

Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786
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Board of Finance

Telephone: 860-585-4001
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- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Eugene Croce, Chairman, called the April 2, 2026, Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey - Vice Chairman, Jennifer Brunnoli-excused absence, Jon Draper, Roxanne Perugino, and Tony Osipiak-excused absence. Also Present: Vijay Dora, Finance Director, Susan Boilard, and Raymond Engle -Town Council Members
- 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 March 26, 2026, minutes as presented.

VOTE:

Motion passed unanimously

- 5. Start/first pass-thru of Budget, Finalize & Adjust Rev./Exp. & approve totals**

Probate

Wetlands/Conservation

Roxanne Perugino noted Meeting Secretary line item - overall understanding of the minimum wage after the first 2 hours, hard to believe that it is that much more, in every group, not just this one - almost doubled and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey stated that they never brought them back last year up to minimum wage, noted some secretaries complained, and briefly elaborated.

Eugene Croce stated they raised the base from \$100 to \$125 for the Board of Finance and Town Council.

Economic Development

Special Services

Police - previously went over police in detail.

Eugene Croce noted the previous question regarding the Captain's Salary line: if a new captain comes on, the rate will be lower, and briefly elaborated.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD
2026 APR -6 PM 2:52
Jennifer Kowalski
TOWN CLERK

Board of Finance Meeting

April 2, 2026

Page 2 of 8

Vicky Carey stated it must be at a minimum of 3% lower than the department's head, noted chief, 3% above captain, and briefly elaborated.

Eugene Croce questioned overtime, if fully staffed, why do they need overtime?

Vicky Carey noted they said they were in deficit.

Eugene Croce stated they are scheduled to get \$350,000.

Roxanne Perugino noted last year that she was short two positions.

Animal Control

Communications

Eugene Croce questioned whether they ever ended up saving on dispatch; a better system was supposed to be a big savings.

Fire Department

Fire - Terryville Station

Fire - Plymouth Station

Fire - Fall Mountain Station

Fire Marshal

Ambulance

Roxanne Perugino noted the increase in Telephone & Communications.

Emergency Management

Public Works Director

Highway

Eugene Croce stated they will be fully staffed. Do they still need that much in the overtime line item? Noted may be an accounting change; they don't have any part-time seasonal employees, and were putting in \$44,577, need to confirm that this is not in Parks & Rec, and briefly elaborated.(follow-up)*

Roxanne Perugino stated Parks & Recreation is also asking for someone, and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey stated Parks & Recreation can't - because that was all turned over to the highway.

Roxanne Perugino stated that there are two part-time seasonal employees.

Vicky Carey stated the mayor did this originally, don't know if the Public Works Director looked at this.

Board of Finance Meeting

April 2, 2026

Page 3 of 8

Roxanne Perugino noted regular employees, also has an extra employee, seasonal employees, and an increase in overtime.

Eugene Croce stated Parks & Recreation has part-time seasonal recreation. - for \$60,000

Roxanne Perugino went up a lot.

Eugene Croce stated, if I look back at part-time seasonal 24-25, 25-26, nothing in the budget, nothing YTD - now going up to \$44,000, are we actually changing from Recreation to Highway, and if we are, then we need to take the \$60,000 out of rec.

Vicky Carey stated we need to take that out of Parks & Recreation anyway; she does not have any part-time employees.

Vicky Carey stated, Public Works Director - any of the park employees take care of parks first, and then afterwards, they work for the highway. (follow-up)

Eugene Croce stated \$47,800 spent, questioned YTD.

Vicky Carey noted being down one now - Highway.

Roxanne Perugino stated they are asking for a plus one; besides that, the requested budget is for an additional person, full-time, besides being one down, \$68,000, plus adding part-time.

Eugene Croce stated part time is taking the place of the \$60,000 for recreation for part-time seasonal to be removed if approved.

Roxanne Perugino confirmed that if approved, that amount comes out of Parks & Recreation, and goes nowhere - already in Public Works as \$44,577.

Snow Removal

Vicky Carey stated extra contractors are required to help with snow - since some of the employees do not have CDL licenses.

Maintenance Garage

Transfer Station

Roxanne Perugino questioned Other Professional/Tech. Services \$40,000.

Vicky Carey noted that it is for the hauling.

Eugene Croce noted the price goes up per ton, and it has not been worked out whether it is going to be private or public.

Board of Finance Meeting

April 2, 2026

Page 4 of 8

Utilities

Eugene Croce questioned fire hydrants, noted fixed item.

Town Hall

Facilities

Roxanne Perugino noted \$27,560, leased equipment -noted other increases.

Vicky Carey noted that the Public Works Director gave us a sheet to explain this.

Building Inspector

Vicky Carey stated that they have Thomaston and Bristol, noted there is an increase and/or plans by the mayor to either outsource, hire, or continue.

Eugene Croce noted cannot find people to hire for that amount of money and have that responsibility.

Public Health Service

Elderly Transportation

Human Services

Eugene Croce noted contractual position.

Terryville Library

Library Services

Vicky Carey questioned the library books at \$40,000 or \$46,000. *(follow-up)*

Parks

*Eugene Croce questioned that Transfer in /Transfer out is what we are calling revenue in her case.

Pg. 8 \$119,175 noted revolving account will need adjustment *(follow-up)*

Vicky Carey noted still would be removed. *(follow-up)*

Roxanne Perugino noted to take \$68,000 out of Parks, leave \$40,000 Public Works leave - they took over - already has that line item and briefly elaborated.

Roxanne Perugino noted, actually taking out more money, and briefly elaborated.

Recreation

Vicky Carey noted she pays high school contractors to clean for recreation /programs.

Board of Finance Meeting

April 2, 2026

Page 5 of 8

Vicky Carey noted Contracted Services up \$3,000.

Board of Education

Eugene Croce stated you could give them what they got last year, plus any increase, and briefly elaborated

Vicky Carey noted the two different budget amounts - one that the Board of Education Supt. was 3.67%, and the Board of Education had 3.99% - will have to decide and briefly elaborated.

Roxanne Perugino noted changes/increases.

Eugene Croce stated that you could increase or decrease

Roxanne Perugino stated you cannot tell the Board of Education how to spend their money.

Debt Service – Principal

Debt Service - Interest

Vicky Carey noted the mayor is only bonding \$3 million. Is the payment reflective of this?

Vijay Dora stated a \$100,000 interest in the schedule.

Other Debt Service

Vicky Carey questioned whether there is anything we can refinance.

Eugene Croce stated believe that it was done in 2019

Eugene Croce stated do not believe they are any lower presently.

Vicky Carey stated that if they begin to drop, they may want to renegotiate other obligations.

Eugene Croce stated that sometimes you cannot refinance - would need to look at each contract/schedule.

Revenues

Vicky Carey stated can we increase any revenues, burn permits? Noted Fire Marshal *(follow-up)*

Vicky Carey stated that the town clerk gets from the state certain things, doesn't know what they use them for, or offsets some costs, and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey noted Police, forfeiture, donations, or hosting classes.

Vicky Carey stated would like to see extra money and what it is used for, re. confiscate guns, any funds, and/or miscellaneous funds, same for the town clerk, where it goes after budget season.

Vicky Carey questioned the amount of revolving fund for Parks & Recreation.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, stated close to \$300,000.

Board of Finance Meeting

April 2, 2026

Page 6 of 8

Eugene Croce stated will meet next Monday and Thursday.

Eugene Croce stated before the presentation of the Board of Education to the town council.

Vicky Carey noted the timeline, Public Hearing before April 24, 2026, 10 days prior published/posted.

Eugene Croce stated goal is Thursday to finish up.

A brief discussion took place regarding the PowerPoint presentation (slides) for the public hearing/meeting; we will highlight changes.

Vicky Carey noted going to look at past budgets, the collection rate for 98.40% - very high for real estate, not sure if we can attain that, and briefly elaborated.

6. Public Comment

Ray Engle, Town Council, noted that the ECS grant is \$9,802,121 as of now and briefly elaborated.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT - noted history of extra duty fund re. debt for retirement -took money and caught up (no deficit), not fair.

7. Correspondence

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, received from the Tax Collector will make available via email - suspense list.

8. Board Member's Comments

Jon Draper - None

Roxanne Perugino - None

Vicky Carey - None

Eugene Croce stated I reviewed 25–30 town budgets, the statutes, and guidance from OPM. OPM dictates how the net grand list is calculated -generally, real estate assessments are multiplied by 70%. However, OPM does not dictate how municipalities use that number in their budgets.

Eugene Croce noted, for example, a town could choose to build in a reserve of 2–3% (or another percentage), but OPM aims to prevent inconsistencies between towns. If one town reduces its figure by 3% and another by 7% to appear less wealthy and receive higher reimbursement, it creates inequities. Any such adjustment should therefore be handled transparently within the budget.

Eugene Croce stated we can consider a motion to increase the contingency on Monday. We will also discuss capital improvements and potential reductions to the public works overtime line item.

Board of Finance Meeting

April 2, 2026

Page 7 of 8

Eugene Croce stated regarding the Parks and Recreation revolving fund - recommend not allocating funds in this year's budget until the policy is formally approved by the Council. Once established, it could function similarly to the police fund, where requests can be made for expenditures.

Eugene Croce stated that if you get close to a 3% threshold, I'm neutral on the approach. I understand the challenges of a referendum, but there are options. For example, as Tony Ospiak suggested, we could remove or reassign a police cruiser - potentially shifting it to the police extra-duty fund so it doesn't impact the general fund. That might help bring us under 3%, though it's unclear if the savings would be sufficient.

Vicky Carey noted concern that departments have been operating based on their current extra-duty funding. We need to confirm the year-end balance as of July, since I understood there may have been a deficit. Any funds generated between now and next year could then be applied to the following year, and briefly elaborated.

Eugene Croce stated to be clear, I'm not advocating for or against any specific approach; I am simply offering options for consideration, especially if you're uncomfortable with the 3% target.

Vicky Carey asked if this is the net grand list, and noted this amount in the yellow.

Eugene Croce confirmed yes, and you cannot change.

Vicky Carey questioned I just want to make sure and this includes all of the increases, all of the assessments, and the new assessments.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, stated Yes.

Eugene Croce noted that after reviewing about 25 municipal budgets, he found significant inconsistency in how towns present their information. Some budgets do not include a mill rate calculation at all, listing only revenues and expenses. Others combine the prior year's annual report with the current budget into a single document -something not yet available in this case. In some instances, towns publish the mill rate without showing how it was calculated. He emphasized that these differences exist because Connecticut does not have a standardized format mandated by OPM or the legislature, so each town structures its budget differently.

Board of Finance Meeting

April 2, 2026

Page 8 of 8

9. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Roxanne Perugino, seconded by Jon Draper, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

Michele Yokubinas
Recording Secretary