

Town of Plymouth

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Board of Finance

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1. Call Meeting to Order – The Regular Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance was called to order on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room by Chairman Ralph Zovich. Members in attendance: Vicky Carey, Peter Cook, Mike Drozdick, Dan Murray, Ralph Zovich. Also, Dave Bertnagel, Director of Finance; Robin Gudczauskas, Recording Secretary. Excused absent: Pat Budnick.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Review and Discussion of Proposed General Fund Budget for FY 2011-2012 – Update on revenues distributed and reviewed. Chairman Zovich discussed town hall meeting attended in Plainville and referenced proposed budget presentation discussed at meeting. He suggested putting in line item for local sales tax and leave at zero. Update from Ted Scheidel distributed and reviewed on Tax Collections as of February 28th at 94.2% or \$24,171,945.41. Dave Bertnagel distributed 2011-2012 proposed budget summary information and reviewed noting as of today have expenditures increased of \$265,898 and revenues loss of \$461,175 for total of \$727,073 to balance budget to zero or .90 mill increase as starting point. Analysis reviewed noting actual increases in workers compensation, both BOE and town side totaling \$40,000 increase and a total of \$265,000 increase in general government. There are also minor salary adjustments and savings from elimination of a few positions; BOE proposed zero increase and no increase of debt service. Total budget up 2.91%. General government has increased .80% average over 4 years. Discussion held on dead properties that get billed but added to uncollectable. Distributed and reviewed draft expenditure by department noting employee benefits and next year contracts are up and open for discussion. Thursday will have complete draft budget ready; explanations needed for Thursday on Mayor's line item, Human Resources. Comptroller's budget down and Dave noted retirement of one position and position went part time. Time clocks will be in place prior to new fiscal year as well as Paychecks service. Central office, zero for flex workers. Dave noted changes in secretarial staffing – retirement in assessor's office and now building department clerk also covers building and assessors office and part time position in comptrollers office due to retirement but with union contracts hours increased from 35 hours per week to 37.5 hours per week; headcounts down 1 in assessor/building; comptroller down .5; town clerk is budgeted for 1 full time but position has not been filled in over a year; currently have 2.5 positions not filled. Fire marshal, increase for secretary and brought back to where was at \$5200 or \$100 per month. Dave noted next year is leap year and adds a payroll and will increase that by approx \$40,000 (2012-2013). Discussion on animal control and housing animals and costs in Bristol; discussion held on building of a dog pound. Fire department, physicals, costs being evaluated. Facilities, attempting for part time custodian on nights and union would not agree;

electricity is at 34,000; hydrant rental increase through Connecticut Water and a DPUC approval; street lights, minor increase. Cell phones, public works will not sacrifice any; discussion held noting work place safety issue and we do not provide with two way radios. This fiscal year 9 cell phones reduced out of 44; 17 are in public works. This line item will be in deficit. To go to track phone this will be through an executive order by the mayor; Dave stated looking at a May 1st shut off date. Peter asked for a by number summary of calls made to determine business calls vs. personal; Dave stated he has gone through bills and pooled plan with a pooled set of minutes. Snow removal, will need more money, o/t \$120,672 spent, and \$30,000 over; contract at \$36,690 which is snow plowing for BOE; sand and salt; Dave noted we were approved for federal reimbursement for one storm and ballpark about \$70,000 – 80,000. Discussion held. Highway services, contract services and repairs and supplies have increase; discussion on open position and currently fully staffed. Discussion on over time at transfer station. Dave gave overview of Pension fund and Employee Benefits. Narratives and details will be available for Thursday. Departments to come before the board include Public Works, Police Commission, Libraries, Parks and Rec. Peter asked for information on doing furlough days and savings; Dave is compiling information. Vicky asked about listing of delinquent taxes as listed on the web site.

4. Public Comment

a. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, understand even police contracts are up and we need to look at Thomaston that overtime cannot be put in pension and a big cost savings; what is being done with Jim Schultz and Terry Vigeant who are plowing yards with our equipment and snow blowing their driveways and are they being charged for that. When Coe Cleveland was here he wasn't plowing his and that is extra labor and time and they are doing on town time and our dime. Overtime and stuff not in budget and if go and spend it they should take out of next year's budget. You do not have to approve an expenditure that was denied. Need to make accountable for phones and transfer station overtime. Don't give them extra money for that and let them pay out of next years' budget. You need to start looking at benefits. Chairman Zovich noted item in Charter that goes with budgeting process, reviewed.

5. Board Member Comments

6. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn by Vicky Carey; second Mike Drozdick and the vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudczauskas
Recording Secretary