

Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786

www.plymouthct.us

Board of Finance

Telephone: 860-585-4001

Fax: 860-585-4015

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Jim Kilduff, Chairman called the scheduled February 17, 2022 Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, Eugene Croce, Barbara Rockwell – Excused Absence, Briana Brumaghim, and Jennifer Brunoli. Also Present: Grace K. Zweig - Director of Finance, Roxanne McCann - Town Council Liaison, Charles J. Wiegert, Director of Public Works, Mark Sekorski, Fire Chief

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

3. **Acceptance of Minutes – January 20, 2022**

Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Eugene Croce to accept the January 20, 2022 minutes with the following correction:

Pg. 1, Item 5 Spelling Correction: the letter “a” - missing from the first name -Briana Brumaghim

Motion passed unanimously

4. **Mayor’s Report: Proposed Plymouth Town Budget FY 2022-2023**

Mayor Joseph Kilduff thanked the Board of Finance.

- Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated the proposed budget for \$43,617,066 which is a 2.69% increase
- The proposed budget reflects a new mill rate of 35.95

Mayor Joseph Kilduff discussed in detail various sections of the Town of Plymouth Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 – Mayor’s Proposed Draft Budget #2 dated February 17, 2022, Page 1 of 21 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.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated reval (revaluation) went up 17.41%, noting motor vehicle is likely to go down – need to prepare.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff noted raises - positions re. (union positions) - contractual raises/negotiations and briefly elaborated.

RECEIVED 22 FEB 18:04
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
PLYMOUTH, CT

Mayor Joseph Kilduff noted General Fund Expenditures - Item No. 4156 - Employee Benefits \$417,233, % change 13.33% - due to governmental obligations recommending the increase that fully funds our pension and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated building in 10% contingency for health insurance, exploring different avenues – going out to market to view options due to preliminary numbers which are concerning.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated Police (contract signed) and Highway Department those raises are all contractual (No positional increases) and not proposing anymore headcount for the town - with one minor exception of a part-time Animal Control officer (due to agreement with Thomaston).

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated re. Library – four extra hours for their two part-time positions back to 19 hours.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated re. Board of Education 1.75% increase –noting the importance of STEM program and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff noted Town Aid Roads - \$1 M (discretionary spending)

Mayor Joseph Kilduff thanked Grace Zweig, Director of Finance

Jim Kilduff stated the Town Council makes the final decision noting that we need to remain fiscally conservative at this time but need to do the things that need to be done and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff noted the Highway Superintendent position amount (the contract was up for multiple years) build-in multiple-year raise, and the position had guaranteed overtime – new contract (rolled over into salary) - larger salary jump than it is and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated the Fire Marshal's office re. Fire Marshal's Administrative Assistant position joined the clerical union – which hourly pay moved above the Deputy Fire Marshal – proposed moving that position pay rate above the Administrative Assistant position. Also noted they are still requesting another part-time Fire Marshall and Deputy Fire Marshall.

Briana Brumaghim requested a breakdown of increases (Highway Superintendent) noted (salary schedule) pay-out – being significantly more (higher) and briefly elaborated.

Charles Wiegert noted the overtime amount is in the overtime line item.

Vicky Carey requested a breakdown/schedule of each union contract and noted (missing narrative).

Jim Kilduff stated narratives will be released tomorrow.

Briana Brumaghim questioned the amount/number of non-union positions and requested past history (increases and overtime amounts paid).

5. Review of initial American Rescue Plan (ARPA) proposals.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated the Fire Chief and Public Works Director are both present to talk about the items that went through the (American Rescue Plan) ARP committee.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated reached out to NVCOG (Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments) to ensure that both items are well within the rules.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated every town is able to claim \$10 M of lost revenue -opening up the use of that money for other things and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff, Chairman stated attended a Zoom meeting (Federal Government) noted streamlining of the process and expanding to a degree - questions on what is "COVID" appropriate.

Chief Sekorski discussed in detail the importance of the Fire Department's requests/needs - i.e. mechanical exhaust system for apparatus - protection systems, included are a set of ultra-violet lights. Protection should be a priority for firefighters noting the danger of carcinogens, limiting exposure (COVID-19, blood-borne disease, etc.), and gave a detailed explanation of benefits of requested battery-operated equipment (rescue tools) and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff noted a discussion with NVCOG (Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments) that this project not only qualifies under Loss of Revenue but also under Improvements to Public Health.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff clarified that the Board of Finance's recommendation would be highly regarded and helpful but the Town Council has the final decision.

Roxanne McCann - Town Council Liaison stated that requests allow the Fire Department to be effective, with the new tools versus the older tools – also noting pandemic and possibility of being shorthanded.

Charles Wiegert discussed in detail the Public Works Department requests: Front Loader, Excavator, and special type bucket for the Front Loader (grapple bucket) – noted urgency due to increase in the price of machines after March 15, 2022 - also noting (increase usage) 20% higher at Town Transfer Station.

Vicky Carey stated it is a good way to use money –due to increased transfer station use – vehicles will be useful - other positive, not taxpayer-funded.

Mayor Joseph Kilduff stated the ARP (American Rescue Plan) committee would look at capitals that have not been funded previously now have the opportunity to do so without putting them into our operating budget.

Charles Wiegert stated some companies staying with various (models of remote work) due to productivity and briefly elaborated.

Briana Brumahim stated it can be less expensive for some companies to have individuals work from home.

Vicky Carey stated re. (American Rescue Plan) committee - everything we have put forward – committee has been very diligent and had extensive discussions on various items and briefly elaborated.

Briana Brumaghim questioned the reporting deadline for the CARES Act.

Grace Zweig stated February 28, 2022.

6. Budget assignments to Board of Finance Members

Jim Kilduff distributed and read into the record the budget assignments.

Jim Kilduff stated will forward to Plymouth Department contacts, Boards/Commissions, and Town Council the Budget Proposal for FY 22-23 – Schedule of meetings for each department.

7. Public Comment

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT stated time for the town to prioritize the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), request air exchangers for all town buildings, and road improvements.

James Moslak, 18 Carriage Drive, Terryville, CT questioned grand totals of Public Works and Fire Department and time frame for allocation of money, questioned Fire Ladder Truck (lease), and equipment bidding process.

8. Correspondence

Correspondence from Plymouth Board of Education:

Town of Plymouth/Facilities Report By Location/Fiscal Year 2021-2022

- ❖ 2021: Facilities Report by Location Fiscal Year 2021-2022 dated: 11/1/21-11/30/2021
- ❖ 2021: Facilities Report by Location Fiscal Year 2021-2022 dated: 12/1/21-12/31/2021
- ❖ 2022: Facilities Report by Location Fiscal Year 2021-2022 dated: 1/1/22-1/31/2022

9. Board Member's Comments

Victoria Carey – Extended invitation to public ARP (American Rescue Plan) committee meetings, noted (American Rescue Plan) ARP restrictions, WPCA –capital outlay budget –capital improvements – will follow-up

Eugene Croce - None

Briana Brumaghim – Need to budget conservatively and responsibly - like to see mill rate further reduced. Re. Contractual obligations – noted contracts negotiated generally by Mayor and union – need to think more outside of the box and potentially restructuring some departments and not be constrained by contractual obligations.

Jennifer Brunoli - None

Our next meeting will be on February 24, 2022.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Eugene Croce seconded by Vicky Carey to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

Michele Yokubinas
Recording Secretary