

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 8, 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-? 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.

3. Approval of Minutes – Follow-up

Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Barbara Rockwell to move item 6 Correspondence to No. 4.

Motion passed unanimously

4. Correspondence

Read into record correspondence/packet received from the Yankee Institute Tax Foundation.

Read into record correspondence –email received from David Dudley -please tell why a force majeure was not declared by the Board of Education, all wages progression and increase would have been halted if you use a force majeure.

Jim Kilduff read a definition of force majeure which describes the conditions under which a party's obligations may be modified, because of circumstances beyond such party's control.

Jim Kilduff read into record correspondence from Briana Brumaghim.

Excerpt from correspondence: To inform the residents and taxpayers, it would be appreciated if the Board of Finance would publicly address the following questions at one of their meetings:

- Will the current ladder truck be sold and what is the approximate sales value? If sold, are the proceeds to be used to offset the expenses of the new aerial truck;
- Has the Board of Finance been provided with a detailed quote, or quotes, for the aerial truck;
- Are there other purchase options, such as a used aerial truck, which is still much newer than our current ladder truck;
- Mutual aid from surrounding towns/cities with aerial trucks; where are they located and what is the approximate response time for each;
- Other than the age of the current ladder truck, what is the status of its overall condition;
- What is the estimated remaining useful life of the current truck and who makes that determination;
- Is refurbishment of the current ladder truck a feasible option;

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- How many calls on average each year has the current ladder truck been utilized and on what types of calls; and
- As noted at a recent Board of Finance meeting, the new, leased plow truck has already broken down in the first year of service and needed significant repairs, which were fortunately covered by the lease agreement. What provisions have been made for potential costly repairs of a new aerial truck?

End correspondence

The above questions and/or concerns were addressed by Chief Mark Sekorski as follows:

Chief Mark Sekorski stated the study was done in 2006 (cost \$20,000) and was used as a guideline - confident that one truck covers us very well and briefly elaborated.

Mark Sekorski stated our ladder truck is 1996 - last year it cost us about \$12,000 to fix. A required \$5,000 test includes - ladder has to be x-rayed, a certain amount of weight, all the hydraulics have to be tested, it has to go through rigorous testing before anyone can use it and emphasized that test has to be done once a year.

Mark Sekorski stated Yes, \$20,000 to \$25,000, Yes (answered question 1)

Mark Sekorski explained the bidding process - obtain a quote from vendors to get a number that we can use for a budgetary number noting we did not go out to bid that is town's process. (answered question 2)

Mark Sekorski stated if we buy a used aerial truck we are buying someone else's problems. (answered question 3)

Mark Sekorski stated a ladder truck is used for a number of things in addition the firefighters have to carry 40-foot ladders, along with rescue equipment, and airbags.

Mark Sekorski explained in detail a construction accident/rescue scenario - where an aerial ladder truck is ideal - someone caught in a trench and ground caving in around them - you can't walk near them - an aerial truck is ideal since you can drop some ropes and harness - noting ice rescues.

Mark Sekorski noted there are 600-650 calls a year with ladder truck going to 300 calls. (answered question 8)

Mark Sekorski noted that you cannot put a 40-foot ladder on a fire pumper truck it is just as long as the truck is and briefly elaborated.

Mark Sekorski stated the truck carries poles, huge generators, lighting, stokes basket, and rope, this is just some of the equipment that is used when an individual goes off a cliff.

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Mark Sekorski stated the Ladder truck is not just there for fires, yes it's there for fires but more importantly, it makes it much safer than if we go to a chimney fire that has an icy roof – with an aerial device you can shoot it up making it more efficient and safer.

Mark Sekorski noted the current age of our ladder truck and the overall condition of our truck - it looks terrific! but, due to age the mechanical –it is starting to get hard to find parts and if you had to change hydraulics it could cost up to \$6-700,000 - noting refurbishing would be just as costly. (answered question 5 & 7)

Mark Sekorski stated the life of the truck is determined by NFPA which governs that all across the country noting that recommendation is 20 to 25 years. (answered question 6)

Mark Sekorski stated a new truck will have a five-year warranty. (answered question 9)

Mark Sekorski stated mutual aid is great it's there for emergencies and briefly elaborated. (answered question 4)

Mark Sekorski stated our study is very in-depth and informs you about trucks and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey stated I wanted to say thank you to Mark because in all these years he's done his due diligence I've asked for five-year planning and that's what he's been trying to do and noted time for a new study.

Dave Sekorski questioned the timeline and plan.

Ann Marie Rheault referenced capitals and explained in detail the cost. (See detailed explanation Capitals Spreadsheet).

5. General Fund Revenues/Expenditures Review – Finalize and Adjust Revenues/Expenditures and Approve Totals

Ann Marie Rheault gave an update from GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) webinar - CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) re. Recovery Act Funds – will be in the second wave of money - half by June half next year –funds won't expire until 2024.

Ann Marie Rheault stated there will be some use of that allowed to offset operating losses, but we have not received stipulations on how we are supposed to be calculating that -no set guidelines or specifications yet as to what it will be able to be spent on and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated noted variables in positions in different towns - on the whole, we are behind on some of these positions that are elected and non-elected positions and you're going to start noticing wage compression.

Ann Marie Rheault stated 1.5% for the non-union people, but for the elected officials, remember that it's that hybrid percentage increase that equates to 1.5% a year just so everybody understands that.

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Dave Sekorski stated potentially in the future, I mean you lose good people to other towns and briefly elaborated.

Ann Marie Rheault reminded the Board of Finance if you do choose to put more money in the library line item that does not bring those positions back that's a management decision it just gives the funding in case that were to take place.

Revenues

Joe Kilduff, Tax Collector stated we can go with real estate collection rate to 98.4 is it's an aggressive estimate, but, but I do think it's something that's at least attainable and realistic and briefly elaborated.

Ann Marie Rheault stated presently gun permits \$17,000, up that estimate or leave it.

Gun permits \$15,000

Eugene Croce questioned the Allocation of Fund Balance.

Ann Marie Rheault stated any cancellations of Board of Education encumbrances would add (whatever dollar amount) example: \$125,000 to fund balance as of June 30 of 2021 we would then be committing \$125,000 to come out of that if only in the situation where we needed it so we're basically -budgeting for \$125,000 deficit right now.

Ann Marie Rheault getting back to practice and easing back into having the revenue come from taxpayers.

Jim Kilduff suggested re Fraud Risk Assessment, RFP – \$15,000 will not cut it so I recommend that Eugene and I work on preparing RFP - getting the best opportunity for lower bid and getting a quality product.

Ann Marie Rheault stated Contingency now is at \$70,000

Dave Sekorski stated assistant in the building department 29 hours up to \$6,200.

Dave Sekorski questioned the Police Department overtime \$275,000 to \$250,000 – they adjust that in their department with approval and noted they are doing a great job!

Police overtime \$250,000

Ann Marie Rheault stated departments are allowed to request budgetary transfers within their department.

Eugene Croce questioned if there are any students interested in work-study programs/internship(library) non-paid or small pay (community service) and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey stated I don't want to see the \$20,000 savings to increase staff and salaries when trying to save money for the town and stay flat.

Beth Wollenberg stated believe we should stay flat.

Ann Marie Rheault stated re. Allocation of Fund Balance - If you do choose to keep that line item increased, if those positions do not get reinstated, you will end up not using that amount that you just added to the allocation of fund balance.

Dave Sekorski made a motion, seconded by Barbara Rockwell to reduce the Allocation of Fund Balance intended to increase library to \$39,000.

Beth Wollenberg - No
Barbara Rockwell - Yes
Vicky Carey - No
Eugene Croce - Yes
Dave Sekorski - Yes

Passes 3 to 2

Martin Sandshaw stated Board of Fire Commissioners just met this evening and that one deputy position, we voted to remove it – in agreement now - not using that money \$13,000 will be turning back to the general fund – optimistic though that we will need it.

Vicky Carey stated if the need warrants it - we can use Contingency Fund.

Barbara Rockwell made a motion, seconded by Dave Sekorski to increase Regular Employees - Fire Marshall to \$53,808.

Beth Wollenberg – No
Barbara Rockwell - Yes
Vicky Carey- No
Eugene Croce - No
Dave Sekorski - No

4 to 1 Fail

Summary/Highlights		
Accessors Dept.	Longevity	Amount
Employee Benefits	Health Insurance Retirees	380,000
Employee Benefits	Insurance Accident and Health	24,000
Employee Benefits	Compensated Absences	80,000
Police	Overtime	250,000
Police	Safety Supplies	5,000
Highway	Clothing	13,000
Snow Removal	Salt & Sand	230,000
Transfer Station	Other Prof. Tech. Services	575,000
Library	Part Time Employees	39,000
Capital Projects	Revaluation	30,000

Dave Sekorski made a motion, seconded by Beth Wollenberg to move this recommended budget of \$42,057,769 which represents a 0 mill increase for the budget year 2021-2022 for the Town of Plymouth to the town council for approval.

Vicky Carey -Yes

Eugene Croce - Yes

Dave Sekorski - Yes

Barbara Rockwell - No

Beth Wollenberg - Yes

Passes 4 to 1

Jim Kilduff stated our tri-board meeting will be Monday, April 19, 2021.

Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance, and members of the Board of Finance discussed in detail 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.

6. Public Comment

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT –questioned number of police officers added to the budget, building inspector part-time or full time, suggested salt and sand (variable) put into contingency, forensic audit.

Dan Gentile -269 Mount Tobe Road, – noted the importance of giving the requested (few) hours for Scott a very good employee who brings in a lot of revenue to the town, agreement in contingency for fire marshall, and love our fire department.

7. Board Member's Comments

Vicky Carey – if the mayor increases someone's hours we can use contingency.

Eugene Croce – thanked everyone

Barbara Rockwell – None.

Elizabeth Wollenberg –work together for a common goal.

Dave Sekorski – appreciate conversation and working together, memorandum of understanding (very thorough)

Our next meeting will be on April 12, 2021

Jim Kilduff stated received proposal of the Memorandum of Understanding will be on agenda Monday, April 12, 2021 – Will discuss and take action on Memorandum of Understanding between Board of Finance and Board of Education to amend Sinking Fund Agreement for specified timeframe.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

Michele Yokubinas
Recording Secretary