

Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786

www.plymouthct.us

Board of Finance

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1. Call Meeting to Order: Jim Kilduff, Chairman called the scheduled March 25, 2021 Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Zoom Meeting online- Meeting ID: 416 918 410. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, Eugene Croce, Barbara Rockwell, Elizabeth Wollenberg, and Dave Sekorski Also present: Ann Marie Rheault - Director of Finance

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Jim Kilduff, Chairman led the group and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes – Will Follow-up

4. Libraries/Parks & Recreation

Gretchen D. DelCegno, Library Director discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on the Terryville Public Library, being one of the last libraries to close to the public – as other libraries began to close, we began taking in their patrons.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated on March 17 after discussion with our Library Board chair - I emailed Mayor Merchant about our intent to close to the public and I asked for his guidance his response was one of emphatic support.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated Terryville Public Library adapted to the closing - the library was closed and staff worked remotely we pivoted quickly to adapting our services to support our residents during isolation and briefly elaborated.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated we added/purchased subscription services ACORN TV and iNDIEFLIX digital streaming services/items, movies, ebooks in addition to audiobooks, and streaming download music, TV, and movies to support our community. Additional successes were as follows:

- introduced temporary library cards system - application available on the library website
- introducing virtual storytime hosted by children's librarian
- received a mainstream Community Foundation grant -improved our website
- new clean standards/procedures included curbside pickup and quarantine of returned items
- facilitated programming via Zoom and Facebook live -audiences of all sizes

Gretchen D. DelCegno shared her screen of some photos and quotes from residents re. various virtual programs - Children's Museum of Connecticut Animal Show, make and "take" activity, genealogy program, social distance outdoor storytime, and teen cooking classes.

Gretchen stated received furniture from a State of Connecticut grant and CARES act - governor's office and Connecticut State Library which enabled the library to replenish our PPE, hand sanitizer stations, air purifiers in public and staff areas.

Eugene Croce
VICE CHAIRMAN
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH
2021 APR -1 PM 12:52
PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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Gretchen D. DelCegno stated capital funding through last year's budget –purchased Chromebooks and hotspots for patron use which helps with work and school productivity from home.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated new fiscal year we anticipate expanding access to the library, helping people connect ideas, resources, and technologies to be more productive and have opportunities for social and economic growth.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated grateful for the support of the Library Board of Trustees that are pursuing additional grant funding to expand and sustain this new endeavor.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated as we've done through the past fiscal year will continue to reach out to partners in the Community. Working collaboratively with the Plymouth Public Schools, educators, and students during their shift to remote learning

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated working with the Plymouth historical society to ensure that our local history is accessible and appreciated.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated we continue to forge a love of reading and lifelong learning, with our youngest patrons. Our budget request is to support that vision and expand on the good work that the library has done despite the upheavals of the year.

Jim Kilduff stated re. library vs operating as a business -questioned possible room for compromise by having less expenditures.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated we need libraries, more than ever because the services that we provide gives people opportunities that they may not have otherwise during periods of economic decline. It's hard to put value on the services that we provide because they are so critical to the Community.

Ann Marie Rheault shared her screen

Eugene Croce questioned the spending year to date on the part-time employee line item.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated our commitment and our passion is sustaining us through this time. The library is doing their job the best they can by working and some things are falling. Need flexibility that part-timers bring -covering our bases but could be better.

Dave Sekorski questioned if programs and hours would be affected.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated story-time, early literacy skills, multiple pre-school programs, teen services, cuts – quality and quantity would be affected, hours, and coverage.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated would be able to add/restore more hours if we had additional part-time staff which would assist with the flexibility of hours.

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Barbara Rockwell complimented Gretchin and questioned the number of full-time staff.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated five full-timers and two part-timers one is 19 hours and the other part-time position is 6 hours.

Jim Kilduff questioned which positions are the most vital.

Gretchen D. DelCegno stated part-time person for circulation desk - 19 or even less, 15 hours would be helpful and the children's assistant position restored would give us more flexibility and briefly elaborated.

Parks and Recreation

Charles Wiegert stated the Parks & Recreation kept all line items the same.

Gerry Bourbonniere, Parks & Recreation Commission stated the commission had no input it is tough to go through a budget when you have no Parks and Recreation Director. Noted that our Parks and Recreation Department is closed, all due to COVID-19.

Jim Kilduff stated the draft budget has been published on the town website. Parks and Recreation Boards can meet with the Mayor anytime. Noted that boards have limited duties that should be done and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated re. expenditures - very tight budget, people who have homes that can't pay their mortgage and cannot afford an increase and briefly elaborated.

Gerry Bourbonniere stated planning on holding a summer program will need a Parks and Recreation director.

Ann Marie Rheault clarified that anytime the Parks & Recreation Supervisor is out the regular employee who takes over as the supervisor gets a shift differential to the rate that is included, that would be for the supervisor's position so that gets put into their regular employee line, so there is no discrepancy - that is legitimate wages being paid to those employees.

Vicky Carey stated re Parks & Recreation section now belongs to Charlie Wiegert suggested to meet with him and briefly elaborated.

Charlie Wiegert stated confident that we can get through fiscal year 2021-2022 with a "0" increase.

Dave Sekorski questioned the hiring of a Parks & Recreation Director with no budget increase.

Ann Marie Rheault stated can hire a director without impacting the budget.

Beth Wollenberg questioned moving of position to Parks & Recreation its impact on the department since self-sustaining.

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Ann Marie Rheault stated Parks & Recreation position is a town paid salary.

Beth Wollenberg questioned the summer program paid for itself last summer.

Ann Marie Rheault stated would need to look at details, the former director was watching carefully and briefly elaborated.

Gerry Bourbonniere stated expenses of summer camp estimate \$17,000 that would be offset by the cost of the camp, try to break even, and briefly elaborated.

Ann Marie Rheault stated COVID 19 grant - additional costs incurred to keep individuals safe - would be supplemented by the grant and briefly elaborated.

The Board of Finance received narratives from various departments for review and discussion purposes.

Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance, and members of the Board of Finance discussed in detail the Library and Parks & Recreation under the Public Works portion of the draft budget of the Town of Plymouth Fiscal Year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 – Mayor’s Proposed Budget Draft dated February 16, 2021, Pgs. 1 of 26 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.

5. Public Comment

Brian Brumaghim, 13 Holt Street, Terryville - former Director of Parks & Recreation December 2020 clarified commissions involvement was advised of the proposed budget and in agreement - this was discussed in great detail before I presented to the Board of Finance – Parks and Recreation. All were well aware of the budget proposal.

Lauren Malone, 19 Kearney Street, Terryville – struggling need a place to go, kids need to be kids, the library is a place to go and the most important thing is that the Library is where parents, elderly, and teens can gather - Library is important to our community.

Randy Picard, Chairperson -newly elected library board, residents utilize library re. (tax season), communication with family and friends, getting kids reading, appreciates all of the library's hard work.

Steve Courtney, 7 Union Street, Terryville - stated Lisa Courtney a beloved librarian retired in November, full view of services that the Library provides. Gave tribute to the Library and the services it provides.

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Lisa Courtney, 7 Union Street, Terryville - now a patron, not an employee, difficulty with limited staff - all staff going above and beyond knowing how much more they can do with additional staff.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Board Member's Comments

Vicky Carey - None

Eugene Croce - None

Barbara Rockwell – Thanked everyone –some things need to be restored. Appreciate all of those in support of the library - will deliberate and will do what we can.

Elizabeth Wollenberg - None

Dave Sekorski – thanked everyone for their participation.

Our next meeting will be on March 29, 2021

8. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by David Sekorski, seconded by Beth Wollenberg to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

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Recording Secretary