

Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
<http://www.plymouthct.us>

Board of Finance

Tel: (860) 585-4001
Fax: (860) 585-4015

1. Call Meeting to Order – The Regular Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Board of Finance was called to order by Chairman Ralph Zovich on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Lounge. Members in attendance: Pat Budnick, Vicky Carey, Peter Cook (7:05 p.m.), Mike Drozdick, Dan Murray, Ralph Zovich. Also present: Dave Bertnagel, Director of Finance; Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary; DiAnna Schenkel, Council Liaison; Ted Scheidel, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Review and Discuss Proposed General Fund Budget for FY 2012-2013 – Acting Fire Marshal Kevin Engle – truck detail distributed showing comparison of three styles and listing criteria for emergency response vehicle; reviewed. In van needs fire extinguisher (3-4), 3 bags turnout gear, camera equipment for investigation, tool boxes, gloves, rakes, brooms, shovels as well as radios and console. Whatever they get has to be same or larger. New equipment with bigger vehicles would add lighting, generator and light tower. Pickup truck comes with a cap and side compartments and did spec in roll out tray for that and bed liner. Vicky noted looking at economical on gas; asked if looked at econo vans with gas savers; Kevin stated this is a dual purpose vehicle to use for everyday inspections and for 4 people to go to school and fire investigations; also looked at Chevy traverse which has more cargo space but cannot carry as much weight; need to be aware of weight capacity. Suggestions: follow up on cost of police department SUV; shop for price on decals; fire marshal should use a town car to go to class; availability on State bid list. Options discussed, will stay at \$30,000 for a vehicle; surplus Astro van and crown vics.

MOTION: To take a 10 minute recess at 7:20 p.m. by Pat Budnick; second Peter Cook and the vote unanimous.

Chairman Zovich called the meeting back to order at 7:29 p.m.

Updated budget distributed including Grand list, revenues, expenditures, debt service schedule and capital outlay. Capital outlay reviewed noting the town garage replacement shown as two annual installments instead of three. Debt service details reviewed noting principal, interest and total debt; descriptions will be expanded for the public hearing presentation. Town fleet, Dave stated waiting for grant and will get 4 police cars and getting rid of all Crown Vics. Capital outlay for dam, \$27,500; Dan met with engineering consultant. Revenue projection to make budget balance noting 38,232,575 request and down over \$300,000 going into budget. Expenditure increases up \$263,130. Prior years taxes – Ted Scheidel stated as of today need \$1,034,689 to make budget; have closing tomorrow or Monday on property for Wolcott Sand and Gravel and will get \$50,000. Overview given on closings that will and will not happen and list of second payments.

Have been calling Iseli which is \$37,000 for their second payment (Danaher). Sent out delinquent notices, intent to lien will go out by May 1st. Seeing some movement from delinquent notices. Discussion held on taxpayers with monthly payment schedule and how they are getting caught up. USDA money came in today \$50,998 and \$12,000 in change were taxes and rest water and sewer. Jasper is in foreclosure and waiting court date. Structus, next Wednesday is court date; met on March 13th and extended 30 days. Discussion held on prior year's levy of 97% as of today will not be made; leaving at 97% for next year. Automobile collections/supplement was \$252,000 this January and we had 175,000 and comfortable that number can be \$200,000 for 2012-2013. Peter noted combination of prior year and interest is \$1 million. Going \$700,000 on prior year and \$300,000 interest and liens; current years will stay the same. Dan asked on current taxes which is based on 97% and each year seeing increase to delinquent and how realistic is that 97%. Ana Legassey, Tax Collector, said even with tough times people do not want to lose homes and if we find a way to stay proactive and letting people know parameters they will come to us rather than ignoring. Ted stated the key is what number you put that 97% on the grand list; goal is to get legitimate grand list and today we do not have that but are closer. Discussion held. Ana stated she is at meetings and learning to work system to her advantage and will need some changes in the future. Ted noted they are working on absentee landlords and issues on back taxes. DiAnna Schenkel, Town Council liaison, complimented Ana for what she has learned that Ana is doing in her office and she is making a difference and thank you. Dave distributed general ledger as of today; reviewed. Education reform law does not look like any money to the town but special grant may go direct to BOE and if they accept it will be a performance grant and if going away it will be extra fee in their budget for the town to absorb. Misc State of CT revenue, was housing incentive and in 2012 received new grant called Video Competition grant and has dropped to \$4,900. 101-12-100-003 changed to Sales Tax from Misc State of CT (2 line items with same wording). Operating Transfers In, Fall Mountain Water project assessments and coming to year 6 or 7 and will soon go away. Revenue shortfall is \$390,730. Discussion: visiting nurses as revenue stream will be deleted since no longer active.

Dam maintenance – Dan stated he had an educational tour with man from Roland Hasted Inc, consulting engineers. We have 5 current municipal-responsible dams and took liberty of walking through Fish and Game. Lake Winfield dam is in good shape and needs a bit of maintenance on some of the banks to clean back based on DEEP regulations; North Harwinton Ave by high school is in good shape and some clearing issues and drainage line from high school and property which has oil slick membrane that is restrictor of anything going into dam and then creates puddling and pooling and should be looked at to be redirected. Seems to be a bit of seepage coming through bottom. Property received from water department at North Street has leak in it at bottom (base) of spillway; steady flow and can be plugged but question on where to plug it from; rated class c dam with life threatening classification. Needs to be fixed. Wilton Road Pond dam, corner of Wilton and Carter Road has several leaks in its spillway with rock supports that have fallen away and needs some attention; repair of something like that could be \$50,000 - \$100,000 estimate; discussion held on if dam were to breach it would flood house downstream as well as road. Needs to be fixed. He reiterated that this is all from observation only. Marino Pond at Wolcott Road which has already breached; Vicky

stated DEP was on owners; construction site quarry and dam at top which feeds into Plainville Fish and Game; this is a dam that breached and you leave it alone and abandon and which use to be a waterway becomes grass; it has held back a shallow pond. Terryville Fish & Game Club has issues in both locations and it is private property noting there are some decay in the body that holds water back in lower pond; tremendous amount of cleaning that needs to be done, should have 25' clear path from toe of embankment out; dam in upper pond is inoperable (gearing mechanism loaded with debris, shaft is full of moss). When we had washout, the water was not able to get over dam fast enough to prevent spilling over on road. There is no more grant money from the State to do work. What the town could do, if bond package goes through and we do road work and there is ledge there, we could shore up weak areas to help prevent further erosion. A written report will be sent to the town hall for the BOF and will share with Tony. Discussion held. Dan noted concern that we try to come up with budget and these are issues we have and two dams that need work. DiAnna stated the engineer has insurance and we can go back to him. Vicky, need to find out from Mayor on what we can do with North Street dam and if that can be fixed; if not, Tony has to check on it and if we need someone to do it we need to work on repairs and if it costs more than what we have in budget we will approach Town Council. If the engineering firm takes care of it, we take the \$27,500 and get study going on Wilton Pond. Board comments: This company did work and are familiar with the town and can do study and oversee project to fix it. Leave \$27,500 in capitals and increase dam maintenance line with \$25,000 for work. Work on Wilton Pond may be emergency appropriation. Discussion held noting information will go to the Mayor and Council on North Street.

Review on modification to revenues and expenditures; none to capitals. Summary list and final change to budget, had \$263,620 in expenditures and now \$263,130 or \$490 difference – Dave stated adjustment for utilities. \$38,886,935 is current budget; increase in expenditures \$263,130.68; with changes made to revenues, current levy \$25,680,335; prior year \$700,000; interest at \$300,000; motor vehicle supplement at \$200,000; total collection of taxes remain same. Do not anticipate using reserve at end of this year. Reserve is 4.3%. Discussion held.

MOTION: To accept the 2012-2013 budget of \$38,886,935 by Dan Murray; second Vicky Carey. Discussion: Review of increase noting \$70,000 for heart and hypertension, wage increase, revenues down. Can discuss contingency and don't pay off all leases. Ralph will do comparison of equivalent mill rate and grand list. Ralph distributed, read into record and reviewed draft narrative. Vicky stated people want to know their house value, depreciation and need example within this; take property value of \$250,000 and average what assessment was last year and new assessment; need simple and clear. Dave will prepare numbers. Pat stated expenditures are needed but will the public understand and stated this is a legitimate budget and can substantiate the increase but will it be accepted by the public. Issue is not the budget but how do you get message out; no effective way to get the message out to the public. Ralph noted we are the only town in Litchfield County that did not raise taxes for two years; Dave noted towns are facing over a mil increase and we are .7%. To get message out, we are prohibited by law to promote for or against, can write letters to the editors as an individual; people need to understand that if defeated we are not going to get any better than what it is today. Town Council can decrease or increase. DiAnna Schenkel, Town Council liaison, stated she has made it

her campaign mantra that boards and commission do work and we should back them up and has no problem recommending what this Board is recommending for current budget and is not interested in playing with it. She has faith in the ability of this board. Discussion held to put budget on website, channel 16 and 21 with graphic on budget for last year and this year. Referendum is May 3rd. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, (a) would like to say she sees nothing on this \$425,000 and have seen nothing; you say addition; Chairman Zovich, it is to demolish; (b) they already did extra on the other side and only spent through the insurance company \$178,000 and got money coming and less than 200,000 and section looking to do is smaller than that yet you have price of \$425,000. Think it is over inflated price and would like to see it brought down to \$200,000 and you can get a prefab heated building and still all they are looking at is bathroom and garage. Vicky Carey stated they need an office area, two toilets, electrical, plumbing. Peter, cost depends on what you put out to bid. Vicky, it is a steel building and she went looking for estimates and her estimate was middle of the road; other garage does not have office, heater, no plumbing and out of insurance the concrete will be poured from insurance money. Vote: Mike Drozdick, yes; Pat Budnick, yes; Peter Cook, yes; Vicky Carey, yes; Dan Murray, yes. Motion unanimous.

4. Executive Session, if needed – Pending Litigation - Not needed.
5. Take Action, if needed, on Executive Session
6. Public Comment
7. Board Member Comments
 - a. Pat Budnick, feel key is to stress mill rate is .7.
 - b. Ralph Zovich, thanks to Dan for taking initiative on dam maintenance.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn by Peter Cook, second Mike Drozdick and the vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas
Recording Secretary