

1. Call Meeting to Order – The Special Meeting of the Plymouth Board of Finance was called to order on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ralph Zovich in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Vicky Carey, Jay Dorso, Pattie DeHuff, Dan Murray, Ralph Zovich. Also in attendance: Chief Karen Krasicky; Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance; Charlie Wiegert, Public Works Director; Sue Murawski, Council Liaison; Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Notice of Fire Exits

4. Review proposed alternatives/options for adjustments to FY16-17 General Fund Budget. Chairman Zovich gave update on numbers from the State of CT of loss in revenues and review of meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2016. By taking away Napco bridge design money we will lose 80% funding; reduce operating hours of Terryville library, closing the transfer station and town hall furloughs which requires town council approval; Electricity savings – email read into record between Ralph and Charlie Wiegert. The calculation to save 4% of our electric bill would be less than \$4000. Discussion on street lights and purchasing street lights, switching to LED; Ever Source will be phasing street lights to LED in the next 5 years or so. A lot of the units are 30 years old; they are currently doing a street light audit on age and value of each street light in town. Discussion on turning off every other street light which could result in public safety and road hazard; would need to pay a disconnection fee. Closing of the transfer station; attendant would move one day a week to highway department and no cost savings and would require town council approval. Charlie Wiegert stated the transfer station is open 6 hours on Saturday and last contract was amended flexibility in work week as such the attendant can work 5 days a week and planning to have Tuesday – Saturday and keep open longer on Saturday and not on Monday. Still needed to budget overtime in case he took Saturday off as anyone covering would get overtime. To do that as proposed last year would be savings of \$8735. Volume during week is steady and Saturday the busy day.

MOTION: To close the transfer station one day per week for cost of \$8735 by Pattie DeHuff, second Dan Murray. Discussion: Vicky Carey stated motion should have included with town council approval. Dan Murray asked if that position would require coverage from normal staff for vacation and will incur overtime for that; AnnMarie Rheault stated netted it here. Vote: unanimous.

Reduce hours of Dial a Ride – AnnMarie Rheault stated took out 20% which would eliminate one day or certain number of hours but need to go back and change contract and savings of \$9500. Public asked to contact Terryville Chevrolet to donate van stating courtesy of Terryville Chevrolet. Ann Marie Rheault stated we are eligible for a grant application next year. Human Services Director, Heather Burns, running 9a-3p Monday thru Friday; did have interest in Sunday rides for church; do have people who go to dialysis 3 days per week and with a reduction the elderly and those with disability would not be able to get to doctor offices. No interest to pursue.

Town hall furloughs one day per month (all but police department) – 12 weeks for June, July and August closed on Fridays in summer and \$25,000 net savings; gross impact \$50,000. Downfall closing one day a week is people are eligible to file for unemployment and you need to net out half of those savings; Mayor's perspective is that it would be very disruptive; not collecting taxes, clerk's office not filing documents, finance not paying bills, public works and highway work would not get done. No interest in board to pursue.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
16 MAY 25 PM 1:38

Police Department – headcount. 25 officers; in current budget have one vacancy; two officers are out. Impact of personnel if vacant position eliminated. Chief Krasicky stated this covers officer safety and not for public discussion.

Library reduction of hours

Contracting out street sweeping – someone thought if eliminated we would save and in capitals that is financed over a period of 5 years and save \$47,000; issue is current machine is in bad shape and putting more money into repairs. Charlie Wiegert stated they have spent over 20,000 keeping that machine running this fiscal year to date, tough to sustain, last year similar problem spending over 20,000 for the year; end of life. Legal obligation to keep streets swept; 125/hour we contract out through local sub last year to supplement due to long outages; based on what got done on what was able to afford and it would cost \$40,000 to do roads in town once. Do need to do around fairground before fair; after storms, when needed, before parades and some spots to do periodically approximately \$60,000 per year. Market for late model used sweepers; not sure on used market but they do take a beating; may find one at a cheaper rate but would not be able to finance it.

MOTION: To eliminate the street sweeper from capitals budget by Pattie DeHuff; second. Motion fails for lack of a second.

Dan Gentile gave information to the Chair; Chairman Zovich stated we are not discussing particular employee but the impact of this budget on safety.

Dan Murray asked if capital budgets have been exhausted; does not feel taking from capitals is logic and has been told license plate reader we use from another town on a regular basis. Chief Krasicky stated the license plate reader in capitals is there as next year the warranty of the one we have runs out and putting into capitals; first one we got through a grant and emergency management; banking for 2018. Ann Marie Rheault stated we have one now on a car and putting money away toward repair or replacement as if this dies it is very expensive to replace it. Dan Murray recommends we push out a year and look at results of upcoming year and necessity to get another one. Ann Marie Rheault stated we cannot buy a service contract; goal was to start saving for things so that we don't have a hit in one year; we know warranty is up and goal of putting in as multiyear savings.

MOTION: To take \$3500 out of capital budget this year for license plate reader by Dan Murray; second Pattie DeHuff. Discussion: Vicky Carey stated she will say no as capitals has gone down substantially and many years ago put in contingency money for roads, vest, etc and we had to fight tooth and nail to get vests; one reader and in case 2 years from now we have to service it \$3500 is not a lot; if want to take it out of general fund money to roads to supplant this. There is nothing in capitals that we are able to do anything for the town. One time our debt service had peaks and valleys as we spent money on roads. Dan Murray stated he would ask same question of BOE and do they need that truck this year; Chairman Zovich stated we had discussion and asked if they would do lease; Dan Murray stated the same as town hall renovations and are there things we can do on a rainy day. Pattie DeHuff stated she sees this license plate reader as invasion of privacy. Chief Krasicky explained how the license plate reader works and will only read a license plate where something is wrong such as unregistered, misuse of plates, stolen, wanted in robbery or burglar, child missing or owners of vehicles wanted in fraction of a violation. Dan Murray stated the technology is it evaluates what it sees. John Murphy, got pulled over in Farmington and paid \$135 for license plate and thinking re-registering vehicle; Rob Wilcox, similar situation where DMV error and was pulled over and presented with valid registration and officer took plates. Found phone number for commercial truck division who were able to clarify and somehow check was placed in escrow. Heidi Caron, 4 Fairmount Ave – this is public safety and resident's safety in town and to nickel and dime police department to keep our town safe is not right. Vote: Vicky Carey, no; Jay Dorso, no; Pattie DeHuff, yes; Dan Murray, yes and Ralph

Zovich, no. Motion fails.

Vicky Carey asked the Director of Finance if she has any other ideas on how to reduce the budget. Ann Marie Rheault stated only other item which will not reduce the mill rate would be to consider eliminating what was put in for body cameras as maintenance is \$2700 but using that extra duty; our budget woes will be every year and until mandated by us we use extra duty money to continue to fund things like police vehicles. Data storage and body cameras are from extra duty fund.

Dan Gentile, for information he called Tom Hennick on issue; you are going beyond scope of the board and recommend not to go into executive session. Chairman Zovich stated the Board will be extraordinarily careful and no mention of names, qualifications etc.

5. Executive Session for Personnel Matters (if req'd)

MOTION: To go into executive session and invite Chief Krasicky, Ann Marie Rheault and Sue Murawski by Vicky Carey; second Dan Murray. Discussion: none. Vote: Vicky Carey, yes, Jay Dorso, yes; Pattie DeHuff, no; Dan Murray, yes and the vote unanimous at 8 p.m.

Chairman Zovich called the meeting back in session at 8:35 p.m. and stated no motions to be made from executive session and thanked the Chief for her time.

MOTION: To move public comment to 6 and change 6 to 7 by Vicky Carey; second Jay Dorso and the vote unanimous.

6. Public Comment

a. John Murphy, 385 Greystone – need to make significant cuts and not nickel and dime. Peter Cook brought up good points and not looked at and next year need to get rid of DPW and subcontract services. Street sweeper can rent for 15,000 per month plus brushes from Votek and 80,000 to street the sweep. Need to think about high dollar cuts; town hall shut it down and ask other towns and getting one biased opinion. In his opinion putting band aid on and have major problems. Seriously consider alternatives. Chairman Zovich stated public works stated it would be \$45,000 to sub out and we are financing new street sweeper at 42,000.

b. Rob Wilcox, South Main – Mr. Murray brought up other areas and they were passed over and why; further to what John said, a dump truck and why can't we look into good used equipment which is available in good used shape and options that need to be explored.

c. Melanie Church, still back to 4 day work week and people don't like it but there is a max amount of unemployment you can get and if they did it would be only for this year and make a permanent thing. If you turn around and look in community it is not flourishing and we are in trouble. We are known as having best truck, best police cars and we are laughed at. This is community we can't keep adding people to and hope positions cut stay cut; outsourcing the maintenance garage as it is going to Marola's and get everybody out of there and have vehicles towed which would save on o/t and manpower. Excess money in this year's budget we do not have an aggregate budget and has to come out before start this budget. You are in violation of the charter.

d. Pete Worhunsky, 19 Coral Drive – our original budget got voted down and in interim, Ralph Zovich found out the state cut us 497,000 and now the way understands it is if it goes to referendum again and voted down then it goes to town council who can go up or down 3% on current budget. How are we going to get through this and even if go 3% it will not work. Ann Marie Rheault stated you can go plus or minus on expenses 3% but on tax dollars which will pay it through the mill rate going up. Chairman Zovich stated the budget presented this Thursday will have more than 1.1 mill rate. Pete, next year from the state will be double that

much and what are we going to do. Discussion held.

e. Melanie Church, BOE and do not want to see teachers laid off but feel it is administrative heavy and if you look at superintendent in Bristol he is getting 199,000 and what is student ratio and number of schools; we don't have a third of that and we are paying 180,000 plus a raise coming up. We can cut administration and know you can't tell them how but get rid of curriculum director and you need to do something. We can't keep paying astronomical wages. We have less than 2000 students and Bristol has probably 12,000. Would like to see position and at least \$150,000 additional taken from BOE.

f. Dan Gentile, 269 Mt. Tobe Road – he would like to see happen for next budget is state insurance with BOE and city; we can have a huge savings to go to state insurance plan for all employees and research and find out dollar savings. Ann Marie Rheault stated they had meeting going into budget year and on BOE side and town side it was deemed not appropriate; time was concern; plan numbers were state employees. Other concern was this is a plan under United Healthcare and notoriously poor coverage and you need to make sure you are taking a plan that employees can use; it is something they can look at again for next year. Also did find there is no cap and may entice in and rates will skyrocket and 3 year minimum with the state.

7. Discuss Public Hearing – Chairman Zovich stated this time around will present contingency options; recalculation of mill rate; revenues and expenditures. AnnMarie Rheault stated the Chair had an estimate of reduction in two positions; regarding the Library, she was asked to come up with numbers and her concern is there is mis information; people who do not have full picture are giving out wrong data; also would talk to department heads who have a say. License plate reader is a perfect example where information as being talked about which was completely wrong and people who know details and what we have and do not have are not being talked to and that feeds mis information.

100,000 estimate for cost reduction for two salary positions and that is actually \$155,000 (1 public works and 1 police). Library savings; Ann Marie stated Linda did a significant amount of work and also looked at closing town hall one day a week for 52 weeks; library to reduce them closing on Friday during July and August and Friday and Saturday during June July August and total impact for 1 day per week a year is \$64,000; impact in terms of programs closing Friday and Saturday during June and closing Friday in July and August is 20% reduction in f/t; 37% in p/t salary with question is they are eligible for unemployment on days reducing ; and in fairness if cutting Terryville should look at cutting Plymouth Library funding.

\$25,000 net for town hall furloughs which was based on 12 days a year; she looked at June, July and August with gross impact 50,000 at current rates and there will be offsetting unemployment.

Did agree on \$8735 for transfer station will require town council approval.

Vicky Carey stated after the public hearing and whether budget fails or pass we need to talk to town council and go through the budget. Will request that the cut of \$8735 be on the town council agenda in the joint meeting as well as any other budget items that require town council approval.

8. Board Members' Comments

a. Dan Murray – think it is great we want to look at projects and cost saving measures and programs but one common thing over the years that fall along the wayside and if looking at insurance that should be a project assigned and report back; internal audit program that had whole book put together and who is in charge of it; running list of projects so they don't get lost.

b. Pattie DeHuff – would like to see board, in future, comments from public worthwhile; we do not have an agenda item that allows everyone to give input and value public.

c. Jay Dorso – good comments from the public and board tonight that were helpful; will volunteer on insurance side to help any way in healthcare.

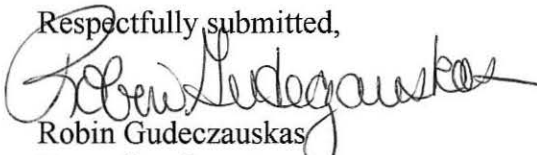
d. Vicky Carey- like public comment as it is and sometimes storytelling does not help. Want to get back to equipment and 20 years ago put a street sweeper in the budget under regular capitals and back then it was over 100,000 and we put in for 20,000 per year for 5 years which caused problems as we had a second one that died and that took over which is currently used. Looking at 40,000 per year to do street sweeping and they have swept her street twice as there were problems down there. This is not a Cadillac, we are getting a standard street sweeper and to buy used with drums, rollers, brusher and to buy used you are sometimes buying someone's headache and reason why they are getting rid of it. Vicky feels Charlie is well aware we are being precise on budget and he did go down 1.2%; we need plan for equipment and he is trying to come up with that. If we don't start replacing equipment on a regular basis we will be hit with many items going at once and a big bill. Next year will need to add 75,000 for reval. Pattie DeHuff stated that falls into Peter Cook's suggestion to privatize; Vicky stated Litchfield is paying \$1 million to do cutting of grass at schools, public areas and does not include snow removal. Chairman Zovich stated another issue, when we pay our highway crew to do drainage, grading, excavation, etc. and they get paid at their normal rate and we hire contractors and the minute bid goes over \$400,000 you pay state prevailing wage which is higher than we pay our crew.

e. Ralph Zovich – May 16 you all got notice about FOI class.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn by Vicky Carey; second Pattie DeHuff and the vote unanimous.
Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Robin Gudczauskas
Recording Secretary