

# Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786

[www.plymouthct.us](http://www.plymouthct.us)

# Board of Finance

Telephone: 860-585-4001

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**1. Call Meeting to Order:** Jim Kilduff, Chairman called the scheduled March 29, 2021 Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Zoom Meeting online- Meeting ID: 416 918 410. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, Eugene Croce, Barbara Rockwell, Elizabeth Wollenberg, and Dave Sekorski-excused absence Also present: Ann Marie Rheault - Director of Finance

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

**Vicky Carey made a Motion, seconded by Beth Wollenberg to add discussion of information received from the Board of Education.**

**Motion passed unanimously**

### 3. Board of Education Discussion

A lengthy discussion regarding the Board of Education's budget request took place.

Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance shared her screen, discussed 2021-2022 Estimated Expenses - Board of Education

Account Description	FY 2021 Original Budget	FY 2021 Amend. Budget	FY 2021 Actual To 12/31/2020	FY 2022 Dept. Requested	FY 2022 Mayor Requested	FY 2022 BOF Recommend	2022 Mayor requested vs 2021 Budget		2022 BOF recommend vs 2021 Budget	
							\$ Change	% Chg.	\$ Change	% Chg.
BOE Expenses	24,775,559	24,775,559	7,573,692	26,123,817	25,025,559	25,025,559	250,0000	1.01	250,0000	1.01
Out Placement - Excess Cost Revenue transfer in	(360,000)	(360,000)		(573,532)	(573,532)	(573,532)	(213,532)	100.00	(213,532)	100.00
Liquidation of prior year encumbr.	-	-	749,582					0.00		0.00
4700	24,415,559	24,415,559	8,323,274	25,550,285	24,452,027	24,452,027	36,468	0.15	36,468	0.15

*Victoria Carey*

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Ann Marie Rheault discussed the requested detailed schedule from the Board of Education - noted below are large-item drivers in their budget and are as follows:

<b>Education Costs - Town of Plymouth</b>				
<b>Description / Gross Expenditures</b>	<b>FY2021 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2022 Budget</b>	<b>\$ Increase/Decrease</b>	<b>% Increase/Decrease</b>
Salaries – All positions	14,701,466	15,125,436	423,970	2.88
Employee Benefits (Health Ins, taxes, etc.)	4,238,856	4,379,004	140,148	3.31
Transportation	1,849,479	1,961,302	111,823	6.05
Technology Department (excl. salaries)	262,368	347,630	85,262	32.50
Special Education costs	351,287	411,551	60,264	17.15
Special Education Outplacement Costs*	1,441,095	1,923,161	482,066	33.45
Other	1,931,008	1,975,733	44,725	2.32
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24,775,559</b>	<b>26,123,817</b>	<b>1,348,249</b>	
*Subject to excess cost reimbursement)				
<b>New Programs – Not included in the above figures</b>				
Industrial Tech Equipment (Estimated)	-	71,237	71,237	
Industrial Tech Salary (Estimated)	-	60,073	60,073	
Industrial Tech Benefits (Estimated)	-	20,529	20,529	
Hall Monitors	-	14,040	14,040	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>165,879</b>	<b>165,879</b>	
-any other new program line items				
Total Gross Expenditures	24,775,559	26,123,817	1,348,258	
State Funding Excess Cost Reimbursement	(360,000)	(573,532)	(213,532)	
Town Funding Net Education Cost Town of Plymouth	24,415,559	25,550,285	1,134,726	

Ann Marie Rheault stated this is for discussion purposes only.

Ann Marie Rheault stated the amount that is not going to be covered by any state funding would be a \$1,134,726 increase and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff confirmed this included STEM and new teachers that they want to hire.

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Ann Marie Rheault discussed various potential ideas and options that were discussed prior.

- ❖ Increase in the mill rate
- ❖ Increase allocation of fund balance
- ❖ A temporary modification to the Board of Education sinking fund policy - would allow taking potential surplus for this year (up to 2%) - into the sinking fund and utilize a certain dollar amount (agreed upon) towards next year's budget. (would need agreement from Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Town Council for final approval)
- ❖ Find other cuts/reductions in the budget.

Ann Marie Rheault noted the pros and cons of all these options - and what the potential impact would be or not be on MBR.

Ann Marie Rheault stated the potential impact is - you no longer have the supplemental funds to draw upon either through the allocation of fund balance or through using some of that money from the sinking fund.

Ann Marie Rheault stated to get the Board of Education closer to where they need to be which would allow them to utilize some of the surplus that they have in the current year and briefly elaborated.

Ann Marie Rheault stated the \$709,000 and then any additional coming off of any President Biden's plan - those funds would be restricted and would have to be used for catching students up.

Jim Kilduff stated we are just discussing this and trying to think outside of the box.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes – Will Follow-up**

#### **5. Employee Benefits (Pensions, Workers Compensation, and Health Insurance)**

The Board of Finance received narratives from various departments for review and discussion purposes.

**Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance, and members of the Board of Finance discussed in detail Employee Benefits (Pensions, Workers Compensation and Health Insurance) portions of the draft budget of the Town of Plymouth Fiscal Year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 – Mayor's Proposed Budget Draft dated February 16, 2021, Pgs. 1 of 26 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 -[www.plymouthct.us](http://www.plymouthct.us).**

**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 AFTER APPROVAL BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.**

**6. Public Comment**

None

**7. Correspondence**

Received correspondence from the Yankee Institute Tax Foundation - a very conservative think tank - outlined how high the property tax burden is on the state of Connecticut, relates to taxes, and funding education, and briefly elaborated

**8. Board Member's Comments**

Vicky Carey - None

Eugene Croce – Want to help -but don't know if we have the resources.

Barbara Rockwell – Agree with both comments.

Elizabeth Wollenberg – Tough decisions to make.

Our next meeting will be on April 1, 2021

**9. Adjournment**

**There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Vicky Carey seconded by Eugene Croce to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

Michele Yokubinas  
Recording Secretary