

Town of Plymouth

Board of Finance

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1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairman Ralph Zovich called the scheduled March 9, 2017, Board of Finance Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room at Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, Chairman Ralph Zovich, James Zalot, Jay Dorso-Excused Absence, Pattie DeHuff and Jim Kilduff. Also present: Joe Kilduff, Tax Collector, Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance; Councilwoman, Sue Murawski, and Michele Yokubinas - Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Ralph Zovich led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Notice of Fire Exits: Chairman Ralph Zovich noted the fire exits.

4. Review of proposed FY 2017-18 General Fund Budget – Revenues & Expenditures

Ralph Zovich, Chairman stated the Board of Finance would be reviewing Public Safety/Fire Department this evening and noted members of the Board of Fire Commission were present.

Ralph Zovich turned this part of the meeting over to James Zalot to go over their budget items.

Board of Finance Member James Zalot/Liaison for the Public Safety, discussed the following:

031 Fire Marshalls Offices

02- Salary PT Secretary -\$165.00 Raised/tabled

04 –Salaries Fire Marshal -\$732.00 Raises/tabled

015 -Dues and Memberships -Went up \$10.00

017 -Fire Code Manual Update Online -\$41.00

036 Fire Department

002 –Secretary Fire Commission -No increase

003 – Secretary Fire House Building Committee. -\$1000 (housed temporarily per Ann Marie Rheault)

Ralph Zovich invited Victor Mitchell, Chairman of Plymouth Fire House Building Committee to discuss the progress/planning of the project.

Victor Mitchell, 39 Hillside Avenue, Plymouth, CT Chairman of the Plymouth Fire House Building Committee, reviewed the project and progress to date and noted the Architect has been secured and elaborated at length.

When questioned by Chairman Ralph Zovich, Victor Mitchell stated Civil Preparedness was not in the plan and would require a totally different perspective being communication, and other issues etc., noting only the Fire Department was currently being looked at.

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TOWN CLERK

Review of proposed FY 2017-18 General Fund Budget – Revenues & Expenditures Cont'd.

James Zalot continued with discussing the following line items:

013 - Building Maintenance - \$3750 - Furnaces antique anticipating more problems.

Ralph Zovich asked about expenditures to date as of Dec. 31 2016, questioned if they are rolling that item - \$17,606 Building Maintenance –No. 013.

Deputy Chief Chris Masi stated that now “\$9600.00 over budget for house maintenance repairs since December 31, 2016.”

Ralph Zovich said that the \$16,250 in this year’s budget so suggested using that before June 30, asking for 20,000 for next year.

Chief Mark Sekorski stated that the furnaces were 45 and 50 years old.

Ralph Zovich confirmed that those are oil and going with gas in new Firehouse.

James Zalot continued with discussing the following line items:

021 –Education (Fire Academy) - \$3,000 - Increase in tuition for fire academy since any potential firefighter has to be trained James Zalot stated, “That is a reasonable amount.”

057 -Protective Gear - \$1,500 - Rising cost of gear mandated by OSHA replacement gear.

060 - Firefighter’s Compensation (Retirement Fund Pension) - \$8,000 - After 40 years of service. They do not want to get that item depleted.

Ann Marie Rheault stated they have actuary report and Chief Mark Sekorski said that he would summarize.

Fire Department Chief Mark Sekorski stated the real actuary had been done last year after budget and briefly elaborated. He further stated he would recommend starting to build this up with the goal to be self-funded and briefly elaborated. Chief Mark Sekorski stated keeping the firefighters here in Town was important citing a case scenario whereby UCONN’s Fire Department (18 men) wanted to shut down and the cost would be approximately \$4 million a year. He further stated the Town’s Fire Department does it for \$260,000 total budget with no pay; a very professional service for a minimal amount of money.

When questioned by Ralph Zovich, Fire Department Chief Mark Sekorski stated the Retirement Benefit at the end of the Firemen’s career were as follow: 10 months of service for every 5 years; 40 years -80 checks fixed amount \$410.29 a month (capped), noting it was dependent on when they joined and when they retire; a brief discussion followed.

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Review of proposed FY 2017-18 General Fund Budget – Revenues & Expenditures Cont'd.

Ann Marie Rheault stated the actuaries needed to be involved to determine what they should contribute and to determine if they could be based on the level of contributions and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Ralph Zovich about the future unfunded liability amount, Ann Marie Rheault stated that she did not bring actual actuary; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Pattie DeHuff regarding eligibility, Fire Department Chief Mark Sekorski stated there were accurate records in place to confirm that the benefits were earned.

Pattie DeHuff asked about Tax exemptions for firefighters.

When questioned by Pattie DeHuff regarding tax exemptions for Firefighters, Fire Department Chief Mark Sekorski stated it was from the State of Connecticut and up to individual towns to pass that down, noting after 10 years you get \$1,000 off your taxes.

James Zalot -Background checks –New Account \$600.00– If individual passes background check they will be welcomed into the Fire Department; a brief discussion followed.

Ralph Zovich stated he would follow-up with the Police Department about manpower and responsibilities.

James Zalot reviewed the following:

Firehouses increase in utilities.

041-Electricity, Gas & Water -Terryville Station	-	\$1,600
041-Electricity, Gas & Water -Plymouth Station	-	\$2,000
041-Electricity, Gas & Water -Fall Mountain Station	-	\$ 800

Ann Marie Rheault stated the historical usage trend of electricity rates; jump in Electricity Rates – Adjustment.

Victor Mitchell confirmed that the New Plymouth Firehouse would have a gas furnace and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey requested and stated if possible for next year she would like to give good estimate for what you need in Fall Mountain and Headquarters as to type of boiler/furnace. Approximate amount Capitals start putting them in now.

Vicky Carey complimented the Fire Department on their budget. Besides the firehouse, we need to look forward as they are going into disrepair. Looking forward she asked that they start working on list and she would appreciate that.

Pagers- capitals were omitted -confirmed pagers system ongoing plan

Review of proposed FY 2017-18 General Fund Budget – Revenues & Expenditures Cont'd.

Ralph Zovich will follow up in two weeks.

James Zalot - Ambulance Corps. -Lani Johnson-Increases
035 - Service Contracts -\$5,800
037 - C/Med/Assessment-\$565
041 - Electricity -\$3,500

Ann Marie Rheault stated budget does not reflect electrical bills, 2015-16 reaching \$12,000 budget has not reflected it that is why they go over, noting they have gas but electric blowers in bays.

Ralph Zovich stated, "They owe us 2015-16 financial statement with P& L and balance sheet.

James Zalot stated, "Lani Johnson informed him they are buying new ambulance, average \$250,000

When questioned by Jim Kilduff, Ralph Zovich stated other electric options would be followed-up with Charlie Wiegert.

Emergency Management budget reduction- 033 all negatives

James Zalot confirmed Board of Finance that we have covered, Fire Marshall, Fire Department, Ambulance and three stations.

Ralph Zovich asked if there were any comments, questions on any line items in the Fire, or Ambulance Emergency Management areas.

When questioned by Ralph Zovich as to why the PVAC financial statement was not included, Ann Marie Rheault stated she would contact Lani Johnson, PVAC, for an answer.

Ray Kovaleski, Fire Marshal, stated he wanted a 2% increase for his department and briefly elaborated.

Victor Mitchell stated that as a Fire Commissioner they wanted to increase the salaries; a brief discussion followed.

Ralph Zovich thanked the Fire Service for keeping their budget tight.

James Zalot was excused at 7:40 pm.

Ralph Zovich stated he had received a letter from the Veterans Strong Commission Center, Donna Dognin, Program Manager, explaining what the organization does, noting it was not affiliated with the VA Hospital, was not funded by State of CT, and was a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Ralph Zovich stated the Board of Education would present their budget at the March 16th Board of Finance meeting.

Review of proposed FY 2017-18 General Fund Budget – Revenues & Expenditures Cont'd.

A brief discussion took place regarding the pay for the Board of Finance Recording Secretary.

Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Pattie DeHuff, to increase the Board of Finance Recording Secretary's pay to \$125.00 per meeting with a transcription rate of \$12.50 per hour, effective April 1, 2017. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Executive Session for Pending Litigation or Contract Negotiations (if necessary)

No action

6. Public Comment

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT, stated the budget was falling farther into debt and questioned the reimbursement from the school monies. Melanie Church stated the Town should sell blight property as is.

7. Board Members' Comments:

Vicky Carey –No comment

Jay Dorso –Excused Absence

James Zalot –Early Dismissal

Pattie DeHuff –No comment

Jim Kilduff -No comment

Ralph Zovich- Town owned properties and sales –Asked board member how many would like to meet with Real Estate Committee. Ralph said that he would extend invitation to John Pajeski, Dan Gentile, and Mike Ganem

Ralph Zovich also stated webmaster is collecting, reply thank them and tell them that we will respond if requested.

Ralph Zovich also stated the Webmaster would post the Town budget on the website.

8. Adjournment:

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Vicky Carey, seconded by Pattie DeHuff to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Yokubinas

Michele Yokubinas,
Recording Secretary