

Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786

www.plymouthct.us

Board of Finance

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1. Call Meeting to Order: Jim Kilduff, Chairman called the scheduled March 28, 2019 Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, James Zalot – excused absence, Jay Dorso-excused absence, Pattie DeHuff, and Briana Brumaghim. Also present: Ann Marie Rheault - Director of Finance, and Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Jim Kilduff, Chairman led the group and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Notice of Fire Exits: Jim Kilduff, Chairman, noted the fire exits.

4. Approval of Minutes (March 18, 2019)

Briana Brumaghim made a motion, seconded by Pattie DeHuff to accept the minutes of March 18, 2019, as amended

Motion passed unanimously

Discussion/Corrections – March 18, 2019

Per Brumaghim – to list all Board of Finance members names in attendance, where reviewed and highlighted.

Pg. 3 – Briana Brumaghim stated it is in the best interest of the town that Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corp. is solvent.

Gabrielli Rental & Leasing –Presentation

5. Informational Presentation on Public Works Vehicle Leasing Proposal

Jim Kilduff, Chairman introduced Charles Wiegert, Director of Public Works.

Charles Wiegert, Director of Public Works distributed/discussed a Full Service Lease Proposal by Gabrielli Rental & Leasing Prepared for Town of Plymouth dated 3/28/2019

Charles Wiegert introduced Peter Parante, General Manager – Leasing and John Coman, Lease Account Executive.

Peter Parante stated most towns own their own equipment and are responsible for all repairs - if you decide to have a full-service lease we own the equipment for a certain period of time and you have a fixed amount/payment, and the services provided are consistent.

Peter Parante gave a History of Innovative Trucking Solutions.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2019 APR -8 PM 1:05
Briana Brumaghim
TOWN CLERK

Gabrielli Rental & Leasing Presentation:

Peter Parante stated that Gabrielli Rental assists in the decision process determining the specifications and requirements to help the Town of Plymouth make an informed decision.

Value Added Services: Full Service Benefits, Custom Spec'd Vehicles, Contract Maintenance, Commercial Truck Rental, Local Decision Making, National Account Program, Preventative Maintenance, 24-Hour Roadside Assistance, Fuel Tax Reporting, Licensing & Permitting, and PeopleNet.

Full Service Leasing discussed and highlighted Benefits: Frees up Capital, Releases Executive and Administrative time, Predictable Cost, Alternative Source of Extra Vehicles, Advertises Your Company, Drivers take pride in the vehicle and work, and Eliminates Truck Management Problems.

Pete Parante stated one repair could eat up 20-25% that was budgeted for a year, and discussed Preventative Maintenance as follow:

Preventative Maintenance: Services Performed Around Your Operational Requirements, Stringent Service Intervals, reduces breakdowns, Technicians Qualified to Latest Industry Standards- OEM Certified, and Extensive Parts Inventory.

Our Services Includes: All preventative maintenance, All mechanical repair, All repair parts, Tire replacement, 24 -hour emergency road service/towing, All State & Federal inspection requirements, State Licensing/IFTA services, DOT inspections, and Maintenance record keeping.

Pattie DeHuff questioned insurance.

Peter Parante stated we do not provide insurance.

Economics Presentation Slide (Example) –for discussion purposes only

Quantity	TBD
Year	2020
Make	Mack
Model/Type	Granite 64fr mhd
Estimated Annual Mileage	15,000
Licensed GVW	65,000
Monthly Fixed*	\$3,640,00 Per Unit
Mileage Charge	\$0.010
Lease Term (Months)	84

Included in Rates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washings at PM's included
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*Rates Valid for 30 days, Based on Specifications and Services Presented.

Peter Parante distributed /reviewed 7 Years Lease/Own Comparison –Tractors Only – detailed example –Purchase Cash Flow vs Lease Cash Flow -for discussion purposes only.

Peter Parante stated we have sold to municipalities although we did not sell a full-service lease in Connecticut

Jim Kilduff stated we would be the first.

John Coman stated if you sign a full-service leasing agreement with Gabrielli you'll receive priority service over other individuals that purchase.

Pattie DeHuff questioned number of trucks we currently have.

Charlies Wiegert, Director of Public Works stated the number of trucks - 7

Peter Parante thanked the Board of Finance for their time and consideration.

6. Budget Discussion: Review Board of Education totals

Jim Kilduff/ Ann Marie Rheault/ Pattie DeHuff/ Vicky Carey/ Briana Brumaghim reviewed and highlighted the Board of Education totals section of the Town of Plymouth, Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020, Proposed Budget Draft dated 2/13/2019 for discussion purposes – DRAFT/WORKING COPY* can be viewed in its entirety at the Plymouth, CT Town Hall and on the Town of Plymouth's website.

***NOTE:** Mill Rate calculation is for reference only. The final mill rate has not been determined by the Board of Finance and will not be final until the budget is approved.

***NOTE:** This is a draft working copy of the budget to be utilized by the Board of Finance in determining a final budget for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. All Amounts Are Subject to Change

Jim Kilduff distributed the Board of Education Rolling budget for review and discussion.

Pattie DeHuff questioned the NBR.

Jim Kilduff stated have not received as of yet. (Will follow-up)

Jim Kilduff stated the Board of Education's request is \$578,874 increase

Jim Kilduff compared Board of Education requested to recommended and briefly elaborated.

Overall Budget Change:

2018-2019 Budget \$24,037,791

2019-2020 Request \$24,616,665

Difference: \$ 578,874

% Increase: 2.408%

Jim Kilduff stated the Board of Education's (draft budget) - Mayors Recommended is a \$200,000

Jim Kilduff stated we need to consider the draft budget and what town can afford.

Jim Kilduff stated it is fair to note the Board of Education's achievements have been going up and according to statistics 153 our 166 in spending per student and briefly elaborated.

Briana Brumaghim stated you pointed out the per-pupil expenditure that is something the Board of Education highlights every year. There are also studies that show throwing more money into an education budget will not necessarily increase the student success rate.

Briana Brumaghim stated I am a big proponent of the Board of Education budget and doing what we need to have a strong school system.

Briana Brumaghim stated too much emphasis is placed on that figure, that makes us look pretty bad, 153 out of 166 and his other comparison the state median is highly skewed by again the money that is being put into the city and the wealthy communities, you can't really compare fairly our per-pupil spending - I don't believe to the state median that has so many other factors in it.

Jim Kilduff stated Dr. Semmel's other concern that he pointed out at previous meeting was when you cut funding he is afraid that the achievement of the students will start to turn around.

Briana Brumaghim stated re. you cut funding - they have a lot of salary increases although contractual still salary increases that are substantial - at least ten positions that are over \$100,000 that has significant increases in this budget and briefly elaborated.

Ann Marie Rheault questioned are some of those contractual.

Briana Brumaghim stated "I am sure they are contractual. The Board of Education needs to maybe give more consideration to their contracts that they're entering into, if they want to put their money there that's fine but then they can't come to complain to us that they don't have enough money."

Jim Kilduff stated they had to add a tutor due to disciplinary issues and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated since this is 60% of our budget, we need to look at what we can afford and where we want to see the mill rate and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff referred to the Board of Education's presentation Primary Budget Drivers (page 8-consolidated hand-out).

Briana Brumaghim stated if you look at the Certified Salary figure \$539,200 and that is not just from adding new positions and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff requested the Board of Finance members to keep in mind the questions that you want to ask Dr. Semmel and briefly elaborated.

Pattie DeHuff stated, "I would like to make a general statement - Reaching the 40 mill rate is not something that I would not like to see happen."

Ann Marie Rheault stated the proposed FY2020 Proposed Mill Rate 40.20.

Jim Kilduff questioned if you keep the Board of Education flat where is our mill rate.

Ann Marie Rheault stated 39.93 keep in mind that's before making any additional changes that we need to make.

Jim Kilduff stated you want to be frugal but responsible.

Jim Kilduff questioned the NEASC Visitation Prep. for accreditation (will follow-up)

Briana Brumaghim questioned if there is an exception for smaller schools districts re: the amount/total of Library Media Specialists required.

Vicky Carey requested a breakdown of actual for each school budget/expenditures, now running tally, needed for comparisons of the previous year.

Vicky Carey requested a list of grants and what is actually applied against the grants.

Vicky Carey requested the actual cost of sharing the Food Services with Litchfield.

Briana Brumaghim stated the previous comment made by a parent at a Board of Finance meeting re. (last year's budget - current 2nd grade at PCS was reduced to one teacher one classroom - Briana Brumaghim clarified that this position was not in last year's original proposed budget). The Board of Education needs to clarify the State of Connecticut's portion/spending on Education and pointed out that the Board of Finance and/or town does not control how the Board of Education spends their money and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff pointed out the savings of 2.0 state insurance plan and briefly elaborated.

Ann Marie Rheault stated when you put a budget together -it is based on "0" based budgeting and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated the issue is what can the town afford we need to come up with a number.

Vicky Carey stated we need to get all of our questioned answered.

Ann Marie Rheault stated should request a full list/breakdown of each individual administrator's salaries and/or contracts if applicable.

Briana Brumaghim stated the state is pushing back on us -pointed out the ten salaries over \$100,000, we can only afford to pay so much. The Board of Education needs to think more outside out of the box and think long term and pay appropriately for a town our size and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated re: school budget - towns of our size that have the highest percentage of our budget that is funded by the mill rate.

Briana Brumaghim stated re: would like to look at other towns and see their Board of Education budget percentage to their overall town budget.

Briana Brumaghim stated ask how the state determines the NCEP (Net Current Expenditure per Pupil).

Briana Brumaghim questioned Board of Education's presentation slide 7 - Notable Staffing Changes cost -Dean of Students \$80,000 no notation that it is covered by a grant and questioned District Wide 6-12 Literacy Specialist and additional Grade 3 Teacher questioned salary location- and/or description of grant, cost, and location on roll-up spreadsheet)

Jim Kilduff stated will get information from Dr. Semmel (will follow-up)

Briana Brumaghim stated I understand reasonable increases, excellent experience with our teachers and administrators, and reiterated the significant increases (why) they all add up significantly and take away from other programs and briefly elaborated.

Briana Brumaghim stated it is not right for them to say they can't provide a literary specialist or a special math program and then turn around and give a 10% increase to the Business Manager position that is already making over \$100,000 that increase alone would pay for multiple programs.

Briana Brumaghim stated I would like to give the Board of Education an increase but not advocating for their full amount.

Jim Kilduff stated this has been a very good discussion; when you make up your mind what you want to do that is exactly you owe that to the parents and taxpayers, as an elected official.-you own them that an explanation why you're doing what you're doing and then we've met our obligation.

Jim Kilduff stated when we're done we think it is a fair and honest budget and then it goes to the Town Council, they make the final decision and briefly elaborated.

Briana Brumaghim requested the figure of the resident number of students that goes into the NBR formula.

Pattie DeHuff questioned is that different than enrolled, outplaced, magnet schools, and homeschooled, etc.

Jim Kilduff stated we have some open budget review items that we need to clarify on Monday, will try to get this information for budget review.

7. Public Comment

Jim Moslak, 18 Carriage Drive, Terryville, CT – last Sept. re. Superintendents gave each school a wish list total = \$350,000, teachers saved on insurance policy \$200,000, against Dean of Student position, where is the \$350,000, Tutor is not present all day, re. Town budget re. Proposed Mill Rate 40.20 should not go up due to the sale of Main Street School \$484,000

8. Correspondence

None

9. Board Member's Comments

Pattie DeHuff - None

Vicky Carey - None

Briana Brumaghim – Fisher Elementary School does need Dean position to handle disciplinary issues, in order for the principal to perform her job/functions – Issues at Plymouth Center School classrooms are not isolated Fisher has the same issues.

Our next meeting will be April 1, 2019

10. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Pattie DeHuff, seconded by Vicky Carey to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

Michele Yokubinas
Recording Secretary