

# Town of Plymouth

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# Board of Finance

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1. Call Meeting to Order – The Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Finance was called to order on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Peter Cook in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Peter Cook, Pattie DeHuff, Michael Drozdick, Dan Murray; James Zalot. Excused absent: Vicky Carey. Also present: David Bertnagel, Director of Finance; Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Cook stated the auditor has been postponed until the February meeting.

3. Board of Education Update – Eleanor Cruz, Superintendent; Mike Santogatta, Business Manager; Rob Parenti, Director of Pupil Personnel and Student Services. Mr. Santogatta stated Special Ed costs are fine; budgeted out of district are at budget; October was a tough medical month but December was better and first two weeks in January are 50% of outlook which is really good; buildings are running well; overtime is fine and where expected to be.

4. Actuarial Reports for the Town and Board of Education for the period 7/1/2012-6/30/2014

**MOTION:** To take a 5 minute recess at 7:04 p.m. by Pattie DeHuff; second Dan Murray and the vote unanimous.

Meeting called back to order at 7:11 p.m.

Dave Bertnagel stated both are called Town of Plymouth but separated into two components by Ordinance in 1968 when plan was created. No employees allowed into old pension plan; town ended plan in 2002 and BOE in 2009; background reviewed. BOE side reviewed. Town side reviewed. Pension board will be meeting to again look at investment strategies of mutual funds within the plan.

5. Inventory Report for Public Works – Dave Bertnagel reviewed inventory which is one of three documents that will be received. Town Council has received this list of equipment valued over \$300 covering Hillside Avenue buildings and details locations, serial numbers, tag number. Company will assign a life to each product. All reports should be done by February.

6. Mayors Report – Dave Bertnagel stated we have 4 new businesses looking in town; one looking at Main Street parcel; one business looking to expand; two others looking to come into town.

7. Finance Directors Report - Dave Bertnagel reviewed reports: proforma as of December 31, 2013 which gives approved budget, expenditures to date and town side doing well; on target this year; have salt and sand for at least two storms and

encumbered amount covers 5 significant storms. Have received notification from FEMA (we did appeal on last year's snow storm and received 72 hour window from the amount for plowing of which expended \$400,000 and became eligible for \$290,000); after window did roof snow removal which cost \$105,000 total and first claim for reimbursement rejected and appealed outside 72 hour scope and will receive \$80,000. Pattie DeHuff questioned when apply for grants what restrictions are there on the town; Dave Bertnagel, they are disaster grants and no restrictions, we expend money and get back as an emergency protective measure. Capital projects reviewed as of December 31<sup>st</sup> on all bonded projects; if cost comes under money budgeted, we put that to debt service.

8. Approve Minutes of Previous month meeting

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of December 19, 2013 by Pattie DeHuff; second Jim Zalot. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

9. Correspondence

- a. Public Works report from Jim Schultz on monthly activities; read into record.

10. Public Comment

- a. Mike Kennedy, 11 Overlook Terrace Road – last month the Assessor came before the Board with idea to go out and do revals; think idea should be stopped in its tracks as conflict of interest of people in town. Property values are probably flat and he challenged the town on his property value and succeeded in that; think idea doesn't need to be considered to let her go out with team and we should have reval done independently. Second, like idea that public comments at bottom as chance to comment on the agenda items but as taxpayer that helps finance all departments in building, he should have input on how tax dollars are being spent and as the Board creates a new budget they need to consider idea that we need to find a way to lower our taxes and he should have input on how the members spend his tax dollars.
- b. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – (1) reason asked Pattie to read Public Works memo is if you check back in October our scrap metal was down \$847; all other months up into 1800-2000 range; want to know what happened that month in October; she want to know if scrap taken out, by whom and where put, and what is the value of that and why it would be transferred from the transfer station to Wolcott Sand and Gravel or scrap metal place when picked up once a month. (2) Believes, as Mike Kennedy believes, we don't need the assessor going out door to door; she can assess someone and can make a mistake and in today's society is not a safe environment and someone can get in argument and a town employee is putting herself in danger; insurance wise need to look at it, plus it would add overtime; don't believe it is in the contract and against anyone's popular belief a union contract is a union contract, the assistant couldn't help because a union contract and might cause controversy.
- c. Christopher Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road, Terryville – point about public comment, with public comment at end how can you give accurate vote on agenda items with public comment at end and not taking position into account and asking the Board to consider public comment on agenda items when considering a vote. Chairman Cook stated he is committed to defining a policy with this board; not against public comment but want to have it where it makes sense whether at the end, beginning or by an email where people can tell us what they believe, but it

will be taken up. When the Board decides what they want to do, is what we will do going forward and reminded the board that if you want to add an agenda item you need to make motion, it is voted on and can add public comment after agenda item.

#### 11. Board Member Comments

- a. Pattie DeHuff – She is committed to idea that government is successful for people who give ideas; reviewed charter which states Town Council has to have public comment throughout their agenda and if people voted on charter and said Town Council needs to have public comment, so we who handle money should feel compelled to have public comment. Ideally the agenda and supporting documents should be put up on the town website for them to review. Goal of this administration is to reduce taxes and we need as many eyes looking as possible. She asked that it be put on agenda next month. (2) Missed meeting on FOI and concerned about agenda and that we need to do what council says, “to discuss and take action on” and if have action item it should have language that says to discuss and take action.
- b. Jim Zalot – Thanked members of public who spoke; all things noted and taken to heart.
- c. Dan Murray – Concur and expand on request that input be considered for taxes and encourage the public to take a look at the budget and bring forward recommendations and no different than what we do.
- d. Peter Cook – Will ask BOE for date on their budget presentation. Regarding handouts that were emailed prior to the meeting, if members need a printed copy please request that and we will print a few.

#### 12. Adjournment

**MOTION:** To adjourn by Dan Murray; second Pattie DeHuff and the vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas  
Recording Secretary