

1. Call Meeting to Order – The Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Finance was called to order on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ralph Zovich in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Vicky Carey, Pattie DeHuff, Jim Zalot, Ralph Zovich. Also in attendance: Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance; Robin Gudeczaukas, Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Notice of Fire Exits

4. Review proposed alternatives/options for adjustments to FY16-17 General Fund Budget. Chairman Zovich stated working from Proposed 2016-2017 as baseline; funding has been cut by the state; mill rate proposed in budget is invalid and we are now legally obligated to use latest numbers projected from the state. Review held: ECS grant is going down \$31,614; Public school transportation grant is going to zero (\$154,420); other small line item decreases; municipal revenue sharing grants (\$310,969). Net impact is reduction of revenue of 497,194 or .73 mills. Updates given: Police contract, town council approved and impact of that: 4 year contract, have retro wage adjustment in current year; as of July 1, 2016 what was in budget did not have salary increases and now need to increase salary line items for regular officers 64,167; increase assistant chief and chief line item and total increase \$76,211; discussion held. Chairman Zovich distributed a list of contingencies/options for consideration by the board. Total loss of revenues is \$357,194; Expenditure options reviewed:

\$900k reimbursement for fall mountain water is in jeopardy if a list of items is not fixed and requesting \$40,000 moved from town aid to road to Fall Mountain Water.

Pattie DeHuff stated are there electricity savings/energy efficiency due to cut in rates by Eversource. 65% of people voted no and only 11% of voters; need to cut expenses; 2014 audit not complete; public has not had answer on 972,000 of additional tax revenue collected; Moody's bond rating does not exist; Standard and Poor's future looking negative. Education, how is it for the children if parents cannot pay taxes; cut BOE by \$300,000 and keep same level as this year and if divide by number of students it is less than \$200 per child. Plymouth is a distressed community in Litchfield County. Chairman Zovich responded on discussion with Mr. Penn; we cut them from 489,000 to 300,000 and Chairman Zovich is proposing another 50,000; concern on covering special education outplacement.

Vicky Carey: capitals for Napco take \$60,000 take out. Freeze all non-union personnel; eliminate one highway and one police department; not for #5 as it would have to include recreation director and if giving everyone part time then we need to have the mayor talk to us on shutting town hall down a day a week. Chairman Zovich stated he spoke with the mayor and shutting town hall has dubious savings and proposal was one day a month and one day a month no taxes collected, no filings in clerk office and very little saving and too disruptive and employees would be taking vacation days, sick or personal and no true savings and only town council can set hours. Reduce BOE by \$75,000. Already taking appropriation from fund balance and would not go lower. Street line establishment needs to be put off and take \$15,000 out.

AnnMarie Rheault stated we are legally obligated to sweep streets and clean catch basins; Chairman Zovich stated machine was broken down again this week.

Capitals will go down 75,000. Need general consensus on what we can present as options; Vicky Carey stated she wants an amended budget to hand out at the public hearing.

Discussion on time line; if public hearing is May 12, legal notice goes in the paper Friday for next Thursday.

Jim Zalot: agree on 60,000 cut; do not do salary freeze; rescind pay grade do not do; eliminate one highway position; do not eliminate police position. BOE reduce \$150,000.

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Chairman Zovich shared Dan's thoughts on appropriating fund balance to keep as is; town hall furloughs and layoffs – town has lowest headcount and would look at BOE to step up and cut numbers; trim BOE allotment – if the state cuts the budget all bets are off and go to last year and trim 3% to keep in line with state mandates. Revisit capital expenditures – would cut \$60,000 and have state bring someone in to recommend. Other thoughts or suggestions on cutting mill rate - o/t on police is excessive and look at it further; freeze open requisitions; Capitals not much to do and cuts would put us back in the dark.

Jim Zalot questioned BOE truck – cut it in half and pay in 2 years; do lease on it.

**MOTION:** To reduce capitals and take out Napco Road bridge for \$60,000; street line establishment for \$15,000 by Vicky Carey; second Pattie DeHuff. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** TO cut 25,000 out of town hall renovations by Pattie DeHuff; second. Motion fails for lack of a second.

Vicky Carey reminded the Board that everything removing from capitals will hurt for next year.

**MOTION:** To freeze salary of all non-union personnel savings of \$15,364 by Pattie DeHuff; second Vicky Carey. Discussion: ramifications and consequences discussed regarding fairness issues. AnnMarie Rheault stated she is part of this group and why is it that it makes sense because they are non-union they are not entitled to same benefit as every other town employee in the Town of Plymouth. Vicky Carey stated she seconded for discussion and would not freeze them just like #3. If do this the fire marshal needs to rescind his hours and do less investigations and inspections. Vote: Vicky Carey, no; Jim Zalot, no; Pattie DeHuff, yes and motion fails.

**MOTION:** to rescind pay grade increases for accounting, public works and recreation for a total of \$24,300 by Pattie DeHuff; second. Motion fails for lack of a second.

**MOTION:** To eliminate 2 highway and 1 police department personnel by Pattie DeHuff; second. Motion fails lack of second

**MOTION:** To eliminate 1 highway and 1 police department position by Vicky Carey; second Pattie DeHuff. Discussion: Jim Zalot stated by eliminating police department you will run into overtime issue which would outweigh potential savings.

**MOTION:** To table by Jim Zalot. Second. Motion fails due to no second.

Further discussion on 1 highway and 1 police. Vicky Carey stated it can come back with Dan and Jay. Vote: Pattie DeHuff, yes; Jim Zalot, no; Vicky Carey, yes. Motion carries. AnnMarie Rheault will get exact savings

**MOTION:** To cut building inspector to part time by Pattie DeHuff; second. Motion fails due to lack of a second.

**MOTION:** To reduce the Board of Education budget by \$300,000 and let everyone here know that according to CT General Statutes it is a duty of parents to educate their children. Yes, state constitution says there shall be a free education and burden falls on parents and her argument to parents who feel their regular students, non-special ed children, deserve a quality education by Pattie DeHuff.

Pattie DeHuff rescinded her motion.

**MOTION:** To cut the Board of Education budget by \$300,000 based on Section 10-184 of the CT General Statues which talks about the duty of parents to educate their children by Pattie DeHuff; second. Motion fails due to lack of a second.

**MOTION:** To reduce the Board of Education by \$140,000 or 2/10 of a mill by Jim Zalot; second Pattie DeHuff. Discussion: Vicky Carey stated she is not comfortable reducing 100,000. Vote: Vicky Carey, no; Jim Zalot, yes; Pattie DeHuff, yes. Motion carries.

Other potential savings:

AnnMarie Rheault – reduce hours for Dial a Ride program which will reduce services to seniors. Increase in department is due to repairs for Dial a Ride vehicle.

Pattie DeHuff, page 1, why under benefits vacation and longevity, separate line item in department. Chairman Zovich stated showing accrued benefits for the position that has vacation time associated.

\$50,000 in debt service for additional debt service funding. Take it out  
**MOTION:** To remove additional debt service funding of 50,000 by Vicky Carey; second Jim Zalot. Discussion: none. Vote: Vicky Carey, yes; Jim Zalot, yes; Pattie DeHuff, no. Motion carries.

Economic development contract services \$22,000 budgeted.

Closing library during the week; closing the transfer station; line item for town sanitarian of \$66,000 and can we cut amount of time \$20,000 for safety in public works.

Chairman Zovich will update list and email to members; consensus to hold meeting on Monday and Director of Finance will calculate out how much to close door at library for 1 day per week; transfer station close one day a week but not Saturday; and Chairman Zovich will see if Chief Krasicky is available.

5. Discuss & Take Action to set a date for 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing

**MOTION:** To set the public hearing for Thursday, May 12 at 7 pm by Pattie DeHuff; second Jim Zalot and the vote unanimous.

6. Public Comment

a. John Murphy 385 Greystone Road – sidewalks at high school, we have them put in recently at junior high school and when comparing it washes. Sees 300,000 in capitals for Napco bridge; Chairman Zovich stated that is total cost and reimbursement and our first expenditures is \$60,000 and if we do not do it we may lose reimbursement. Used broom sweeper and why spend 230,000 and why do we have to buy new all the time. Look into sub contract it out. Police cars and can we drop to one; Ann Marie Rheault stated that is not coming out of the general fund and to eliminate there is no impact on taxes.

b. Jim Mozalak, 19 Carriage Drive – town council yesterday and Ann Marie said we are getting check for Bemis Street project and general fund will receive 155,000 we paid for Smith Street property. Blight fund - put 128,000 in that and talk about saving, put 50,000 in; on motor vehicle money we can get waiver on that where we would not be in that project for next year. \$40,000 for Fall Mountain paving and isn't that in bond issue; Chairman Zovich stated it did not go through; to use 40,000 from town aid to roads will enable a few outstanding items to be done so we can get reimbursement.

c. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – money from BROOC instead of putting into special fund should go to relieve taxes; reimbursement from building of school and that we have paid the money and 1.2 or 1.4 million and that should come back to the taxpayers; close town hall one day a week and be fair with everyone and if we can make parks and recreation a part time job except in summer; will defend the building inspector and he is busy; see proposals brought forward and if we get 1.4 million back; discussion held. Vacation time, use it or lose it is a lot of rules in a lot of places and in our union contracts if you don't use vacation you lose it and there should be no exception for non-union people.

d. Pete Worhunsky – next year; you can't figure out what to do this year and next year will be twice as much with state cuts; cut school 140,000 and figure it out yourself and then why aren't you cutting every other department by same percentage and figure it out. How much stuff can be cut that nobody knows about. Need to start thinking of how everything will play

out next year and after that.

e. Brian Dunn, 19 Carriage Drive – simple things not cut such as raises and every penny counts and raises should go; 76,000 for police contract; town hall renovations and state is going down the drain and we will put carpets in and can wait; longevity pay can go; hear contractual and who is in negotiation and why aren't they holding the line more. Terryville Chevrolet who bought property and have no plans to use and did for betterment and ask them to donate a van for Dial a Ride; Board of Education is looking for truck and town is and maybe they will donate vehicles and put courtesy of Terryville Chevrolet.

f. Peter Cook, 11 Orchard Street – take 2% from every department that was not just cut and tell them what you want and come back with line items and that will save \$100,000. Debt service, agree and also agree taking 200,000 in special debt service to offset price of anything you lease. One shot revenue to offset capitals. Privatize the maintenance garage and most of public works; need supervisors to watch people to do jobs.

g. Melanie Church – undesignated fund, take 250,000 out for tax relief and you put back in and give back this year instead of the 140,000.

h. Pete Worhunsky – they are making suggestion and do not put cart before house and as community we need public hearing and get together. There are 150 houses empty in the town of Plymouth and 3 new ones being built.

i. John Murphy, close town hall one day a week.

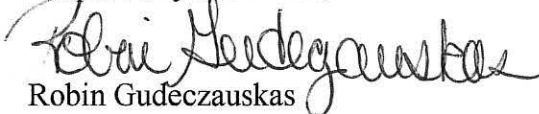
7. Board Members' Comments – no comment

8. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Gudęczauskas  
Recording Secretary