

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 Monday, April 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Peter Cook in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Vicky Carey, Peter Cook, Pattie DeHuff, Michael Drozdick, Dan Murray, James Zalot. Also present: Mayor David Merchant; David Bertnagel, Director of Finance; Robin Gudeczaukas, Recording Secretary; Council Liaison Bill Heering and Councilwoman Sue Murawski.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget
 - a. Public Safety

Fire Marshal – 002, 0% increase secretary; concur; fire marshal contractual and zero increase; training, increase for mandated training for conferences/seminars and 30 hours per year \$1000 and zero percent increase; service contracts, 0% increase for fire software; dues/memberships ok; office supplies, ok; motor vehicle service & repair, question 0% increase but when fire marshal goes to investigations and if gets dirty, needs to bring back and scrub down so this is supplies; fire code manual, mayor cut \$165 from request and agree

Police Dept, 032
Salary increase recommended by the Mayor of 1.86% and agree as we just hired an assistant chief and town council approved contract which is \$3000 less than what the Chief is making and due to encroachment of salary and feel very reasonable
Police Captain – change and contractual which should read Assistant Chief F/T salaries is 2% contractual
Overtime is at 80,000; zero increase and concur
Sergeants increase of 2.52%, contractual
Seniority, contractual
Holiday contractual
Crossing guards – eventually may be increase due to safe routes to school program and will require increase
Reviewed remainder of line items and all those with 0% concur
Examination Expenses budget this year is \$3,000; requested \$3000 and mayor cut to \$2,000 – for new hires and promotions and concur
J. Zalot stated the Chief did an outstanding job in handling her budget; Pattie DeHuff stated she concurred

Dept 033, Emergency Management

Director increase of \$1200 for Mr. Orsini who handles Emergency Management stating \$600 paid by FEMA – concur
Training cut \$200 from current budget of \$700
Generator Maintenance requested \$2000 increase and Mayor leaves as is
Dues/Fees – association belongs to is \$100 per year
All other line items are zero percent

Public Safety, 034

Dog Pound expenses cut \$3500 by the Mayor and concur; we use to be with Bristol and now in Wolcott and no rental charge

Communications, 035

Full Time salaries cut \$38,540 – by consolidating positions, eliminating one public safety dispatcher - concur
P/T salaries – increase of \$5000; contractual – concur
Overtime increase of \$500 – unforeseen events, sickness; concur
Seniority pay; contractual
Training – remains same
Service Contracts, increase of \$3000; Dave Bernagel stated fees came in after budget submittal and with aging infrastructure of CAD system fees came in higher – concur

Fire Department, 036

Contract Services up \$2500 – mandated and for contractor to check hoses, air packs, meters – concur
Building Maintenance up \$2750; older structures requiring repairs – concur
Fire Commission Expenses, increase \$200
Truck Repairs up \$500 – concur

Protective gear, Pattie DeHuff questioned 20,000 and do they need to buy every year; Chief Mark Sekorski reviewed program stating every 5 years required to replace each individual's equipment so this program is planned that every year they get the replacement equipment

Headquarters, 037

Heat, down \$150
Plymouth Station, 038 – same
Fall Mountain Station, 039
Heat down \$500

Capital Outlays

Police Department, vehicle replacement
Fire Department, pager replacement program; year 5 of 5
Fire Department, vehicle exhaust removal – not funded
Fire Department, heating system, furnace/blowers – to be determined

- b. Finalize All Open Items
Barbara Rockwell – spoke on raise and thanked the board for one; but does not understand logic of giving tax collector another 3000 over and above because you don't want someone to leave the office like Ana; issue with Ana was she lost \$7000 the day she walked in and took two years to recoup and then a job came up paying 8-10,000 more. With an elected position you make yourself aware of salary and you run for that and to be running scared and raise salary of one office because someone might chose to go to another town. Feels the board apparently has issues with her and never asked or talked to her about them directly and appreciate clearing things up and equalize two salaries once again.
- c. Capitals, updated revision 4/12/2014 distributed and reviewed. Pattie DeHuff questioned (a) replacing two police vehicles and opposed to do that since we just purchased some recently and odd that life span of a police vehicle is 3-5 years. Jim Zalot stated police vehicles are on duty 24 hours a day in all types of weather and a lot of wear and tear. Once reach a certain amount of mileage it is time to replace and they put on 40,000 miles per year. Chief Krasicky reviewed program and with new fiscal year will be replacing vehicle with 100,000 miles which is used for training and other things that cannot be discussed and they will take a current vehicle with 51,000 miles that will be stripped down and used for the detective car; also have an SUV that was obtained through a grant in 2002 at no cost to the town and will take a vehicle with 53,693 miles and replace with SUV and get a new vehicle; a SUV vehicle also has severe body rot and dangerous to be on road. Past practice of replacement reviewed. (b) When comes to town hall and sees vehicles lined up across back and engines are running, why. Chief Krasicky explained oxygen tanks and defibrillators in vehicles have to stay at constant temperature, reviewed.
- d. Revenues, Collection Rate, Back Taxes
Discussion and review of slide show and bottom line increased mayor's budget by 27,700 to 39,034,620; numbers reviewed.
Mayor Merchant gave update on the tax office, collection rates, look at and go after back taxes, meeting daily with this office and monthly with foreclosure attorneys. Feels tax collection rate at 98.76% is good. Discussion held. Pattie DeHuff stated concern on collection rate as she feels the economy is not getting better and more likely we will have more people unable to pay taxes and that will offset what you think you will be able to do. The State of CT unemployed is 9.9%. Further discussion held with Dave Bertnagel reviewing grand list from 3 years back to present, uncollected taxes and current levy. Chairman Cook stated grand list grew \$4 million, more inspections are taking place and finding properties that are not on grand list. Peter, we can raise as over last several years the dead properties have come off; Dave Bert back taxes outstanding, uncollected, percentage of collection is 96% a year; current levy reviewed noting still have 3 months in collections.
Increase of state fed grants increase of 37,190 to 10,874,590 from mayor's budget 97.6 collection rate

Discussion held on collection rate with consensus to have collection rate of 97.6 with a reduction of 0.60 or mill rate of 34.846 for 2014-2015.

MOTION: To send the Board of Finance recommendation of the 2014-2015 appropriation at \$39,034,620 and to send this to the Public Hearing by Vicky Carey; second Dan Murray. Discussion: none. Vote: Dan Murray, yes; Vicky Carey, yes; Jim Zalot, yes; Pattie DeHuff, yes; Mike Drozdick, yes and the vote unanimous.

4. Public Input

- a. Mark Sekorski – good job and not easy to do this. To run any type of business it is not easy.
- b. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – questions (a) gotten property returned to us or foreclosed on and spending money to clean up and will start tearing down concrete and where is money coming from in the budget; feels question you should be watching and will hurt us because we keep spending money. Have slabs building was on and same as Bemis Street there was a frame of cement and used it to build; don't think things are being put out to bid and not being handled fairly or according to Charter and important thing and will bring that evidence if can get ahold of information asked for. We can't keep doing business like this as it is costing us money. One thing that can save money is to cut overtime that is coming out of administrative offices in town hall and with raises given, somehow better put money on the side because we have unions who will want same raises. There was a settlement and spent a few hours in clerk's office looking up, given to employee and went through minutes and no one ever approved it and things that are going on that are costing taxpayers money and need to be corrected. Maybe needs to take to council but had 10k settlement and then mayor was out sick and yet we give extra 27,000 for sick pay and who is approving this stuff; have a problem with a lot of stuff and in violation of Charter; send back to mayor your purchasing policy.

5. Correspondence - none

6. Board Member Comments

- a. Peter Cook – Thursday is our regular monthly meeting and only thing we will have on the agenda is the skate park and approval of meeting minutes. Public Hearing is next Monday, April 21st in the Community Room.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn by Mike Drozdick; second Pattie DeHuff and the vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas
Recording Secretary