide services to our most vulnerable residents and create a more welcoming community. New initiatives have included Send Hunger Packing, a public-private partnership with the school district and Mercer Street Friends to provide weekend packages of food for elementary school children at risk of food insecurity.

And the Human Services Commission has worked diligently to address the needs of our immigrant community, working closely with the police department to build bridges to the growing community through a variety of outreach channels. In addition to the groundbreaking order more clearly defining the very separate roles of our police vis-à-vis federal immigration authorities, the Commission has also developed new intake guidelines to address wage theft and promoted tuition equality at the state level, and recently celebrated the enactment of this critical legislation.

We have also launched the first community needs assessment survey in a long time -- if ever -- to identify the needs of our most vulnerable residents.

I'm also pleased that the **Board of Health** has continued Princeton's leadership in protecting public health, enacting Mercer County's first ban on smoking on public property. The ban will promote a healthier environment, especially for children and seniors, populations most susceptible to secondhand smoke, and will help normalize smoke-free environments. And more recently, our health department, under the able leadership of our interim health officer, Bob Hary, has worked closely with PU, NJDOH and federal partners to address the meningitis outbreak on campus.

And finally, Princeton was at the forefront of protecting the civil rights of our residents as the first Mercer municipality -- are you sensing a theme I'm particularly proud of?! --to provide marriage licenses to gay couples. I'm proud that we worked swiftly to respond to the state court ruling and ensured that our residents – who had already been denied justice too long – were able to marry as soon as legally possible.

III. Looking ahead to 2014

I am pleased with all we have accomplished in our first year as a unified Princeton, but know there is still much more to do.

First, we must continue to strengthen our finances. That means continuing CFAC's work to implement best practices, including adhering to new internal budget schedules and devising a capital plan to manage our load debt and prioritize our infrastructure needs.

On the public safety front, I hope we will stay the course and lock in the gains we have made in a force that, despite being smaller, is more nimble in meeting our needs and more responsive to the entire community. We have important decisions before us on the leadership of the department and the size of the force, but can be proud that the force has turned a corner and is on a strong path to serve our community.

We couldn't have accomplished all this without the talented staff and dedicated volunteers who serve on our boards and commissions. While we have successfully managed significant staff departures this past year, we will likely face more staff changes in 2014, and will need to ensure we maintain the high quality staffing and services for which Princeton is known. Our gifted administrator, Bob Bruschi, has generously provided more than a year's notice of his retirement, and while I would rather he not leave us, selecting his replacement is an opportunity to ensure stable leadership and a smooth transition to the post-Bob era. Hopefully, Bob, we can accomplish a lot – and maybe have a little fun – in your last year.

In closing, I look forward to working with my colleagues, the terrific staff and many engaged residents to continue to achieve the promise of consolidation and keep Princeton the vibrant and diverse community we love.

Lempert – Reorg Speech 1.2.14

One year and one day ago, we gathered here in this room to usher in a new government -- a new government born of the 60-year struggle to consolidate the Princetons. As the first major municipal consolidation in the state of New Jersey in a century, we knew all eyes were on us. Would we be a cautionary tale, or a story of success? Would this marriage work?

Reducing costs and enhancing services through consolidation could inspire other communities to follow suit. Setting a positive example in Princeton could lead New Jersey away from the problems caused by what Alan Karcher, the late Princetonian and former speaker of the New Jersey Assembly, termed “Multiple Municipal Madness.” Senate President Steven Sweeney came here at the beginning of the year to congratulate Princeton on its leadership and reaffirm the importance for the entire state of what we’re doing here. In the fall, three school districts – in Lambertville, East Amwell and Stockton – voted to consolidate. Meanwhile, several other New Jersey towns, looking to Princeton, are starting consolidation studies of their own.

A successful consolidation is most important for all of us who call Princeton home. Pre-consolidation, the status quo meant steadily growing budgets, even in the face of cuts. Property tax relief remained elusive. One year and one day later, I am happy to report that consolidation has proven to be a success: costs are down while services have grown – the exact opposite of

pre-consolidation trends. Consolidation has provided tax relief, which is needed to maintain the economic diversity that makes Princeton great.

We've reduced the size of the budget; and we've lowered municipal taxes. We actually pay less in municipal taxes now than we did several years ago. Not only are taxes down, but services have increased despite the smaller budget. Residential trash pick up was expanded to include the entire municipality. The combined police force, while smaller in number, has restructured itself in order to offer more services. A stand-alone traffic unit can now focus on reducing speeding on neighborhood streets. The Safe Neighborhood Unit is free to dedicate itself to community outreach and preventative community policing.

Consolidation has also enabled us to avoid some major expenditures. A prime example is the Corner House move. Because of consolidation, we were able to relocate Corner House into existing facilities in the basement of the former Borough Hall. Previously, Corner House was contemplating a multi-million dollar building project, but now they can devote their fundraising energy to supporting their programming. In its new location, Corner House has become a model for teaching-oriented community behavioral healthcare organizations in the state.

With consolidation, we've physically moved around departments to create better synergies. Affordable Housing, Human Services, Corner House, the Health Department and the Senior Resource Center are all in close

proximity to one another now, leading to better sharing of information among departments and better access to services for residents.

Now that we have a one police force, a single public works department and a consolidated dispatch center, we can eliminate that extra layer of communication and coordination that took extra time and resources when we needed them most. We put a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan in place in 2013, and are better prepared to deal with major weather events, extended power outages, and other crises.

Consolidation has also jolted us out of autopilot and forced us to re-examine all our practices and develop a fresh set of operating procedures. This year saw us adopt a new personnel manual and a new conflict of interest policy. We adopted a police ordinance, and lay the groundwork for accreditation of the new department. We negotiated a three year contract with the police union, and we balanced fairness to employees and consideration of the taxpayers while harmonizing salaries.

We agreed on how to use a consent agenda so we could focus our attention on non-routine matters. We posted agendas and back up material online in advance of our meetings to provide the public with the information they'd need to fully contribute to decision-making. We provided links to video from our meetings, and adjusted mid-course to make the preparation and adoption of minutes more timely.

As a new Council, we wanted to make sure we got off to the right start by turning to experts for training and advice: Bill Kearns and Marc Pheiffer led us through a primer on the Borough form of government; Alan Zalkind and Kathleen Cupano from Rutgers's Center for Government Services helped to navigate team dynamics and set us on a path towards more effective governance; and Bill Kearns returned to review the law surrounding closed sessions and the importance of civility. We still have some growing pains, but are working hard to make 2014 an even more productive year for Princeton government.

We've also developed some new traditions. As we had planned to do this evening, we often start our meetings with school children leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. I've instituted regular Meet the Mayor hours, which I plan to continue and expand this year to include Walk & Talks as part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Another new tradition started this year was having the President of Princeton University sit with Council in a public meeting to discuss potential partnerships and lay the groundwork for respectfully working out disagreements.

Consolidation is not the only way in which Princeton has become a model for innovative government. We became more sustainable and we made the best of challenging situations, including the Avalon Bay development, the selling of the post office, and the proposed expansion of the Transco pipeline.

The three prongs of sustainability – fiscal, environmental and social – remained high on our agenda.

Princeton received a AAA bond rating – the highest you can get – from both Moodys and Standard and Poor, reflecting our prudent fiscal management. As a result of that rating, we were able to refund a package of bonds for a savings of close to \$1 million. We adopted a budget calendar to keep us on track for 2014, and with the help of the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, will be drafting policies for debt management, capital spending and surplus in the coming year.

On the environmental front, we worked with the Planning Board and Environmental Commission to develop a green building checklist. It is being used by Avalon Bay to help make their development more sustainable; and is required to be used by all developers to help shape the impact of new construction. We formed a Municipal Green Team, which is working with Sustainable Princeton to acquire points toward Silver Certification. A tree inventory of Princeton's 19,000 street trees was completed this year. The survey allows for better control of disease, and better planning for replanting in order to maintain Princeton's beautiful tree-lined streets. We are working on a community forestry plan, and a trail plan for the recently expanded Princeton Ridge Preserve. The municipality partnered with the county and land conservation groups to permanently preserve an environmentally fragile 4.3-acre property once proposed for a condominium development. The Klepper property is now permanently

preserved open space, and provides a vital link in the network of greenways that are being created in the Princeton Ridge.

Sustainable Princeton launched an "EnergySmart Homes" Campaign, offering low-cost energy assessments to Princeton residents and businesses so we can save on heating and cooling bills – while at the same time reducing emissions.

The number of households participating in the curbside compost program doubled in size. Those 800+ households diverted nearly 300 tons of waste from the landfill in 2013.

On the to-do list for 2014 is a municipal vehicle inventory. The inventory will allow us to make more informed decisions about reducing the size of our fleet, and the fuel-efficiency of the vehicles we purchase.

Princeton's Neighborhood Bus Service, the freeB, now runs six days a week (Monday – Saturday) and has extended its hours. A beautiful interactive map of current transit options – reminiscent of the London Tube map -- is available on the princetonnj.gov website to facilitate trip planning.

One of the many benefits of consolidation has been better collaboration among the different agencies providing public and affordable housing. The Housing Authority now provides a social worker to help with resident concerns at Redding Circle and at Clay Street. The Avalon Bay

development will provide for the addition of 56 affordable units to our inventory, with 13 percent set aside for very low income residents.

Back in 2011, the outreach subcommittee of the Consolidation Commission held dozens of community meetings to solicit feedback and hear concerns. One of the most common fears raised in these sessions was what the impact of consolidation would be on our police force, especially with regard to relations with the African American and Latino communities. The police have proven themselves this year to be sensitive to that perception, and have worked diligently to build relationships of respect and trust – within these important communities, and also with our merchants, the schools, and Princeton University public safety.

One of the significant successes of 2013 has been the development of a formal agreement of operational cooperation between our police department and Princeton University's public safety department. Our town was one of the very few college towns in the entire country that did not have a written agreement with its corresponding campus security. Because there was no agreement, officers from the police department and officers from Princeton University public safety would sometimes both respond to an incident and be forced to make up the rules on the fly as to who was in charge.

Now we have a formal agreement that clearly spells out the protocol for each type of situation. The former uncertainty and tension between the two forces has evaporated, and the relationship has dramatically improved.

Both the bomb scare in June, when the campus was evacuated, and the reports of gunshots at Nassau Hall in the fall were handled jointly in an efficient and coordinated way. Fortunately neither incident was a true emergency, but the effective response to them revealed a new level of public safety coordination that will serve us all well.

This year has seen the departure of several long-time department heads – Cynthia Mendez in Human Services, Dave Henry in the Health Department, Dave Dudeck in Police, and Don Hansen in Public Works. In some cases we've welcomed new employees – Elisa Niera has hit the ground running in Human Services. Among many new initiatives, she and the Human Services Commission are reaching out to the under-served in our community through a Community Needs Assessment, which will help guide the department's efforts in the coming years.

Bob Hary is serving as our interim Health Officer. He's done a tremendous job in working closely with Princeton University, the State Department of Health and the CDC to coordinate the response to the meningitis outbreak on the university campus, and we are thankful to have his expertise at this critical time. We are planning for potentially more retirements this year, as some of the benefits available to former Township and Borough employees are set to expire. We have a strong organization of dedicated, capable employees, with traditionally low turnover, and it is imperative that we develop succession plans that retain knowledge and expertise so transitions feel seamless and the high level of service residents expect is maintained.

This year also saw us through several major road and sanitary sewer projects. Quaker Road, Ewing Street, and the Westerly Road Sanitary Sewer project were completed. Work on Moore Street, Park Place, Vandeventer Avenue, Branch Alley and Willow Street will wrap up in 2014.

The public works department picked up all the fall leaves on schedule – an unusual feat in either of the former municipalities. Using the phone system to notify residents ahead of pick up times seemed to work, and will be continued next year. Council will also be reviewing the brush pick up schedule in the coming months so we can continue to make improvements.

At the start of this year, we faced a lawsuit from Avalon Bay over the Planning Board's rejection of their initial, monolithic design. They agreed to go back to the drawing table, and resubmitted a plan that better addresses community concerns. Plan B now has five buildings instead of one, including townhouses along Franklin Avenue. A new street connecting Henry Avenue to Franklin offers permeability. And the pocket park, now to be built on the corner of Witherspoon and Franklin, is larger in size. Avalon Bay also plans to work together with the Arts Council of Princeton to install public art at the site. Princeton Citizens for Sustainable Neighborhoods did not always see eye to eye with the municipality, but I want to thank them for their tireless advocacy in helping to make this project greener, more open, and more attractive than had originally been proposed.

I also want to acknowledge the citizens group, the Princeton Ridge Coalition, for their continued advocacy for safety and environmental protection in our dealings with Williams over their plans to expand the Transco Pipeline. Thanks to the citizens group and the work of our engineering department, Williams has agreed to several significant accommodations this past year: they will stay within the existing clearing – as opposed to doubling the size of the easement and fragmenting the forest – and they have also agreed to shut down the existing pipeline during some parts of construction.

We've also tried to make the best of a bad situation with the selling of the Palmer Square post office by the US Postal Service. We worked in conjunction with Princeton University and Congressman Rush Holt's office to convince the Postal Service to relocate downtown. We succeeded – the post office will keep a downtown presence on Hullfish. Meanwhile, we will be working with the eventual purchasers of the historic post office building to ensure they respect its historic nature and comply with our zoning for the site, which is for restaurant and retail.

For the past couple years, Princeton's ability to enforce its zoning and land use laws was under threat by Assembly bill 2586 -- which would have exempted Princeton University and the other private institutions of higher education in town from the town's land use regulations. With the help of Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, and in collaboration with similarly impacted towns, including Hoboken, we were able to stall it in committee. We still remain vigilant, but as more

information about the true impacts of the bill reached legislators, support appears to have waned.

None of the accomplishments this year would have been possible without the hard work of many of my colleagues here on the Council and the hundreds of volunteers who serve on our boards and commissions. I also want to thank our dedicated staff. Thanks to all of you for helping us to achieve our goals, and I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

Another new tradition started in 2013 was to start the year with a priority setting session of Council. We came up with a list of over 200 priorities, much of which, surprisingly, we were actually able to get to this year.

Council plans to hold another goal setting session this year, but we will attempt to narrow the list to single year actionable items, and to keep the list to a more manageable length. Among the projects and priorities I see for the coming year, in addition to the ones I've already mentioned include:

- following up to the Council meeting with Princeton University President Chris Eisgruber to explore new collaborations, especially in the areas of diversity, sustainability, and transportation;
- making sure our fire department has proper capacity at its consolidated location on Witherspoon Street;
- helping the first aid squad find a location to bring their facilities up to date;
- collaborating with our neighbors and the DOT to relieve traffic congestion on Route 1 without exacerbating traffic on local roads;

- creating strategic plans for our police and IT departments
- and continuing the necessary work of harmonizing our ordinances

I wanted to end on a bit of a personal note. One of the privileges of being mayor is being able to perform weddings. That took on special significance this year with the legalization of same-sex marriage, something this Council had been vocal in supporting. Thanks to Councilwoman Heather Howard, our Health Department was ready to process applications within hours of the court decision. That allowed our residents to not wait a second longer for their equal rights, and allowed Princeton to be the first town in Mercer County, and among the first in New Jersey, to host a same sex marriage.

A couple weeks after the ruling, I was walking across Hinds Plaza when I ran into one of the women whose wedding I had officiated. I asked her how married life was treating her – she has been together with her wife for decades -- and she joked in true married fashion, “I want a divorce!!!” I said, sorry, I don’t do those...

Princeton’s consolidation has been compared to a marriage – and now that we’re hitched, after decades of dating, I’m happy to say we’re enjoying the fruits of our union! As we enter year number two, I think we will continue to validate — and improve upon — our long and historical relationship, and prove that the sum is greater than the parts. As pioneers, we will continue to chart uncharted territory, and, continue — in the great Princeton tradition — to make history.



Message

Sun, Jan 12, 2014 4:00 PM

From: Jo Butler <jbutler@wickenden.com>

To: **Linda McDermott**

Cc: Jo Butler <jbutler@wickenden.com>

[View in Browser](#)

Subject: notes from re org

Linda,

Because I knew I would be speaking after some number of people, I didn't have prepared remarks. I had a few notes and then spoke extemporaneously.

The points I made were:

- The staff has experienced a tremendous amount of change – everything from where they show up to work, the people to whom they report, to the computers they use. The amount of change cannot be underestimated, and yet, the staff showed a great amount of enthusiasm and grace in delivering the services Princetonians have come to expect. We all owe thanks.
- In additions, we have not accomplished our work alone. I thanked Princeton University for their increased contribution to consolidation. I thanked the State for their contribution of 20 percent of the consolidation costs. And I thanked our friends at the County for their cooperation in being good fiscal stewards. When we expressed concern, the Freeholders went back over the budget, cutting an additional \$4.2 million.
- I recognized Patrick for his outstanding rookie year. I noted that his work on the Emergency Services reflected both his incredible attention to detail and his vision.
- I thanked Jenny and President Miller for their dedicated work on behalf of the ordinance harmonization. The differences between the Boro and Township were not merely cultural. There were real differences in the way we were governed, and it is time-consuming, often thankless task to harmonize the ordinances, and I thanked them for their efforts.

I hope this is enough.

Thanks,

Jo

Jo Butler