

**SPECIAL PLMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL JOINT MEETING WITH
BOARD OF FINANCE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 17, 2010**

A special meeting of the Plymouth Town Council Joint Meeting with Board of Finance and Board of Education Town Hall Community Room was held on Monday, May 17, 2010. The following members were present from the Town Council: Mayor Vincent Festa, Diane Schenkel, Marty Sandshaw, Tom Zagurski and Dave Sekorski. The following members were present from the Board of Finance: Chairman Ralph Zovich, Vice Chairman Vicky Carey, Dan Murray, Pete Cook, Pat Budnick, and Mike Drozdick. Dr. Distasio was present from the Board of Education along with some commissioners.

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Fire Exit Explanation – CT Gen. Statutes, Public Act 03-231, Sec. 29-381
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. To allow the Board of Finance to present the recommended Budget and by a majority vote of its members* make, if necessary, changes to the Budget to be recommended to the Town Referendum, if necessary

*(a quorum of the Board of Finance members must be present)

5. To move to schedule Monday, May 24, 2010 as the date for the Second Budget Referendum for the purpose of adopting a budget.
6. Adjournment

Mayor Festa called the meeting to order at 9:36 p.m.

Mayor Festa explained the fire exits in detail.

Mayor Festa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Festa called on the Board of Finance for a recommended budget. Chairman Ralph Zovich of the Board of Finance did a roll call of members present. He noted everyone was in attendance. He started a discussion noting there were five options available for recommendations. He noted they are furlough days, cutting capital expenditures, cutting board of education budget, cutting highway department, and cutting economic development consultant. He asked each commissioner if they would like to address the meeting. Vice Chairman Vicky Carey stated that people need to go out to make sure the budget passes. Commissioner Pete Cook stated that the PTA's came out to support the board of education. Commissioner Mike Drozdick noted that he believes people would have been supportive if they knew there was a vote. Commissioner Dan Murray stated that 450 votes is not a good turnout. He feels that people now understand what at risk

and how important the vote is. Chairman Zovich asked if the Town Council had any input. Commissioner Cook made a motion to:

“reduce the economic development consultant to \$15,000.00 and transfer the other \$15,000.00 to the Board of Education”

With no second, Chairman Zovich declared the motion failed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cook seconded by Commissioner Budnick to:

“appropriate \$650,000.00 with \$468,000.00 grant funded, and \$182,000.00 lease purchase to be paid over 3 years for the Eli Terry School roof”

Chairman Zovich stated that this is just a change in line item and will not change the budget. He noted this will be paid in 3 installments with the first installment on July 1, 2010.

The Town Council then addressed the meeting. Mary Sandshaw stated that they need to protect the infrastructure so it needs to be done. Diane Schenkel stated that we need to do it. She noted we learned our lesson with the library. Dave Sekorski stated he was in favor of it. Tom Zagurski asked how firm the price was. Mike Santagatta from the Board of Education stated that he was comfortable with the numbers. Chairman Zovich asked for a roll call vote on the motion. With all commissioners voting yes the Chairman declared the motion carried. He noted the new grant is \$1,950,700.00 funded.

Commissioner Murray stated that now that he has a better understanding of the budget he would like to recommend an increase of \$104,000.00 for the Board of Education budget, noting this would satisfy their needs. A motion was then made by Commissioner Murray seconded by Vice Chairman Carey to:

“ to add \$104,000.00 to the Board of Education budget”

Commissioner Budnick explained that they were eliminating a vacant position in the budget for special needs. Dr. Distasio, Superintendent of Schools stated that this position was already vacant and not in the budget. Commissioner Budnick stated it was presented as a position that did not need to get filled. Chairman Zovich noted one of the reasons for the cuts to the Board of Education was that we need to get more students because our numbers are down. Dr. Distasio stated that people are not leaving to go private schools, he noted they are going to magnet schools. Commissioner Cook noted he was going to vote no due to the fact that we need to deal with next years' budget now. He stated that next year will be worse than this year. Councilmember Sekorski stated that he appreciates the Board of Finance adding the money to the Board of Education. He noted that we cannot begin to predict next years budget now. Dr. Distasio noted that there is 23 billion dollars going into a stimulus for education under the President Obama administration. Councilmember Sandshaw asked what the new mill rate would be with

the added \$104,000.00. Comptroller David Bertnagel noted the new mill rate would be .75 . Chairman Zovich called for a roll call vote in which the only no vote was Commissioner Cook. The Chairman declared the motion passes.

Chairman Zovich asked the Town Council for their input. Councilman Sandshaw stated that where we are is where we need to be. Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she felt that the Board of Finance was very generous and agrees this is what needed to be done. Councilman Sekorski stated that the Board of Finance did a good job with the budget. Councilman Zagurski stated that he doesn't envy the Board of Finance at all but noted that he supports the monies to the budget. Commissioner Drozdick stated that they need to do a better job informing the public. Mayor Festa noted that people are not subscribing to the newspaper for financial reasons and noted that maybe we need to put up signs.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Carey seconded by Commissioner Budnick to:

“accept the modified budget of \$38,573,945.00 which includes increase of \$104,000.00 to the Board of Education budget”

Following a voice roll call vote in which the only no vote was Commissioner Cook, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

A motion was then made by the Town Council member Sekorski seconded by Councilwoman Schenkel to:

“accept the budget as proposed”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, Mayor Festa declared the motion carried.

With no further business to come before said meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Sekorski seconded by Councilwoman Schenkel to:

“adjourn at 10:20 p.m.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Attest:

Mayra I. Sampson
Acting Recording Secretary