

# Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786  
[www.plymouthct.us](http://www.plymouthct.us)

# Board of Finance

Telephone: 860-585-4001  
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**1. Call Hearing to Order:** Ralph Zovich, Chairman called the scheduled May 18, 2017, Board of Finance Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Community Room at Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, James Zalot, Jay Dorso, Pattie DeHuff and Jim Kilduff Also present: Mayor David Merchant, Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance; Town Councilwoman Ana LaGassey, Town Councilman John Pajeski, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman Tom Zagurski and Michele Yokubinas - Recording Secretary.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Ralph Zovich, Chairman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ralph Zovich stated, please remain standing for one moment of silence in memory of all the men and women in the military who have died in service to our country.

**3. Legal & Fire Exit Notice:** Ralph Zovich, Chairman noted the fire exits.

Ralph Zovich welcomed all to the Public Hearing and read aloud the legal notice.

## **4. Presentation of Proposed FY2017-18 General Fund budget**

### CRITICAL ISSUES

1. State Budget Deficit > \$2.3 B
2. Effect of Revaluation  
NGL decrease \$767 to \$741 M  
Losses of Taxes \$920,000 (Property Taxes)
3. Depleted Fund Balance est. \$400,000 +
4. Increase Pension and Health (Inflationary)
5. Demographic Effects:  
No Growth / Aging Population

Ralph Zovich stated taking into account of all of those critical issues listed above along with the advisory question on the budget-voting ballot, the Board of Finance made adjustment/ changes to the budget to reflect those votes/opinions and briefly elaborated.

Mayor David Merchant encouraged all residents to vote and hoped the budget will pass.

Barbara N. Fookson  
TOWN CLERK

17 MAY 26 AM 11:47

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Melissa Johnson, Chairman Board of Education shared facts/numbers and questioned as to why the Board of Finance only cut the Board of Education's budget which is only one line item.

Dr. Martin Semmel, Superintendent stated that the Board of Education had already captured the savings from the retirement incentive/portion and accounted for the lower salaries and used that to keep their budget lower. Dr. Martin Semmel stated the Mayor's original proposed amount of \$360,000 for the Board of Education would have covered contractual legal obligations for staff and for all requirements in terms of special education student's costs. Dr. Martin Semmel stated Education has a positive impact on students and the Board of Education has been extremely efficient and continues to strive for excellence and stated their staff is worth their weight in gold. Dr. Semmel went on to list accomplishments and future goals/plans.

**5. Public Input – Question and Answer Session**

Chris Masi, 277 South Street, Plymouth, CT – recommended giving the Board of Education everything they need to make the children as successful, noting he backs the Board of Education 100%.

Karen Kulesa, 14 Dewey Avenue, Terryville, CT, questioned the results of the advisory question that was posed on the voting ballot and why the Board of Finance lowered the Board of Education's budget and not the town's side and briefly elaborated.

Erin Vasquez, 72 Fall Mountain Lake Road, Terryville, CT - stated she wanted that close community feel in school and thanked the Superintendent for the invitation to voice her concerns this evening and briefly elaborated.

Randy A. Picard, 140 Old Waterbury Road, Terryville, CT - stated that he opened a business in January and is pleased to be part of this community and hoped more companies would be encouraged to do the same. He further questioned what the town would be doing to accomplish this task.

Kate Rockefeller, 16 Grove Street, Terryville, CT – stated Terryville has an excellent reputation and that is what motivated her to move to town. People should be invested in Education because that is what makes a town thrive.

Alexi Rockefeller, 16 Grove Street, Terryville, CT - stated that younger students will not have same opportunities that she has and these cuts would eventually affect the entire town.

Wayne Waldron, 42 Makara Street, Pequabuck, CT - stated everyone should always respect everyone's opinion. He further stressed the importance of a quality education, requested the Board of Finance put back the \$360,000 into the Board of Education's budget and briefly elaborated.

Kim Cooke, 11 Orchard Street, Terryville, CT - questioned the Board of Finance's decision to cut only the Board of Education's budget while not making any cuts on the town's side and briefly elaborated. She further stated she was in favor of keeping SRO at Terryville High School.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT - stated major concern regarding the budget and briefly elaborated. She further recommended cuts on the municipal side.

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Amy Dumont, 49 Hosier Road, Plymouth, CT - stated she fully supports the Board of Education's budget and briefly elaborated.

Peter Cook, 11 Orchard Street, Terryville, CT - stated look at the Police Department overtime, increased it to \$150,000 contractual obligation. He further stated Contracts need to change and briefly elaborated. Peter Cook stated Mayor David Merchant was doing a great job.

Jackie Linde, 48 Ridge Road, Terryville, CT - stated she fully supports the Board of Education and thanked Ralph Zovich for presenting the information that helped her fully understand what we are facing. Also, thanked the Board of Finance Members along with Mayor David Merchant for doing a wonderful job and briefly elaborated.

Christopher Simo Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road, Terryville, CT - if the Board of Finance gave the Board of Education back \$360,000 to meet contractual obligations they would still need to make cuts and briefly elaborated. He further recommended communication of town meetings to residents via phone.

Gerry Bourbonniere, 6 Fairmount Avenue, Terryville, CT - stated Education's side and Town side if you continue to not pay you will then pay later on and push problems down the road and briefly elaborated. Mentioned cost factors, cuts, and questioned in and out of district headcount.

Gary Belanger, 256, Main Street, Terryville, CT, wanted clarification on the amount and the Board of Education's possible layoffs and noted the majority of people at the town meeting would want to pay the Mill increase. He further stated he was in favor of Spanish V.

Cindy Candrea, 382 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, CT, - stated she was in favor of Board of Education's budget being raised, need to cut town side and briefly elaborated.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, CT, - Questioned average assessment/increase of presented budget and understanding mill and assessment relationship and briefly elaborated about regionalization to save money.

Ryleigh Dring, 6 Burr Road, Terryville, CT - Presently senior at Terryville High School personally contributed 350 community service hours along with other students and recommended the town support the schools and briefly elaborated.

Angela Suffridge, 25 Holt Street, Terryville, CT - Principal at Middle School - stated consider putting money back into the budget and briefly elaborated. Angela Suffridge stated she appreciated all the work by the Board of Finance and briefly elaborated.

Judy Cumiskey, 110 Minor Road, Terryville, CT - Library Media Tutor at Fisher Elementary - requesting the town to pay it forward by adding back to Board of Education budget.

Chief Karen Krasicky, 80 Main Street, Terryville, CT - stated two Plymouth Police Officers were recognized for their efforts in DUI arrests and briefly elaborated as to the need of the amount of officers.

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Carol Andrews, 118 Old Waterbury Road, Terryville, CT – stated she was in favor of Board of Education’s budget and felt cut would affect the Advanced Placement classes.

Michael Maffia, 98 N. Riverside Avenue, Terryville, CT, Police Commission - stated the Police Department was not wasting money, couldn’t handle any further cuts and briefly elaborated. He further stated Police Department overtime was not out of control and added that detectives do not go out on patrol.

**Second Round**

Peter Cook, 11 Orchard Street, Terryville, CT - Appreciated all of the work the Police Department does but felt their overtime budget is out of control and briefly elaborated.

Cindy Candrea, 382 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, CT - stated the music program was beautiful, the middle school drama was free and open to all students and noted these types of programs were necessary and briefly elaborated.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT, -Listed possible budget cuts and questioned the Board of Education’s left over money.

Gerry Bourbonniere, 6 Fairmount Avenue, Terryville, CT, - stated recommendation of regionalization, might be beneficial and briefly elaborated.

Christopher Simo Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road, Terryville, CT, - Suggested conversation regarding Police Department and town’s population.

**Board Members’ Comments**

Jim Kilduff - stated the Town had already made cuts referencing the Mayor’s original \$360,000 proposal and briefly elaborated, noting sometimes you have to spend money to keep things looking attractive to encourage business growth in our town. He further stated we need to get grand list up for a long-term solution. Jim Kilduff stated if cuts were made to Public Works they may not be able to get things done and delays in projects would only cost more later on.

Pattie DeHuff - stated she was in favor of referendum, advocating for months that we need to have a community conversation where it is not adversarial and plan where we are going as a community. This is a distressed community and some cannot afford this budget.

- James Zalot - None
- Vicky Carey - None
- Jay Dorso - None

**6. Adjourn to Joint Meeting with Town Council and Board of Education**

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Vicky Carey, seconded by Jay Dorso to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele Yokubinas*

Michele Yokubinas,  
Recording Secretary