

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 April 27, 2020 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, Dave Sekorski, Also present: Ann Marie Rheault - Director of Finance, and Dr. Martin Semmel, Superintendent of Schools

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Eugene Croce to accept the minutes of March 9, 2020.
Motion passed unanimously

Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Eugene Croce to accept the minutes of March 12, 2020.

Motion passed unanimously

Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Eugene Croce to accept the minutes of April 9, 2020.
Motion passed unanimously

Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Dave Sekorski to accept the minutes of April 13, 2020.
Motion passed unanimously

4. Review Board of Education Budget Numbers

Elizabeth Wollenberg questioned the transportation -Governor's Executive Order 7R –what are we looking for in documentation of health and wage benefits for those transportation employees.

Dr. Martin Semmel stated transportation Executive Order 7R – re. fleet costs, overhead -they are looking for us to pay the overhead cost, need to pay these bills - All-Star laid off all staff on March 13, 2020, will not be paying wages March 16-present they have not come back to work yet - rough estimate now \$170,000 savings (still do not have agreement).

Dr. Martin Semmel stated in communication with the out of district placement transportation - Kids Wheels looking to negotiate with them also, possible additional savings and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated re: Board of Education presentation, and funding for next year, a revised increase of \$250,000 to \$24,737 M in order to remain flat.

Ann Marie Rheault shared screen revised draft budget - Board of Education budget in order to plug in the Board of Finance numbers to see the impact on the mill rate.

Elizabeth Wollenberg questioned how long would the Math Coach position continue.

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Dr. Martin Semmel stated a Math Coach would be a permanent position.

Dave Sekorski questioned teacher's contracts and administrators (current step percent) could ask for union freeze - due to extraordinary circumstances - worth a conversation with the union and briefly elaborated.

Dr. Martin Semmel stated teachers last year next year 2020-21, Administrator's 2021-22, 2% or a full step in 20-2021- could approach it (probably not open to it) and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated aware staff has been waiting for those steps already.

Dr. Martin Semmel explained the step process and briefly elaborated.

Dr. Martin Semmel stated the insurance number might come lower than the anticipated and briefly elaborated.

Eugene Croce questioned if we were to go flat with the \$250,000 increase what will your cuts be.

Dr. Martin Semmel stated can't speak for the Board of Education members they ultimately vote on that.

Jim Kilduff stated education is very expensive - it is an increase, not a cut - based on previously negotiated contracts, worth it to ask the union, unions are not obligated to do anything. What's best for town and students, and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey stated the union for the Board of Education has taken a (freeze) in the past, due to economic problems, etc.

Vicky Carey stated very difficult situation – seniors, students, job loss, lay-offs, social distancing that we need to do, and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff reiterated it is up to the Board of Education how they utilize the money - the Town Council makes the final decision.

Barbara Rockwell questioned savings - will they keep that money.

Dr. Martin Semmel stated money leftover - move into the Sinking fund, some cases not spend it and not request to move into the Sinking Fund - would then go back to General Fund.

Barbara Rockwell questioned any advantage to pay the bus company in advance.

Ann Marie Rheault stated if you pay ahead of time - expenditures -accounting wise -it would get recorded as an expenditure for next year, not recorded as an expenditure for this year so you do not gain anything.

Ann Marie Rheault stated the year you incur the expense is the year you actually record the expense in the books -need to match year that service or goods are purchased or utilized with the year in which you expend your revenue - cannot encumber funds that you have not expended in the current year and briefly elaborated.

Elizabeth Wollenberg stated the Math Coach position could be positive/beneficial but not the year to add this position.

Elizabeth Wollenberg for clarification purposes - budget number initial savings for insurance but not any additional savings other than what was mentioned.

Dr. Martin Semmel stated correct

Eugene Croce stated if we do go with a higher number -- the MBR setting that at a higher number will not be able to backtrack because you established your number and briefly elaborated.

Walt Semen questioned if we went from 40.69 to 41 mill rate what does that break down per household -- wouldn't be significant.

Ann Marie Rheault stated dependent on each house assessment different for everyone. It could be significant to a taxpayer dependent on household income/situation and briefly elaborated.

Dr. Martin Semmel stated appreciate time and effort put into this. Will end year in black will know more as the weeks' progress -conversation further of what might go back to town - cannot predict now.

5. Review of Employee Benefits, Pensions, & Health Insurance sections of Budget

Account Description	FY 2021 Mayor Recommended	\$ Change	% Change
Wages/Benefit Adj's	40,000	10,944	37.67%
Social Security – Employer Contributions	375,000	(5,000)	-1.32%
Retirement Contributions	625,000	70,000	12.61%
Retirement Contributions – Defined Benefits	700,000	(55,000)	-7.28%
Tuition Reimbursement	41,000	9,500	30.16%
Unemployment compensation	15,000	(10,000)	-40.00%
Health Insurance - Active	700,000	(215,000)	-23.50%
Health Insurance - Retirees	395,000	20,000	5.33%
Health Insurance – ACA Fees	18,000	(12,000)	-40.00%
Insurance Accident & Health	40,000	(5,000)	-11.11%
Medical Buy-Out	55,000	55,000	100.00%
Compensated Absences	50,000	-	0.00%

Heart & Hypertension	2,000	500	33.33%
Additional -potential payout	100,000	100,000	100.00%
Other Professional/Tech Services	35,500	10,500	42.00%
Employee Benefits	3,191,500	(25,556)	-0.79%
Insurance - Workers Compensation	616,173	(3)	0.00%
Insurance - Property & Casualty	351,852	21,765	6.59%
Insurance Umbrella	47,025	4,915	11.67%
Insurance Public Official Liability	47,390	2,894	6.50%
Insurance – Police Liability	19,909	1,606	8.77%
Insurance – Claims/Deduct.	4,000	-	0.00%
Insurance Bonding	1,200	-	0.00%
Property & Casualty Insurance	1,087,549	31,177	2.95%

Barbara Rockwell questioned how come we have not looked at the State insurance plan.

Ann Marie Rheault stated Mayor and Jen Marecki look at insurance options every year and briefly elaborated.

6. Correspondence

None (next meeting)

7. Public Comment

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT – Ambulance Corps., calls, contingency fund, questioned Board of Education money left over from state insurance, Police Extra-duty-revenue.

Dan Gentile – Town Council – Board of Education –Town of Plymouth General Obligation Fee Funding Report, re. 2017 noting Town Employees 71 and Board of Education 211. Presently No of Employees 243 (Board of Education) and 67 (town) - re. MBR noted 1357 students.

8. Board Member's Comments

Vicky Carey – Absent May 11, 2020, need to come up with a number for Board of Education (cut-off date), questioned the possibility of unions freeze, and ambulance books accuracy.

Eugene Croce - None

Dave Sekorski -None

Barbara Rockwell - None

Elizabeth Wollenberg - None

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

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Recording Secretary