

Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786

www.plymouthct.us

Board of Finance

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1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Jim Kilduff, Chairman called the scheduled March 17, 2022 Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, Eugene Croce, Barbara Rockwell, Briana Brumaghim, and Jennifer Brunoli. Also, Present: Chief Karen Krasicky, Plymouth Police Department, Ed Benecchi, Police Captain, Charles Wiegert, Director of Public Works, Martin Sandshaw, Chairman, Communications Commission, Joseph Carey Sr., Chair, -Public Works Board, Roxanne McCann, Town Council Liaison, and Grace K. Zweig, Director of Finance.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** James Kilduff led the group and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Exit Notification: James Kilduff noted the Fire Exits for the record.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes –Follow-up**

4. **Discuss Plymouth Police Department and Public Work's sections of the budget**

Board of Finance members discussed the Plymouth Police Department and Public Works sections of the budget in detail from the Town of Plymouth Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 – Mayor's Proposed Draft Budget #3 dated March 15, 2022, Page 1 of 20 for discussion purposes.

DRAFT/WORKING COPY* can be viewed in its entirety at the Plymouth, CT -Town Hall and on the Town of Plymouth's website (www.plymouthct.us)

NOTE: MILL RATE CALCULATION IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY. THE FINAL MILL RATE HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE AND WILL NOT BE FINAL UNTIL AFTER APPROVAL BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.

The Board of Finance discussed and reviewed the Plymouth Police Department's budget by each line item and at length.

Vicky Carey, Vice-Chair distributed for perusal 2022-2023 Contracts Amounts - Police.

The Plymouth Police Department's Budget Narrative, Pg. 1 of 6 was previously distributed via email to the Board of Finance for perusal.

Communications Changes

Meeting secretary \$500.00

Cathy Paskus, Chairwoman - Board of Police Commissioners noted the State of Connecticut's mandates placed on the Police re. Extra paperwork, (issue), more crime, more work they have to complete, trying to do the same job with the same number of officers.

Chief Karen Krasicky confirmed the significant amount for unfunded mandates totaling \$78,358.02.

Ed Benecchi, Police Captain noted the complexity of crimes today, paperwork involved, reports, arrest warrants, DNA samples, (time-frame), etc., and briefly elaborated.

The Board of Finance discussed and reviewed the Public Works Department's budget by each line item and at length.

Public Works Director

Office Supplies 0

Highway Department

Briana Brumaghim noted "Department Head" position - significant increase discussed in detail and distributed the (history analysis) for the Highway Superintendent Salary History information (pg. 1.) to the Board of Finance for review and discussion purposes.

Briana Brumaghim stated although contractual position, many contractual positions are changed to suit the needs of the town, in the contract and allowed to do so.

Briana Brumaghim questioned significant increase.

Charles Wiegert stated not involved in the contract negotiations.

Briana Brumaghim questioned does that position get overtime.

Charles Wiegert stated "Yes"

Briana Brumaghim stated the contract states it is a 40-hour position.

Briana Brumaghim stated how is the 3-hour (block) on a need-only basis - how is that determined?

Charles Wiegert stated "On an only need basis".

Briana Brumaghim questioned what constitutes a need to work the 3 hours on a Saturday and if that is taken out of the 40 hours.

Charles Wiegert stated "No"

Eugene Croce stated I do not see this as a Board of Finance issue.

Vicky Carey stated this is a personnel and union issue, referencing the Charter, and Town Council.

Vicky Carey stated we need to fund this or it will skew our mill rate.

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Vicky Carey stated union positions need to be taken up with the union officer (union) we cannot negotiate - it is against the State of Connecticut and illegal.

Vicky Carey stated under charter some are under the Mayor's privy and certain ones are with the Town Council, union lawyers and briefly elaborated.

Briana Brumaghim stated Board of Finance should be concerned with it - because it is such a significant increase, important to look at the contract regarding overtime (no provision for overtime) and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated thank you for the information.

Vicky Carey stated thank you for the information

Briana Brumaghim stated there is no new value to town paying the same person within one year almost 25% more, there is no new certifications or anything different, need to be concerned about expenditures noting departments can be changed and reorganized.

Jim Kilduff stated they have done a tremendous job with a small amount of staff. Perhaps we can attribute that to the Director of Public Works and the other position that we are discussing – their training and experience in being able to utilize the tools and the staff that they have has saved us money instead of having to hire more staff.

Maintenance Garage

Overtime \$2,000

Briana Brumaghim questioned if all town-owned vehicles are monitored (gas and routine maintenance program) is that monitored.

Charles Wiegert stated it is "recorded".

Briana Brumaghim requested a routine maintenance program for all town-owned vehicles.

Charles Wiegert stated if something comes up - otherwise, vehicles serviced at regular intervals.

Vicky Carey stated the Police Department keeps their own records.

Briana Brumaghim questioned which maintenance line item covers maintenance that is outsourced.

Charles Wiegert stated "Repairs and Maintenance"

Jim Kilduff noted when the Fraud Risk Assessment is done there will be a general review of everything in the Town that is being used.

Briana Brumaghim questioned "Overtime" under Transfer Station is that for any Saturday's hours and is the regular employee line is that for only one employee for four days.

Charles Wiegert stated "yes"

Charles Wiegert clarified "Town Hall" section - the oil line item is also "Natural Gas" is actually heating (less expensive-cost analysis done) and for all of these water/sewer (really just water). Noted sewer in facilities line item - explained reasoning when setting-up accounts/accounting and briefly elaborated.

Brianna Brumaghim questioned the amount of \$10,000 for Mowing and landscaping under Other Professional Technical Services.

Charles Wiegert stated not a lot of landscaping - mostly trades, plumbing, electrical, and general construction and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey read into record Town Charter (part of) Section 14. - Volunteer ambulance corps.

"The president of the said board of directors shall submit to the Mayor an estimate of annual expenditures in accordance with chapter VII, section 1, which will consist of estimates for maintenance and care of housing and facilities, heat, light, and telephone for said housing, and gasoline and lubricating oil for operation of ambulance vehicles. In the event that any or all members of the ambulance corps become salaried employees of the corps, they shall be governed by the rules and regulations of this charter as provided under the classified service, chapter VIII, section 2, and merit system, chapter VIII, section 1. (A)"

(Amend. of 11-8-2005, § 7)

Vicky Carey noted charter above, which did not give a directive, re. Ambulance (PVAC) - can explore further, when we do capitals on March 31, 2022.

5. Public Comment

Joseph Carey Sr., Chairman, -Public Works Board - advocated for the Public Work's department budget noting with fewer employees it is harder for employees to be more effective and efficient services. Noted the importance of the Public Works Director and Foreman positions against self-governing need, those individuals to prioritize duties/tasks due to budget constraints and briefly elaborated. In addition, appealed for Ambulance (PVAC) funding

Roxanne McCann, Town Council Liaison re. Public Works (2) highway positions requested, concerned over the amount of work we could be doing if the department was properly staffed. The board should be going in the direction to re-staff that department and work them back up to manageable group size.

6. Correspondence

Received by the Plymouth Board of Education: Town of Plymouth: Facilities Report by Location From date: 2/1/2022 To date: 2/28/2022 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Pg. 1 of 12 Printed 02/28/2022 12:01:48 PM

7. Board Member's Comments

Victoria Carey - Reminder - Capitals are March 31, 2021

Eugene Croce - Thanked everyone

Briana Brumaghim - re. Public Works staff - Consider reorganizing, allocating funds in a more efficient manner – noted up 16% (highway) might not be going to the right line item. Proposed expenditures, almost twice as much as the last two years.

Barbara Rockwell - Public Works Department needs more employees.

Jennifer Brunoli – None

Our next meeting will be on March 21, 2022.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Briana Brumaghim seconded by Vicky Carey to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

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Recording Secretary