

# 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, April 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Peter Cook in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Vicky Carey, Peter Cook, Pattie DeHuff, Mike Drozdick, Dan Murray and Jim Zalot. Also present: AnnMarie Rheault, Interim Director of Finance; Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary; Council Liaison Sue Murawski.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget – Chairman Cook stated if citizens in attendance are here for the regular meeting that is good but we will not talk about last night's bond package at this meeting tonight.

Revenues – prior year taxes, interest, motor vehicles and numbers in for discussion; received email from the Tax Collector explaining his thoughts and they are higher than what was put in. Prior year's taxes \$600,000; interest and liens \$260,000 and motor vehicle supplement \$275,000. Collection agency fee line item will be \$15,000 and also in expenses in Tax Department, 016.

\*Capital Projects; draft dated 4/9/2015 distributed; reviewed by Vicky Carey

Dam Emergency Plans - \$20,000 stays

Computer tech - \$100,000 stays

Facility assessment studies - \$25,000 stays

Fire Dept. Minitor Replacement - \$5,500 stays

Took out 3.5 loader for transfer station

Ford 4x4 F550 to replace TK12 - \$125,000 stays

GPS units - \$15,000 stays

Equipment Trailer - \$6,500 stays

Library Rear Parking - \$20,000 stays

Town Aid Road - \$710,000 stays

GIS Mapping for Town Inventory - \$35,000 stays

Todd Hollow Road Survey - \$35,000 stays

Elevator Replacement - \$15,000 stays and should complete project

Two Police Vehicles - \$60,000. Memo from Chief Krasicky distributed and read into record by Vicky Carey. If replacing vehicles they go; we are not going to keep any more cars in yard. ACO pickup truck is included in 2 vehicle replacement. Pattie DeHuff verified Vicky wants to replace two vehicles and get rid of two but nothing what the Chief wrote that says nothing about getting rid of vehicles and whose responsibility. Chairman Cook stated it is the mayor's office; cars use to roll to building inspector, etc and that will no longer happen as we have cars for town hall use. Discussion held.

Bullet proof vests - \$15,000 stays  
Sidewalk Repairs - \$10,000; coming out of Public Works budget and into capitals  
Total general fund side of \$606,109

**MOTION:** To take out \$125,000 Ford 4x4 F550 to replace truck 12 by Pattie DeHuff; Second. Motion fails for lack of a second.

Pattie DeHuff questioned (a) Duty Ammunition and Targets for \$6000; why is nothing put in; Vicky Carey stated it is coming out of the police budget. (b) Disk Golf Course - \$25,000 is not in budget

**MOTION:** To take out \$15,000 for gps units by Pattie DeHuff; second Jim Zalot. Discussion: Vicky Carey stated her reason for leaving in was two or three years ago if you look at notes, a couple of citizens were concerned as to where cars or town vehicle were going and talk of them being in Bristol, Waterbury and that the Public Works Director did not have a handle on where vehicles were or where housed as people took vehicles home. Dan Murray stated it is also issue of safety and you can find location if off somewhere and unable to make contact; tracking vehicles speeds for traffic; job description and safety issues at hand and goes a long way to give us information. Jim Zalot stated for years have gone without and we need to depend on integrity as employees of this town to be where supposed to be and can't ever recall where incident of employee assigned a vehicle were in danger and he has not ever seen a town vehicle out of town and is this gossip? You are putting town employees under a microscope. Chairman Cook stated they are under and this will be so you know where they are and no more supposition or innuendo that they drive to Patty's Place at 10 a.m. to buy coffee when they are working at Fall Mountain. Pattie DeHuff stated she is concerned that we don't know where we stand with general fund, agree in principal with that, concerned this is not the year to purchase. Vote: Jim Zalot, yes; Pattie DeHuff, yes, Vicky Carey, no; Mike Drozdick, no; Dan Murray, no. Motion fails.

#### Debt Service

Interest Payment – short term financing and leasing is, 1107-90-120, and ending balance is \$2000; was estimated at \$5000; and those may change slightly based on \$666,133 in total interest including estimate of \$10,000 for bonding costs.

Short term leases and financing; \$41,667 originally \$130,768

Total debt service including interest \$3,093,800

Additional principal is in as discussion on level debt policy is \$3.1 million;

Discussion held on BOF policy. We put additional principal of \$222,000 including leases it is at \$3,099,800; AnnMarie to make it 3.1 and verify numbers. Discussion held on statement we cannot pay off a bond early, cannot make an extra payment and money sits in separate fund (AnnMarie reviewed Debt Service Fund as of the end of 2013 it had a few hundred thousand dollars which can be used to accumulate and the \$222,000 would accumulate and instead of taking on new debt use it or as debt comes due to use to pay off ). AnnMarie stated in bond resolution you would reduce by that amount. If eliminate need for short term financing, question to ask is do we pay off a

higher interest loan on a short term lease.

AnnMarie distributed schedule of Debt Service, reviewed for ending balance of \$20,405,000. Interest if paid this off in 2016 would be approximately \$4,368,975.

\*Planning & Zoning /Land Use

Salary, Enforcement Officer - remove \$563

\*Industrial Park – name will be changed to Business Park

097-12, Contract Services

**MOTION:** To cut out the position of Contract Services position from Industrial Park by Pattie DeHuff; second. Motion fails for lack of a second.

Contract Services leave at \$24,000

CEDAS update is at -0-

**MOTION:** For a 2 minute recess R 7:54 p.m. by Pattie DeHuff; second Vicky Carey and the vote unanimous.

Meeting called back to order at 7:56 p.m.

\*Board of Education

**MOTION:** To cut by \$63,000 from current budget of \$23,252,790 by Pattie DeHuff; second Jim Zalot for purpose of discussion. Discussion: AnnMarie Rheault stated that would be a reduction of the 2015 budget; Pattie DeHuff stated, yes, and rationale is there is continued reduction in student enrollment and by state law we cannot reduce the budget by all that it costs to educate a single child but can reduce by \$3000 per student. Dan Murray stated instead of making motion for zero increase, they would operate 15-16 with same money as this year. Pattie DeHuff stated she is saying no new money but take \$63,000 from existing budget so next year they have less money to operate and reduction would be within state guidelines of what is an approved process. They want \$1 million more in the coming year. \$23,189,790 per Pattie would be the new budget. Vicky Carey asked what Peter's recommendation was; Chairman Cook stated \$450,00 plus 250,000 which is \$700,000 increase and as you recall they came with 822,000 in fixed costs (health insurance, special education and salary contractual raises) and we talked about eliminating bussing that could save 90,000 and then also discussed the fact that Thomaston can collect sports fee from children and we do not. Vote: Jim Zalot, yes; Pattie DeHuff, yes; Vicky Carey, no; Dan Murray, no; Mike Drozdick, no. Motion fails.

Dan Murray stated he is all for expense control and all for managing budgets and sweeping declaration like that for sake of doing are dangerous and when you have children who come before us that say we cannot get what we got as money is tight; this is a challenge for management and there is room for improvement and we have bigger issues with turnover of staff and those people who have been good to the students, town and taxpayers are leaving. Management needs to take a better look at what is going on as opposed to us making sweeping cuts that are unfound. To do it is a bloodbath and he has a tough time with that.

Further discussion held with Chairman Cook stating he put out \$700,000, leave as is, make it less or more. Dan Murray suggested taking technology for computers and put

in our capitals so \$100,000 in technology for chrome book purchases on town side that does not increase their budget and gives the BOE an operating budget without capital expenditures; technology in their budget is increase and if we give them that money for computers they do not need it in technology and can be used for other things. Pattie DeHuff stated fixed costs is broad and there is padding in their budget and the base grows while student enrollment shrinks and why the problem with the BOE budget being out of control. Chairman Cook stated BOE budget, our biggest problems is the state has flat lined and all of the increases are borne by the taxpayer and none of it comes back from the state and we barely break even. ECS is not changing; bussing is going down and special ed fluctuates; problem is state funding is not there to help. Pattie DeHuff, state funds are the taxpayers and are still funding that as grant money that is not free money and paid from our taxes. Vicky Carey stated \$700,000 is a bit too high and trying to come up with compromise.

**MOTION:** To increase \$500,000 to the current budget of 23,252,791 of 2014-2015 budget by Vicky Carey; second Pattie DeHuff for purpose of discussion. Discussion: Vicky Carey asked (a) if anyone has spoken with BOE; Chairman Cook stated he has not asked or been in discussion and should take at face value that is what the BOE approved and what they want. (b) \$1.1 million is a hard pill to swallow. Chairman Cook stated the interim superintendent does not live here and did not care how much taxes would increase and he was looking at it in terms of his experience and what the children needed at the school. He was looking at it to how to improve the schools here. What the BOE did approving it, he cannot explain their thought process. Dan Murray asked if during discussion was there any plan put forward on how they would accomplish this is what will benefit the children. Chairman Cook stated to maintain status quo; get special ed needed; cover pay raises and some of the amount can be contributed to the former superintendents' poor management. Vicky Carey stated next year they are starting new and at least \$500,000 will cover salary increases including new person on board; previous years they were able to give us money back and we didn't anticipate it and do not anticipate any this year or next. Chairman Cook stated it does not cover salaries as it covers special ed first. \$500,000 for special ed, salary increases and some health insurance. Vote: Dan Murray, yes; Mike Drozdick, yes; Vicky Carey, yes; Pattie DeHuff, no; Jim Zalot, no. Motion carries.

Pattie DeHuff asked to go to Building Inspector budget and distributed memo of building permits issued, read into record, stating clearly he is not inspecting as many as when originally hired. Chairman Cook stated from 2008-2014 it has not changed and would ask if in 2007 were we building the school. Vicky Carey stated last time she asked to find out his list of actual duties as he does not just do building permit but works with the fire marshal, for inland wetlands and one of the few officials that can stop people from doing work in homes. Besides permits there are demolitions and others things under heading of building official and the state has put other things upon him to do. Chairman Cook would like list of classes he attends in one day; how many places inspects. Dan Murray questioned can we find out if we can incorporate safety training officer into his job description. Chairman Cook stated he reports to someone and that person needs to know what he does and in effort to be transparent we can discuss this with the Mayor. Pattie DeHuff read into record her summary of

highlights from her meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

AnnMarie Rheault reviewed the following:

\*Police Department

Salary f/t; \$1,164,805 – based on the Chief running through the numbers and changes in new hires, when come on, promotions and changes in staff that number is adequate.

Overtime – no consensus so assume good and will check on Monday

Service Contracts – looked and did send follow up email; Northwest Communication and now Northeast Communications showing \$13,990 and based on what she can see in account does not think 7,000 is adequate but \$10,000 is closer to where it should be.

\*Communications

Office Supplies – appears none of regular office supplies are in this line item and asked where coming from; 2900 for 2014 was chairs for dispatchers and feel \$1500 is high. Change to \$500

\*Elderly Transportation

Dial a Ride - \$41,000

Need a line item for Maintenance for \$2000; currently the bus is having problems with the lift and needs to be sent out for service and we do not have a place or line item for maintenance and for quarterly reporting to the state need this line for maintenance on vehicles. We need to report and need a place for that.

\*Fire Department

Stations – 037, 038, 039 - telephone

Terryville – reduce by \$1000

Plymouth – reduce by \$500

Fall Mountain – reduce \$1000

They all have internet service which is \$73 per month; only phone line is headquarters which is a fax line. Will have Dawn look at what we are paying for cable in each department. Plymouth has 2 internet connections; Fall Mountain will have internet line.

\*Health & Human Services – Pattie DeHuff asked to hold off as she is meeting with Heidi.

Salary – agreement hired under brought person in at 50,000 with 90 day probation and after that period her salary depending on performance would go to \$53,000. Non union employee.

Podiatry clinic at \$1150 – leave

Chairman Cook stated on Monday we can finish the budget and asked AnnMarie to put together updated copies for Monday.

4. Public comment

- a. Peter Giancesini, 8 Kimann Drive, Terryville – thanked the Board and commended for dedication and pleased when talking about level bonding it was mentioned the needs for improvement in procedures on how things are done; important program for town and handling of interest vs bonded amount and procedures to streamline and make more efficient is welcome. Thanked for vote to approve gps for

highway as often see accidents in paper and police report say medial emergency and plow drivers have emergencies at 3 a.m. in morning and gps can optimize use of sand and salt and they will know weight put down by spreader; and like all new technology it has side things that can come off. Building inspector is heavy with new high school construction and he was responsible to inspect; with recession construction is down and his time can be for sewer lines; wood stoves; he had to go to persons house with complaint on assessment as garage set up with sink, toilet and had to document and take pictures; and there are many other things that go on; with regards to learning, you need to know specifics on connections and he has to go to school; furnace upgrades, high efficiency and he needs to go to school for that; solar panels on homes and there will be changes in building codes as firemen cannot get through and danger of electrocution; a building inspector needs to go to school to learn all the changes.

5. Correspondence - none

6. Board Member Comments

- a. Pattie DeHuff – thanked Peter for information on solar panels; Peter Giancesini stated there are things we are not aware of that are going on and the Mayor, god bless him, is bringing in new business and new construction and he will be busy.
- b. Peter Cook – appreciate the hard work and final days are hard; next Thursday is a normal meeting.

7. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas  
Recording Secretary