

1. Call Meeting to Order – The Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Finance was called to order on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ralph Zovich in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Vicky Carey, Pattie DeHuff, Dan Murray, Jim Zalot, Ralph Zovich. Also in attendance: Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance; Sue Murawski, Council Liaison; Robin Gudczauskas, Recording Secretary. Absent: Jay Dorso.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Notice of Fire Exits

4. Review of proposed FY2016-17 General Fund Budget

044, Transfer Station

*Longevity up \$100

*Contract service was reduced based on mayor's conversation of curbside service

*\$500 increase to electricity

*Telephone is internet service

*Tire Disposal, 1500 increase on expense side with part of that for disposal fee of amnesty; Amnesty last week of April and first week of May. This year the cost of doing business for tires has increased and we pay to dispose of tires; Amnesty program does a lot to get tires to where they belong.

*Environment compliance 2000 reduction

*Landfill testing reduction

Overall 195,070 reduction of which 190,000 is curbside. There was change in billing; offsetting revenue of 160,000

046 Public Works Director

*Salary secretary from part time to full time position with additional responsibility added for management skills set in place to oversee floaters and coordinate efforts of coverage

*Engineering tech - currently looking and have put out to fill position; budget reviewed; if a qualified candidate cannot be found, we can transfer money to contract service from this line item

*Contract services down

*Advertising up

*Conferences down

Net increase 16,326

047 Maintenance garage

*Salary mechanic - increase due to money being transferred to highway

*Wages assistant- contractual

*Education training up 500 due to possibility of bringing in-house training in

*Contract services, 1200 and will be zeroed out

*Fleet preventive maintenance down \$500

*Increase in repairs to building \$5000 - items on inventory list; just replaced door as door jamb was rusted and another door to be done

*Electricity up 1000

*Gas & Oil, 10,000 reduction – current market prices locked in

*Environmental compliance – down \$2000

*Garage maintenance is offset by some increase

Total reduction is 3265.

Snow Removal: Sand/Salt – Discussion held on supply and not looking for any more deliveries until fall. \$75,000 will be encumbered for this line item per Ann Marie. Line item

040-046 trimmed 50,000 and sand/salt to 200,000 with understanding carrying forward 75,000 for this year

Capitals

Ann Marie Rheault stated budgets for capitals roll forward; funds are not lost

*Reval – Ann Marie stated 106,931 left from 2013-2016 budgets; Vicky stated we need at least 50,000 into that budget. Reval is coming up, Rae Ann trying to push off; cost estimate 250,000-300,000 to have reval done and usually paid up front and/or installments. Discussion held.

*Chevy Truck, \$45,000 for BOE. Discussion held on capital items and sinking fund. Dan Murray stated saw is a onetime capital purchase and should not be in operating budget as that budget money will carry that price into the next year's budget without a line item associated for those funds. Chairman Zovich stated he relayed concern that base budget is not inflated with one time capital expenditures; Dan said if buy something this year and it is good for 3 years it should not stay within that budget in the next year. Chairman Zovich stated the BOE has stated they do not want to shrink their budget by taking those items out.

*Computer Technology, 75,000 for comptroller – Ann Marie stated at end of 2016 estimates 50,000 will be left but in current budget did not leave anything into operating budget. 75,000 for next year hoping that will be enough to switch over the accounting system and looking into one system that will service the BOE and town or be on the same system.

*Facilities assessment, 62,500 is in there and will spend some of that in the current year by 5-10,000 and still have 50,000 from previous years. If environmental study or change a building to something else is where this money comes from and not for fixed asset inventory. Vicky would like to leave in there.

*Emergency Management, dam emergency plans – 78,730 remaining

*Fire Dept. – 3 year lease for engine 7 replacement

*Library – nothing in

Public Works:

*Mechanical broom sweeper, trading in the old one and money is net of trade in as lease to buy; 47,200 with interest annually of 2000.

*15,000 lb equipment trailer which we did not get last year, it is needed and in for this year

*Elevator for library is going out to bid and have 65,000 left and not included in library capital projects.

*Did not put in for mini excavator, salt storage and wells, carport – however do need to think about salt storage shed for the future. Currently have canvas truss and terribly small and impractical; would propose 200,000-250,000 for 100x 175'. A permanent salt storage structure is required by most municipalities.

*Transfer station relocation design – project had been started 5-6 years ago to move to where brush dump is; need design started. Hopper was used equipment when bought by the town in 1970's and has value of a million to replace; before that happens would like to relocate facility, reviewed. The plan would determine how the site would be set up.

*Town Aid to roads, \$700,000; general fund is 189,000; town aid grant is 261,000; LoCIP is 96,614; municipal 152,434

*Survey, street line establishment program, 10 year program and \$15,000 for this year; outside agency will do work; this year will run survey line from Bristol to Thomaston down Route 6 to establish horizontal and vertical benchmarks across town and subsequent years will branch to outskirts; reviewed. Discussion held on doing this work as out doing roads.

*Town Hall Renovations, 25,000 – rooms left after this \$25,000 are land use, building, 1/2 comptroller's office, assembly room, bathrooms, town clerk; bathrooms are not handicap; 25,000 is to renovate town clerk, assembly room and after maybe one bathroom

*North Main Street school zone – signage – approached by group of parents and initiatives to increase awareness of school zone on North Main; background given; this will be sign near

Route 6 that blinks, LED motion sensor blinking, showing school zone and from Rt 72 there would be speed limit sign that is radar detected to make you aware of speed going to school zone; signage improvement to cross walk. Cost of speed sign is 4400; Charlie to get quotes. *Napco bridge design, federal local bridge program and town portion is 60,000; rest is grant totaling 240,000 from federal grant; grant includes engineering; awarded this a few months ago and we have strict time schedule. Have advertised for engineering consultant and bridge will be constructed in 2019 for total 1.3 million allocated. This bridge is high on deficiency list. This line item will be on capital outlays over next several years.

*Plymouth Ambulance Corp, replace AC and heater units for 10,500.

*Plymouth Ambulance, wall repairs and interior painting

Parks & Rec

*Lake Winfield water quality monitoring and study, 10,000 – Mike Ganem gave overview stating the town has done a lot of work there and important to watch what goes in lake and now that Seymour has been constructed there is improvement to what is entering lake. Parks and Rec needs to start monitoring water and figure out source of what is coming in and how to plan for future. This would carry for several years; if water study comes favorable, will have inclination to restore swimming. The Reservoir is also something that needs to be monitored as well.

*Emergency Management, dams – 78,700. Charlie Wiegert stated both Public Works and Parks and Rec take care of dams; the town currently owns horseshoe falls at Canal Street and if no one buys it, the town will have to register as the dam owner; taken by foreclosure. There were items that had to be addressed when reports done and there are 3 dams to be inspected this year.

*Viking mower and attachment, 5000

*Toro mower – did not give

*ADA compliant playscape swing not put in budget

Michael Ganem, Lake Winfield, now that Seymour Road is done there are two retention ponds and need to control what goes in the lake to know what to do with the lake and might want to think about pumping out both retention ponds. Charlie suggested mobilization and setting up is the largest cost so once have contractor there, would be wise to do both at one time; it is much like a vacuum where goes in fabric structure and over a month or two the water leeches out and will recover organic material from the clean out.

Police Department

*2 cruisers with extended warranties; Ann Marie distributed fleet list and looking at 2 with highest mileage; packet tonight stated next vehicle is Interceptor, 2PY, which is canine and although some have higher mileage but are in better condition than lower mileage; canine patrol needs to be replaced; also in packet is summary and email from fleet manager and outfits all cruisers, reviewed. 2017 price is going up 4%; pricing difference reviewed. Discussion held. Cost history report prepared for public works reviewed. 2PY needs to be replaced. Vicky would like canine patrol replaced and give sedan to replace sedan; Crown Vics using at WPCA and needs another vehicle and should get a police sedan. Vicky suggestion for discussion later is instead of supplying 75,000; the extra duty with 180,000 and propose to take 75,000 from that. Ann Marie cautions to make sure enough money in extra duty fund if body cameras go through as well. Revenue line details, transfer in, 27,324 is from extra duty fund and have 180,000 plus 27,324 (evidence storage data) out of that and body cameras are part of service contracts. Pattie will speak with the police.

*Bullet proof vests, year 1 of 5

*License plate reader, year 1 of 3 for \$3500.

General fund/taxpayer fund is 606,646

Vicky stated at next meeting wants to discuss revenues and wants a true accounting of all revenues including extra duty; cannot find policy for extra duty and wants to see entire amount of revenue; discussion held. Police Extra Duty Fund was set up but someone decided to keep 10,000 in General Fund. Chairman Zovich reviewed background of extra duty and change by town council who wanted road construction crews to have police presence for safety and road enforcement.

Debt Service – Dept 90 & 91

Interest payments

Principal payments

150,000 in new account “Debt Service Additional Funding” – puts money in debt service fund in anticipation of bonding resolution. 2,227,170 is principal payment on existing debt and extra 150,000 was put aside in anticipation of bond resolution. Ann Marie stated 150,000 was put in to get us back to 3.1 million of level debt service. If bonding does not pass the BOF will decide if we want to put money into debt service fund or apply that to pay down a capital item; for now keep 150,000 in new account.

5. Discuss & Take Action to Recommend Approval to the Electors & Qualified Taxpayers of the Bond Resolution pursuant to Chp. VII, Sect. 9 of the Plymouth Town Charter, as follows:

“Resolution Appropriating \$9,095,000 for Various Capital Improvement Projects and Authorizing the Issuance of \$9,095,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation, and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose.”

MOTION: By Dan Murray; second Jim Zalot. Discussion: Chairman Zovich clarified we are not approving the bond resolution; we are making a recommendation pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 9b to taxpayers on whether or not we think bonding resolution is affordable. We are not going to discuss the details of each project. Robinson and Cole is bond counsel who prepared paperwork.

MOTION: Jim Zalot moved to rescind his second and Dan Murray rescinded his motion and vote unanimous.

MOTION: To take a recess at 9 p.m. by Dan Murray; second Jim Zalot and the vote unanimous.

Chairman Zovich called the meeting back from recess at 9:09 p.m.

MOTION: That the ***Resolution Appropriating \$9,095,000 for Various Capital Improvement Projects and Authorizing the Issuance of \$9,095,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation, and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose*** be recommended by Dan Murray; second Jim Zalot.

Discussion: 9,095,000 gets spread out while trying to maintain a level debt. Ann Marie Rheault recapped what she presented at the public hearing on debt regarding interest on bond issue, current debt outstanding, summary of all projects including in that bonding, funding of 9.8 million. Charlie Wiegert reviewed 1.5 million still earmarked for North Main Street bridge which is the only project left on original bond package. Ann Marie Rheault stated 600,000 was drawn down and we have not gone out to bond. She further reviewed debt service including interest and payments; the Town does have a bond rating from Standard & Poors. Pattie DeHuff stated a borrower is servant to lender and taxpayers are servants to lenders or bondholders; schedule in outstanding debt we are paying over 3million in interest which is wasted on interest payments; new bonding proposal interest payments is wasted money and actual bonding is not 8 million being proposed in structure but 11,328,690 and this does not include the cost to do this. There are tens of thousands of dollars to write bonds and short term leases. Ann Marie Rheault stated within 8 million is your bonding costs.

Chairman Zovich stated you are paying off bondholders with future dollars and if full amount of 8 million are sold to investors and inflation goes up, they are only making a 1 or 1.5% return above inflation; this is the only way to fund large capital projects. If we didn't have bonding and mortgages we would not have economic growth. Discussion held. Board Member Comments: Pattie DeHuff stated (a) when the fire department was here she asked them if they would like to see fire house as standalone project and Victor Mitchell said yes he would like as stand alone and recommendation to town council it should be a standalone project. Actually feel all should be separate issues. Chairman Zovich reviewed wording of bond resolution. (b) hard to discuss individual projects as we have limited information with regard to them and do not have original drawings presented by Matt. Vicky Carey stated we can't scrutinize each individual project and what we do as advisory board is take question and vote yes or no. It is council perusal to separate out; we have to feel comfortable as to pass or not and only asked our opinion as to resolution. Chairman Zovich noted blue binders from concerned citizen and reviewed with comments heard and making informed decision as to accurate estimate; calculation of cost to pave per linear foot which he calculated per our road standards with mill and overlay, reviewed for estimates that range between \$100 and \$125 per linear foot. Charlie stated rate town pays is not rate we pay contractor; he gets competitive price through state bid and to do a contract they would be paid more; reviewed. If there are favorable conditions and come in under budget, they will go back to council to reallocate excess funds.

Public Comment on motion:

Pete Worhunsky, 19 Coral Drive – you did quick math; bottom line is what he said the other day and would be happy to sit down with anybody. We don't have that kind of money and cannot spend 1 million on Todd Hollow. As far as BOF you are advisory and all up to council and suggest the BOF rejects it and your opinion is no we do not have the money. Those two bridges are so totally inflated and who is coming up with numbers and the state is saying we need to do it and the state is not saying we have to do it; that bridge is under 20' long and state studies for bridges under 20' have not been done; East Orchard was done in 1991.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – this is a blank check and what lost the election for referendum as questions not separated out. She can sit here and say we do not have a bond rating but don't matter as it will be released; we don't have a bond rating and this one has been put on hold. No one wants our bonds; we got junk bonds. Did Robinson and Cole give you numbers or is someone playing games with you. Encouraging you to do homework and have them individually. There is so much money left over, how come we do not know how many catch basins or hours police on those jobs; we still don't have them;

Brian Dunn, 19 Carriage Drive – as advisory board your opinion doesn't matter; numbers hearing 23 million in debt that town is carrying and adding 9 million going up to 11 with interest. They will get voted down. Reviewed projects and believes firehouse needs work but not 3.75 million worth and believe the firemen realize projects are bloated and will take away getting their firehouse fixed. Stand up for the people and taxpayers and reject. Send to Council and put on them and send a message that the BOF is trying to keep costs in check.

Further Board Comments: Pattie DeHuff asked Ann Marie if she wanted to address the questions. Ann Marie Rheault, stated her name is not she and her name is Ann Marie and the Director of Finance and please be respectful if making comments. The bonding spreadsheet was prepared by Phoenix Advisor and edited by her to include columns pertinent to the Town of Plymouth. We do have a bond rating with Standard and Poors; we do not have one with Moody's. Chairman Zovich addressed Mr. Dunn on bond indebtedness, reviewed numbers. If resolution passes, we would pay 11,382,000 in future costs out to 2039. That is future costs. Pattie DeHuff stated we were not able to make 3.1 payment this year or previous and no guarantee we can make in coming years and talking about going to 2039 and that is a whole generation we are saddling with debt.

Vote: Dan Murray, yes; Vicky Carey, yes; Pattie DeHuff, no; Jim Zalot, yes. Chairman Zovich stated the Motion carries 3-1.

6. Public Comment

a. Brian Dunn, 19 Carriage Drive – your argument was ongoing debt service payments; point is like looking at credit card and make minimum you will die before this gets paid off and point is to pay off; if we brought debt down we could do that; making minimum payments is not financially responsible. Vice chair talking about extra duty saying that she did not want that money to be held by them; it is the taxpayer's money and his point about million dollars tax collector brought in and no one is questioning it. Going after missing money is important and at meeting with police department sat through conversation on \$13 worth of office supplies and all that effort and 18 months and no one asked the mayor what happened to that money. This town would have to be out of their mind until you are accountable.

b. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – public works, there is 5 positions that are sitting in highway department not filled and thinking back, contingency account set up it was for these positions not filled; positions in public works, labor grade 13 and labor 5a and another 5b before and two truck drivers is 5 that money should be taken out of public works. It is not their money; put that money in contingency. One police officer made 160,000 last year and this is why you should have yearly income and at that amount we could hire another officer. Go back and you know budget will not pass and lower every department. We run in deficit and a serious problem. You are ignoring the tax payer.

c. Pete Worhunsky, not against spending the money or against the bond package but how it is being spent. We can't afford to do; where did the state tell us to replace those bridges. We can't afford to do that kind of bridge but we can fix it. Todd Hollow, we can't do a BMW job down there and not saying don't spend a million but we need to get more for that million dollars. Mike Ganem decided to dig out those basins and method of cleaning that pond, you do not use hydraulic dredging. 40 years ago cleaned out Lake Winfield, pulled plug, drained and cleaned. We should clean it out; pull the plug and dig it out for 1/3 the cost. No one in charge of engineering, who is picking what we have to do and sees how some work is being done. He distributed picture of Napco drive bridge which is 2 pipes put in; a tributary where Pequabuck River starts about 1/2 mile above; just like East Orchard Street, never floods. The State did look at Napco and pipes are all rusted; our cost is 60,000 to engineer; 1.5 million for this bridge we cannot afford and it can be replaced for less than our cost of 60,000. Chairman Zovich stated there is a structure and Vicky is liaison to Capital Improvements who was charged years ago to do 5 year plan, history given, and there is a Public Works oversight committee and with liaisons there is collective decision making authority.

7. Board Members' Comments

a. Happy Easter

8. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn by Vicky Carey; second Pattie DeHuff and the vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas
Recording Secretary