

Town of Plymouth

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Board of Finance

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- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Eugene Croce, Chairman, called the March 5, 2026, Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey - Vice Chairman, Jennifer Brunnoli - excused absence, Jon Draper, Roxanne Perugino, and Tony Osipiak. Also Present: Vijay Dora, Finance Director, Chief Mark Sekorski, Fire Marshal Ray Kovaleski, Assistant Chief Chris Masi, Deputy Chief Greg Cody, Tony J. Orsini, Director of Emergency Management, and Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Eugene Croce, Chairman, led the group and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Notice of Fire Exits -** Eugene Croce noted the Fire Exits for the record.
- 4. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION:

Roxanne Perugino made a motion, seconded by Jon Draper, to approve the February 26, 2026, Minutes with the corrections.

CORRECTIONS:

Eugene Croce noted pg. 5 - Tony Osipiak questioned this present budget, as it is 1.5, would we have to go to a referendum?

Eugene Croce stated that Tony Osipiak was referring to a prior version of the budget.

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously

5. Fire/Ambulance/Emergency Management budget discussion

Chief Mark Sekorski distributed and discussed the Fire Department narrative in detail.

Chief Mark Sekorski noted two-line items that went up, and that was due to vendors – Conference & Training and Other Professional/Tech. Services.

Eugene Croce noted a \$4,000 increase.

Chief Mark Sekorski stated that this is the cost of sending a firefighter to school.

Chief Mark Sekorski noted other professional/ technical services, which are all the tests that we must complete for OSHA and MSDS sheets – we have a company that does that, so we are on top of that.

Victoria Carey
TOWN CLERK
2026 MAR -9 PM 6:58
PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD

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Chief Mark Sekorski stated that everything has to be tested and documented.

Vicky Carey questioned the Region 5 dive team item.

Chief Mark Sekorski stated that for the last 4 years, we have asked for \$2,000. No town can afford to have its own dive team, so we have a region (5 towns), 501(c)(3) grant, which is worthwhile and briefly explained.

Vicky Carey questioned who is on the dive team.

Chief Mark Sekorski stated that Commander Raymond Zagurski, the dive chief, runs the entire operation. There are 40 dive team members across all the towns. We have 5-6 certified in this town.

Chief Mark Sekorski noted that we asked Vijay Dora, Finance Director, about a line item for that every year, and the other thing, the \$910 cancer fund; every fire department in the State of Connecticut paid and/or volunteers pay \$10.00 per person, and briefly elaborated.

PVAC Ambulance

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, distributed and discussed in detail the PVAC 2026-2027 Budget Narrative, noting utilities, gas, electricity, and the North Central CMED Service Fee. Total \$86,922.20.

Eugene Croce questioned whether you have Frontier and Comcast.

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated, "We do not have Frontier; that is a mistake."

Eugene Croce questioned whether they get a discounted rate from Eversource.

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated I believe that we do.

Roxanne Perugino noted that your utility costs appear higher than those of others.

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated those are the bills based on last year re. Ambulances plugged in (one reason) and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey questioned whether these are all of your expenditures.

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated these are the ones that the town contributes to – our budget is different – if you'd like to see that.

Vicky Carey requested that the town needs to get that budget every year – ex. Audit.

Vicky Carey questioned maintenance - do you have any extra money for that?

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated the biggest problem is that some individuals don't pay (no insurance), and the rising cost of medical supplies is out of hand. On the positive side, we are permitted to use i-gel® - similar to intubation, for cardiac arrest – monitors cost \$17,000 each, which we are in the process of paying for.

Vicky Carey asked, "Do you have donations throughout the year?"

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated, yes, we do! Ex. letter drive.

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, noted Travelers Insurance the Birdies for Charity program - We also paid into them - for every dollar you contribute, they pump in 15% participated (4 years now).

Vicky Carey questioned schooling.

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated that we take care of schooling.

Vicky Carey stated would like to see a budget, only because paramedics are pushing out EMTs, and you need more certification, and briefly elaborated.

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated that all must be recertified every 2 years, plus additional training. The EMT class is currently in progress and very busy.

Eugene Croce stated that payments to other organizations are \$14,171, and the mayor's is \$11,879.

Norm Whitehurst, PVAC - Chief of Service, stated that for the North Central CMED Service Fee, he has not seen the actual bill and briefly elaborated.

*Vijay Dora, Finance Director, stated that we will follow up with the bill. Moving forward, all bills should be forwarded to individuals to review before payment to check for any discrepancies, and you can call the vendor to straighten them out. *(follow-up) *

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, stated that he will bring a copy of the bills.

Emergency Management

Anthony J. Orsini, Director of Emergency Management, explained that the current budget is \$19,300, and there is no proposed increase. Emergency Management expenses largely depend on the weather. Some years there are no incidents, but this year has been an exception with storms such as Benjamin and the most recent storm, which created unexpected costs. During major storms like Benjamin, all three fire stations operate around the clock, with personnel staying at the stations. As a result, expenses such as food for on-duty staff had to be covered. While a line item exists for these costs, previous years often had little or no storm activity. Overall, the budget is largely storm-related -we plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Ray Kovaleski distributed and discussed in detail the Plymouth Fire Marshal's Office Budget Fiscal Year 2026-2027 – highlighted and noted increases/decreases - wages Regular Employees \$1,617.68, Adm. Asst. \$793.00, and decrease (\$962.00) Periodicals-used to maintain and update the fire NFPA code subscription services \$380.00, NFPA Code Manuals \$511.00 and Clothing increase \$100.00 – Provide uniforms, protective clothing and equipment, and Due & Memberships (\$50.00) and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey questioned revenue - re. Fire Hawks, Grants, and burning permits requested info for an accurate amount of revenue.

*Fire Marshal Ray Kovaleski stated they are in the general fund – will provide that information. *(follow-up)*

Vicky Carey questioned building inspections.

Fire Marshal Ray Kovaleski stated we inspect specialty, i.e., sprinkler systems, fire alarms - it is for a CO (Certificate of Occupancy).

Vicky Carey questioned whether they charge.

Fire Marshal Ray Kovaleski stated, “No”, bigger cities do, smaller towns normally do not.

6. Public Comment

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT - complimented the library and requested more open hours.

7. Correspondence

A brief discussion regarding an email from the mayor requesting that anyone wishing to speak with the mayor or the finance director make an appointment in advance. Some members felt this was a reasonable way to manage busy schedules, while others expressed concern that it could make it harder to ask questions or obtain information. It was clarified that the request mainly applied to meetings with the mayor and the finance director.

8. Board Member's Comments

Jon Draper - None

Vicky Carey - None

Roxanne Perugino - None

Tony Ospiak -None

9. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Vicky Carey, seconded by Roxanne Perugino, to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

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Recording Secretary

