

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Plymouth Town Council
Telephone: (860) 585-4001
Fax: (860) 585-4015

Minutes

April 22, 2019

Call to Order: Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled April 22, 2022, Plymouth Town Council, Board of Finance, Plymouth Board of Education, Joint meeting to order at 8:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, Mayor David V. Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. (Excused Absence John Pajeski). Also present from the Town of Plymouth were Town Attorney William Hamzy and Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault. Present from the Board of Finance were Board of Finance Member Briana Brumaghim, Vice-Chairman Vicky Carey, Board of Finance Member Pattie DeHuff, Board of Finance Chairman Jim Kilduff, and Board of Finance Member Jim Zalot. (Excused Absence Jay Dorso). Present from the Board of Education were Plymouth Board of Education Member Gerry Bourbonniere, Plymouth Board of Education Member Cindy Candrea-Florenciani, Plymouth Board of Education Member Josiah Elsaghir, Plymouth Board of Education Member Richard Foote, Plymouth Board of Education Business Manager Paul Hendrickson, Plymouth Board of Education Chairman Melissa Johnson, Plymouth Board of Education Member Melissa Kremmel, Plymouth Board of Education Superintendent Dr. Martin Semmel and Plymouth Board of Education Member Gregory Showers.

Fire Exits Notification-CT General Statutes, Public Act 03-231, Sec. 29-381

Mayor Merchant noted the Fire Exits for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Merchant led the Plymouth Town Council, the Board of Finance, the Plymouth Board of Education and the Public Audience, in the Pledge of Allegiance

Budget Discussion with the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Town Council Members

Mayor David Merchant stated the Board of Finance would now present the recommended Budget and by a majority vote of its members would make changes, if necessary, and briefly outlined the procedure.

Plymouth Town Council Joint Meeting (Board of Finance/Board of Education)
April 22, 2019
Page Two of Four Pages

To discuss and take action on the approval of the recommended FY 2018/2019 Budget

Plymouth Board of Education Chairman Melissa Johnson stated that she felt the Plymouth Board of Education needed to be fully funded on their request of \$578,874, noting she appreciated the recommended \$450,000, but that they needed the full funding.

When questioned by Plymouth Board of Education Member Gerry Bourbonniere what the mill rate would be if the State didn't send the \$9 million to the Town of Plymouth, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated without any ECS or State grants the mill rate would be over 55, and just cutting out the ECS the mill rate would be 53.95; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he had no comment at this time.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated last year the Board of Education's actually spent \$23,112,707 and this year was proposing \$24,487,000 with an increase over last year of approximately \$1,300,000 and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Board of Education Superintendent Marty Semmel stated the MBR calculation was based on student population with the caveat that it was based on the information received, noting the question was how the ESC would come in; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile about the Board of Education setting up a subcommittee to look at unfunded mandates, Plymouth Board of Education Superintendent Marty Semmel noted the State Representatives were already looking at it; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she wanted to thank the Board of Finance Members and the Finance Director; noting they did a great job.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she fully supports the proposed Budget. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she was not a big fan of leasing trucks, but was willing to try it. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she knows the proposed Budget was difficult, noting there wasn't a big choice because the two biggest increases came from the State of Connecticut and they can't handle their own finances.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she had no comment at this time.

Mayor David Merchant stated he hoped the Plymouth Board of Education would keep the Music Program in effect, noting it was very important.

**Plymouth Town Council Joint Meeting
April 22, 2019
Page Three of Four Pages (Board of Finance/Board of Education)**

To discuss/take action on the approval of the recommended FY 2018/2019 Budget Cont'd.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he only received the lease portion of the Lease Program for Public Works trucks, noting he wanted to see what the current maintenance costs were; how old the trucks were, etc.

Board of Finance Chairman Jim Kilduff stated the oldest truck is 21 years old and the newest is from 2009, noting it was an aging fleet.

Board of Finance Member Briana Brumaghim noted that Public Works Director Charles Wiegert had stated the average cost annually to maintain the Public Works trucks was approximately \$50,000 total, does not include mechanic/labor costs. She further stated all the trucks were dated from 2000 and 2009; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, Finance Director Ann Marie Rheault stated the sale of Main Street School would not impact next years budget because it should close before the end of this fiscal year and would be reflected in this year's budget; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile regarding a line item for Town Council miscellaneous (conventions, etc.) Finance Director Ann Marie Rheault stated it would need to be requested; a brief discussion followed.

To allow the Board of Finance members to present the recommended Budget and by a majority vote of its members*make, if necessary, changes to the Budget by a majority vote of its members and recommend the Budget to the Town Council (* a quorum of the Board of Finance members must be present)

(See Board of Finance Joint Meeting April 27, 2019 Minutes Attached)

To discuss and take action on the approval of the recommended 2019/20 FY Budget

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to approve the \$41,844,117 for the 2019/20 FY Budget.

Discussion:

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she appreciates the work done by the Board of Finance and the Board of Education, but if she approves the budget she's letting down her constituents and if she doesn't approve it she's letting down the parents. She further stated there would be another increase coming from the WPCA; a brief discussion followed.

Plymouth Town Council Joint Meeting (Board of Finance/Board of Education)
April 22, 2019
Page Four of Four Pages

To discuss/take action on the approval of the recommended 2019/20 FY Budget Cont'd.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he agrees with Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, noting he hates to see the taxpayers have a 1 mill increase and would like to see something lower, noting he would like to see a half mill increase. He further stated \$100,000 could be taken from the Fund Balance and put into the General Fund; a brief discussion followed.

Board of Finance Vice-Chairman Vicky Carey stated the Town Council members should be ashamed of themselves for not attending the Board of Finance workshops, excepting the Liaison (Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski). She further stated the Board of Finance did bare-bone budgeting and briefly elaborated.

Briana Brumaghim stated a one-mill increase would be \$146.00 to the average taxpayer, noting people go out and spend that amount on a pair of sneakers with no problem.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

To allow the Board of Finance to set the Property Tax Mill Rate for FY 2019/20 Budget

(See Board of Finance Joint Meeting April 27, 2019 Minutes Attached)

Adjournment

There being no further business, Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary

Attachment