

Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Board of Finance

Telephone: 860-585-4002
Fax: 860-585-4015

1. Call Meeting to Order – The Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Finance was called to order on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Peter Cook in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Vicky Carey, Peter Cook, Pattie DeHuff, Dan Murray, James Zalot. Also present: David Bernagel, Director of Finance; Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary; Council Liaison Bill Heering. Excused absent: Mike Drozdick.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

March 17, 20, 24, 27, 2014 and April 3, 7, 2014

MOTION: To accept the minutes from March 17, 20, 24, 27 and April 3, 7, 2014 by Dan Murray; second Pattie DeHuff. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

4. To Review, Discuss, and Take Action on the Town Council's Recommendation for a Special Appropriation of \$70,000 using LoCIP funds for the Construction of a Skate Board Park
Chairman Cook reviewed agenda item as to whether the BOF recommends using LoCIP funds for the skate park; he clarified that having a skate park was decided by Town Council and reviewed options of the Board (1) do nothing; (2) vote yes; (3) vote no. An approval means at the town meeting the vote needs 50% plus 1; if we vote no, it requires 2/3 majority at meeting. Councilman Bill Heering, 17 Prospect Street, asked that the Board consider tabling or doing nothing in light of inconsistencies in what they were told and reality of LoCIP and how used do believe the Council was not told the truth and the Council needs to revisit and be given opportunity to consider facts of LoCIP. Chairman Cook responded that no matter what the Board does tonight it goes back to Council. If tabled, there is nothing to prevent you from calling a town meeting.
Linda Kazmierski, 20 Joseph Street (1) what is the problem and can someone explain it as the Mayor seems to agree and Dave, and they have the intelligence on what is going on. Vicky Carey stated LoCIP funds were used many years ago for different infrastructure projects; roofing for high school, town hall projects and various project for town facilities; background given. The BOF decided many years ago to take LoCIP money and put toward town roads which would decrease taxpayer's amount they put into roads and that is what we had been doing for years and to keep handle on LoCIP. Has no problem with skate park and LoCIP money as far as she was concerned to put back in roads and feels it should stay within roads; misleading is when the park was started and doing sketches and going around told (1) would be donations, private investors and a few grants out there and skate park would cost nothing to taxpayers. Do not know what happened in between and presented to taxpayers they would not have to come up with money. (2) do you have any suggestions on where we can get money. Vicky Carey stated we were told you were getting grants and also to be private donations and volunteers, fundraisers. This was never brought before Capital Improvements. Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, she was at the Council meeting and never got impression it was all unused LoCIP money but impression part was unused LoCIP money and apparently different people got different impressions; may be at one time you put toward roads and not all of it has to go as we have a bonding package for roads and kids of town are more important than roads and few facilities for kids. She considers this park an investment

and feel LoCIP is appropriate use for that money. David Bertnagel, Director of Finance, distributed and reviewed information on presentation to Town Council stating in years passed since 1988 and in 2010 used for other than roads for 2 firehouse roofs. He has been in contact with the State of CT who confirmed \$109,000 is unallocated and we will receive another \$96,000. This will not impact 2014-2015 toward roads. If skate park funding through LoCIP is approved, we will have unallocated funds at end of next fiscal year and still have unallocated funds to be utilized. May be disagreement of time period on when grant reduced and there were no less than 25 calls to the State on this and multiple calls by same person (s). Sandra Hubert stated some people who called had preconceived notion the town was hiding something and she responded back that Dave's numbers are correct and reports explained. He reviewed all yellow highlights are projects approved by LoCIP and never done by the town. Confusion is 2014 allocation released in March and people said we didn't use it which is untrue, further explanation given. The BOF has been using part of budget to allocate part of money to roads. There still remains \$109,000 unallocated and up to this Board on whether to use some of that money toward the skate park and if so, still \$41,000 for the 15-16 budget year. There are 24 categories of projects which are eligible to use funding. Bill Heering stated the reason have 109,000 as just allocated on March 1st was 96,857 and you are talking about is current LoCIP allotment. Dave Bertnagel stated not correct, allocation 2014-2015 budget, allocation becomes available July 1st; discussion held. Chairman Cook reminded the Board that the Town Council has asked us for \$70,000 and the question before us is to use 70,000 from LoCIP. Dan Murray (1) stated given definition of projects that qualify, does this meet requirements. Dave Bertnagel stated yes it does and also that the City of Bristol did skate park and used LoCIP funding. (2) does LoCIP money that is unused that is going to be pooled have to be reapplied for to LoCIP to use. Dave Bertnagel, yes, every project for LoCIP has to have application for specific use, reviewed. Pattie DeHuff, historically haven't we been notified we are receiving so much from the State for LoCIP and then spend on determined project after we receive notice. Dave Bertnagel stated we received notice that we will be receiving money for ECS and 400,000 for transportation and in budget document; LoCIP is part of that and we will get 97,000. Discussion held. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, remember it being said that we had 109,000 for this year and that we were using this money for this year's budget and when got next one we used for next year's budget. She assumed we had 109,000 for this year and explained that no, that was last year's money and we had 14,000 left over and now in this year's budget and have 109,000 and you just allocated 95,000 toward roads for next year because money readily available. Understood you are a year behind and always have money. Remembers that adhoc committee for the skate park said they will get all their own money. The way you explained that night that the next allocation was for the next year so had cash in fund and believe that is way explained. Chairman Cook stated we will have more money available to us at the start of the next fiscal year. Dan Murray stated it gets challenging when talk about this year and budget and next year and next budget; money in the bank we have 109,000 and because LoCIP still exists, the State has come back and said there is LoCIP money for you in next budget cycle and an additional "sum" would come back in to the town that the town could add to its existing balance which is 109,000 right now and you can use that for LoCIP projects. We have a commitment for a number for next year which we put in the budget. If we didn't spend anything this year and absorb money the State gave us for the next time giving money, we will have that dollar amount, 97,000, added into our available balance of 109,000. Cathy Kosak, if the unallocated funds you deem must go toward roads than you would have to make adjustment to this year's budget because last May included in it was this year's money for roads and now saying unallocated. Chairman Cook reminded everyone there is no mandate that we have to spend a penny. Discussion held. Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Town Road, if you table or it is a yes it has to be 50 plus for town

to go forward; if no it is 2/3. We have more important things to spend money on since some of the roads have been slightly touched and urge to vote no.

Michael Ganem, Director of Parks & Recreation stated there are always competing priorities for ways to spend money and at a good momentum for Parks & Rec activities and timing good. They are not serving the demographics that would be using the park. Had 114 kids in grades 1-8 that played in rec basketball and suspect that use of the skate park would be more. One of first things did when hired was to research minutes and interesting in 2009, December 6th, Mayor Mischke requested a special meeting (read into record) on a skate park and talked about since. We are asking for the BOF to send a message to the town that you at least support the process and let voters decide at town meeting whether feel a priority. Vicky Carey stated the Board is not here to say yes or no to the project but here to look at take a special appropriation of the LoCIP money only toward the project. Cathy Kosak noted requirements of a town meeting and this is age 8-16 of unorganized sports, an activity and social place and need to tell youth we care. She lives on road that needs to be serviced and roads are important but kids are no less important.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, voting mechanism looking at is this money has been put for years now on to roads and thinks everyone in town benefits from roads whether adult, child, homeowner, tenant and feels that our roads are deplorable and we have more problems coming up with way weather hit and roads untravable and urge to stay on track as was said we need 400,000 each year for roads. Urging you to vote no to allocate money anywhere else. Linda Kazmierski stated she agrees on fixing roads but you have more kids skateboarding on roads and at least if have park they can go there and have a chance to skate board without getting hit by a car.

MOTION: To not approve the Town Council recommendation for a special appropriation of 70,000 using LoCIP by Pattie DeHuff, second Vicky Carey. Discussion: Jim Zalot stated he agrees with roads but looked at skate park and when his son was in that bracket and went from Fall Mountain to Bristol and having something in town where our children who are very important, our future, our treasure and giving them the opportunity to have a skate park; skateboarding is fashionable now and a harmless activity and if we can give them the opportunity and space to enjoy themselves and all for it. Vicky Carey stated she is not against the skate park but way funded and would rather take out of undesignated fund balance and not LoCIP. Leave LoCIP as is and take undesignated fund balance and drop down. This is what we have to vote on. To take 70,000 out of LoCIP and will go before people on way funded. Voters in town will vote anyway. Pattie DeHuff referred to point from information emailed that came from Marty Sandshaw, read mission into record. Further in information it is stated it will be \$1000 to maintain each year. Dan Murray, we can talk about pros and cons and think it is a good idea and more than a skate park but opportunity for young people to learn a skill they can develop into other skills; people who are snowboarders and skiers used to skate on skateboards or rollerblades and skill set they learn. If we had a request before us 4 months ago for "x" amount of dollars to put in capital budget, we would have decision of fund from LoCIP or some other way and basic question. From what gather, up in arms decision is using money currently have for this project. If skateporbard committee came in January and stated what need to do to apply for LoCIP money for 70,000 and went through process, we would not be here tonight. Vote: Pattie DeHuff, yes; Jim Zalot, no; Vicky Carey, yes; Dan Murray, no and Peter Cook, yes. Motion fails and to Council for 2/3 vote.

5. Finance Director's Report - they have rating report from Standard and Poors, rated strong and received upgrade which is the second received in six years which saves us in long term debt. Accounts look good, snow the other night and will check effect on overtime. Everything else is in line with budget.

6. Public Comment

- a. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – we get STEAP grant every year and noticed the BOF not once has that as part of capitals, gets lost and then the Council spends it and a way to deter the public from still having a voice and noticed over least few years did not see STEAP grant money. Dave Bertnagel stated STEAP is an application process, \$20 million allocated and the Town has not received STEAP money in 4 years; last time it was as a special town meeting and that was sidewalks for Main Street. It is a competitive grant process.

7. Correspondence - none

8. Board Member Comments

- a. Peter Cook, explained vote that he voted to not go along with recommendation because process was afforded by going direct to Council and agrees with Dan if they had come to us and not rushing through direct to Council, it is not the way any project should be run.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn by Pattie DeHuff; second Vicky Carey and the vote unanimous.
Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas
Recording Secretary