

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Plymouth Town Council
Tel: (860) 585-4001
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Minutes

April 19, 2021

Call to Order: Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled April 19, 2021, Plymouth Town Council, Board of Education, Plymouth Board of Finance, Virtual Zoom Joint meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor David V. Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, and Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann. Also present from the Town of Plymouth were Town Attorney William Hamzy, Plymouth Tax Collector Joe Kilduff, and Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault. Excused Absence Town Councilman John Pajeski.

Present from the Board of Finance were Board of Finance Vice-Chairman Vicky Carey, Board of Finance Member Eugene Croce, Board of Finance Chairman Jim Kilduff, Board of Finance Member Barbara Rockwell, Board of Finance Member David Sekorski and Board of Finance Member Elizabeth Wollenberg.

Present from the Board of Education were Plymouth Board of Education Member Josiah Elsaghir, Plymouth Board of Education Member Richard Foote, Plymouth Board of Education Member Melissa Johnson, Plymouth Board of Education Member Karen Kulesa, Plymouth Board of Education Member Michelle Lucian, Plymouth Board of Education Chairman Walter Seaman, Plymouth Board of Education Member Gregory Showers, Plymouth Board of Education Business Manager Matthew Tencza, Plymouth Board of Education Superintendent Sherri Turner, Director of Technology Plymouth Schools and Town of Plymouth Richard Trudeau.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board of Finance Chairman Jim Kilduff led the Plymouth Town Council, Plymouth Board of Education and Plymouth Board of Finance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Discussion with the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Town Council Members

Mayor David Merchant stated the meeting would be opened to the Board of Education first for their comments and then to the Town Council Members. He further stated that all comments and any adjustments would be addressed to the Board of Finance and briefly elaborated.

Simon Callahan
TOWN CLERK
2021 APR 23 AM 10:54
PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
100 STATE ST. 2ND FLOOR
PLYMOUTH, CT 06786

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Budget Discussion-Board of Finance, Board of Education, Town Council Members Cont'd.

Board of Education Chairman Walter Seaman stated he wanted to everyone to know the Board of Finance and the Board of Education, as well as other boards, had put a lot of time and thought into this proposed Budget, briefly outlining the ranking of the Town schools. Board of Education Chairman Walter Seaman noted the problems Plymouth is facing are not unique; noting the students would need the time back in the classrooms and that working together the Boards came up with a very good and viable solution and briefly elaborated. Board of Education Chairman

Walter Seaman stated he wanted the Town Council to know that the Board of Education, in keeping with trying to save monies, did not submit a Capitals budget and that he hoped the proposed Budget passes.

Mayor David Merchant stated he wanted to commend the Board of Finance for thinking outside the box with the Board of Education's Budget and for making everything work.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile regarding \$300,000 taken out of the Fund Balance last year, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated in order to balance the current budget that the Town was in the Town Council had approved for fiscal year 2021, a fund balance allocation of \$290,000 and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Plymouth Tax Collector Joe Kilduff stated the Motor Vehicle Collection rate to-date was 92.5%, noting historically speaking, it could be anywhere from 90 to 95%; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Joe Green, Plymouth Board of Education Chairman Walter Seaman stated the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program would increase the total budget request to \$780,700 if added to the Budget or a 3.1% increase for this year and briefly elaborated on the costs involved, i.e., equipment, teacher, etc.

Town Councilman Joe Green stated he thought it was a great program and that he would like to have it moving forward in the future.

To allow the Board of Finance members to present the recommended Budget and by a majority vote of its members *make, if necessary, changes to the Budget by a majority vote of its members and recommend the Budget to the Town Council (*a quorum of the Board of Finance members must be present)

(See Board of Finance Joint Meeting April 19, 2021 Minutes attached)

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To discuss and take action on the approval of the recommended FY 2021/2022 Budget

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to approve the Board of Finance recommended Budget for FY 2021/2022 in the amount of \$42,057.769, as presented by the Board of Finance.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Mayor David Merchant stated the proposed Budget amount of \$42,057.769 did not include an increase to the Zoning Enforcement Officer's hours.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile offered an amendment, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to increase the Land Use Department Salary Line Item for the Zoning Enforcement Officer by \$6,400. Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann/no; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/no; Mayor David Merchant/no. Motion failed 3-2.

Vote to approve the underlying motion:

Town Councilman Dan Gentile/no; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; motion passes 3-1.

To allow the Board of Finance to set the Property Tax Mill Rate for FY 2021/2022 FY Budget

(See Board of Finance Joint Meeting April 19, 2021 attached)

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council Joint meeting, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary