

# Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786  
www.plymouthct.us

# Board of Finance

Telephone: 860-585-4002  
Fax: 860-585-4015

1. Call Meeting to Order – The Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Finance was called to order on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall by Chairman Peter Cook. Members in attendance: Vicky Carey, Peter Cook, Pattie DeHuff, Dan Murray, Jim Zalot. Also present: Mayor David Merchant; Robin Gudczaskas, Recording Secretary; Bill Heering, Councilman. Absent: Michael Drozdick.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve Minutes of October 16, 2014

Pattie DeHuff read in to record suggested changes: changes: *item 3: parks & rec report, 2" down add "about regionalization"; page 2 under Mayor's report it says Dave Bertnagel and believes "Dave Merchant" and change. Add section b: employees. Add: 4 contracts are PW, WCPA,(under ASPE) Supervisors and Non-supervisors (under UAW).*

*(50:30 mark on my audio) Dir. of Finance said we levied \$25,947,725. We collected on the current levy, \$25,772,791, or a decrease or under budget by \$174,000, so the target of 97% was not met. What this does is go to uncollectables and grows your pot of money for next year. Efforts have to be a little stronger in regards to the current tax levy. We did exceed the budget. Prior levies Discussion held about accrual basis of accounting (55 minute mark) and collections in July & August 2013 vs. 2014. Total tax levies exceeded the budget by \$731,000. expenditure side of budget reviewed.*

*1:00:00 Grants: Off on ECS by \$75,000.*

*We budgeted \$250,000 from our savings, General Fund, but did not have to use is last year. At the end of the day, we had \$220,000 in revenue over the budgeted amount. We did not use any fund balance to balance the budget.*

*(1:03:46) Mayor's office over by \$20,000. We had a payout of the former Mayor's compensated absences.*

*(1:04:00) Change in Council had \$136 over and 1:06:20*

*(1:04:25) Paid former Mayor \$30,000 for vacation time, sick time. Discussion held regarding why the former mayor got the compensation package. It's past precedent.*

*(1:11:2) Payout to Tony Lorenzett for accumulated time was "about \$40 – 50,000.*

**MOTION:** To accept the Minutes of October 16, 2014 as amended by Pattie DeHuff. Motion fails for lack of a second.

**MOTION:** To table by Vicky Carey; second Pattie DeHuff and the vote unanimous with Dan Murray abstaining.

Chairman Cook stated everyone has the suggested changes to the minutes and to review and will discuss next month.

**MOTION:** To move item 6 before item 5 and make it 5 as we could be in executive session for a long time by Pattie DeHuff; second Dan Murray. Vote: unanimous

#### 4. Tax Collectors Report

- a. Ted Smith, Tax Collector, distributed and reviewed information stating no motor vehicle supplements as bills do not go out until January 1<sup>st</sup>. One-third of the way through fiscal year and 54.35% of the total collected budget. Took 4 months of last year and adjusted for large payment for Jasper to show how performing. WPCA collections, 4 month period, reviewed stating 71% of current year taxes and in comparison to previous year \$13,207 favorable; overall \$5902 below where they were last year. Chairman Cook asked that this information is given to Commission members a few days ahead of meeting each month and Mr. Smith come in quarterly to meetings to give update and answer any questions the Board may have. Chairman Cook reviewed information he received on delinquencies and asked Mr. Smith to put together a breakdown of real estate on number of delinquents to track. Dan Murray clarified 5902 is year to date.

#### 5. Public Comment

- a. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – (a) referenced article in today's Waterbury paper stating the way it reads by charter the council orders investigation; we should be allowed to know who this agency is and there should be bidding process so there is approval by legislative. (b) annual report - has never seen a report as bad as this one, does not have true figures as she went to tax collector and annual audit report is not done.
- b. Ralph Zovich, 4 Knight Lane – (1) annual report was different than what used to getting, long on narratives, no reconciliation of general fund and town accounts, did have tax collectors payments and showed decline in delinquency. Thank tax collector and mayor's office for getting delinquent tax list back up and running and up to date. (2) First Capital Partners who own Brandon Road is a defunct division and not easy because the housing market collapsed and subdivision approval expired and will require legal negotiation and may have to cut a deal and may need tax abatement and perhaps another developer will come along and pick up where this one stopped, look at novel ideas. (3) shocked as much as everyone else and when go into executive session in favor of forensic audit and people have right to know and whatever the findings are to let chips fall, and our former comptroller has due process.
- c. Dan Gentile, 269 Mt. Tobe Road, spent four hours in training as far as agendas, FOI, and good information everyone should know. Adoption of agenda is not on

here and should be on; talked to three lawyers and you do not have to have verbatim minutes. Agenda is a guideline to keep everything in order.

- d. Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue – who wasn't doing their job, what are our checks and balances, is he operating by himself, we do not know and it will come out in investigation and over years someone was not doing job.
- e. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street - very disappointed, transparency has not been here with this administration and have been ridiculed and told she was wrong and yet everything coming to fruition. Reviewed way she read charter on responsibility and suggested if questions to go to the law library.
- f. Chris Simo Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road – echo many things said tonight and concerned from marks the town has had over the past year; the mayor has taken on several hats since elected and concerns on that as the more you wear the more your primary function is impacted. We need to fill some shoes and for the mayor to take on every hat is a problem. Need to focus on fixing issues.
- g. Melanie Church - we need a comptroller in here and also made a recommendation that the BOF and Council consider taking Mike Santogatta and making a deal and have him handle both. She has sat through many subcommittee meetings where every line item is gone through and the board members know when there is a small transfer. That is where the town needs to be and can be done in expeditious way and to try to get someone else in at a reasonable price cannot be done. We would pay the half salary. The town can give him a raise and have him straighten this out. The BOE was already audited and they came out clean.

6. Executive Session – To Discuss Contract Negotiations and Comptroller's Office Investigation

**MOTION:** To go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and Comptroller's office investigation and invite the mayor into executive session by Dan Murray; second Pattie DeHuff and the vote unanimous at 7:28 p.m.

Chairman Cook called the meeting back in session at 8:38 p.m. and stated there is no action coming out of Executive Session.

7. Correspondence

- a. Package from CCM to each member

8. Approve Meeting Dates for 2015 – Chairman Cook stated all narratives are due to the Mayor by February 10; Feb. 22 – Mayor's budget is due to the Board; early March the BOE budget is due to the BOF. April 20<sup>th</sup> we will have the public hearing; May 7<sup>th</sup> is questionable for meeting to approve mill rate.

**MOTION:** To approve the 2015 meeting dates by Pattie DeHuff; second Jim Zalot.

Vote: unanimous.

9. Board Member Comments

- a. Dan Murray– Happy Thanksgiving and let us try to remember to speak of what we know and not what people may think they know. Town is going through a tremendous hardship on many levels and in many areas and we should try to come

- up with good positive resolution and not tear seams apart.
- b. Pattie DeHuff – something that Dan said that he went to meeting and you do not need verbatim minutes; but types and have had verbatim for council and wonderful is you read about history of town and decisions, why; and while not obligated to have them she encourages doing them. Talk about pulling together as town, important thing but people of town have lost trust in elected officials and it behooves all of us to be as transparent as possible so do not have questions that are raised. Advocate chairman and mayor and elected officials to not be so threatened by the public and to put out everything you can.
  - c. Peter Cook – have tried to invite public input. Agree with everyitn said and sometimes people you trust shouldn't be and no one on this board knew and no one in town hall knew. We wish this was behind us but we will live with it

#### 10. Adjournment

**MOTION:** To adjourn by Vicky Carey; second Jim Zalot and the vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas  
Recording Secretary