

# 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 Meeting to Order:** Eugene Croce, Chairman, called the April 9, 2026, Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey - Vice Chairman, Jennifer Brunoli, Jon Draper-excused absence, Roxanne Perugino, and Tony Ospiak. Also Present: Vijay Dora, Finance Director, Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, Aaron Heller, Highway Supt.-Town of Plymouth, 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 Tony Ospiak, to postpone the April 2, 2026, minutes as presented.**

## VOTE:

**Motion passed unanimously**

## MOTION:

**Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Brunoli, for Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, to present the lease program under Public Works capital in the budget.**

## VOTE:

**Motion passed unanimously**

## **5. Capital – Public Works**

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, stated that our new highway superintendent, Aaron, has been a great help in identifying the needs of the highway fleet. Over the past week, we've taken a close look at the lease program to ensure the fleet is properly maintained.

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, stated that currently, we operate nine trucks for snowplowing, covering nine routes, with no backup trucks available. We have four highway crews (five, including Aaron), and all trucks are fully staffed. To ensure all routes are covered, we also hire part-time drivers.

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
2026 APR 14 PM 3:54  
TOWN CLERK

**Board of Finance Meeting**

**April 9, 2026**

**Page 2 of 7**

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, stated that of the nine trucks, six are part of the lease program. The oldest leased vehicle is from fiscal year 2020, and we recently made its seventh payment. We are planning to make the eighth payment in fiscal year 2027, at which point we would own the truck and it would no longer be part of the lease program. This particular truck has been performing well, and the driver strongly supports keeping it. When leased trucks are returned, the entire vehicle, including the body, is taken back, even though components like the stainless steel body could otherwise be transferred to another truck. We have invested significantly in outfitting and maintaining these vehicles, and they remain in excellent condition.

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, stated that based on our review, the cost of making the final payment to retain this truck would be approximately \$33,000 that amount is based on the contract, which I have on file for this vehicle. It represents the final payment required to retain the truck. If we chose not to keep it, we would need to replace it with a new lease.

Vicky Cary confirmed it is a 10-wheel dump.

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, stated we met with our leasing representative this week, who advised using approximately \$60,000 as a starting payment for the initial payment on a new truck.

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, stated that based on this, we recommend keeping the current vehicle, which maintains our fleet at nine trucks. Looking ahead, we plan to recommend expanding the fleet to include a backup vehicle. Aaron also has additional input regarding future needs as we work to fully staff the crew and ensure all vehicles are actively in use.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, confirmed that it is included in this budget.

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, stated as soon as I have more information on the second compactor quote – will let you know.

Vicky Carey confirmed that the Board of Finance did approve \$180,000 for the compactor.

**6. Continue and/or finish pass-thru of Budget, Finalize & Adjust Rev./Exp. & approve totals**

Dept.	26 Budget	Mayors Rec.	Inc./Dec.	New Amt.	\$	%
Land Use - Regular Employees	48,006	24,170	-23,836	24,170	-23,836	-49.65%
Board of Finance - Contingency Fund	50,000	75,000	25,000	75,000	25,000	50.00%
Parks - Part-time seasonal employees	25,830	68,000	-35,000	33,000	7,170	27.76%
Public Works Director - Adm. Asst.	48,809	24,405	0	24,405	24,405	0.00%
Highway – Overtime	47,000	30,000	-17,000	30,000	-17,000	0.00%
Transfer Station - Overtime	23,000	40,000	0	23,000	0	0.00%
Town Clerk - req. part-time to full	73,019	97,616	-24,597	73,019	0	0.00%
Transfer Station New Compactor System Equipment			180,000	180,000	0	0.00%
Recreation -Internal Transfers exp.	(116,325)	(84,175)			32,150	-27.64%
Recreation -Internal Transfers rev.	(106,300)	(84,175)			22,125	-20.81%
Police – Overtime	305,000	305,000	0	305,000	0	0.00%
Police-Capitals – Dash Cam & Body Cams	95,000		45,000	50,000	-45,000	52.63%

A brief discussion took place, leaving the \$44,517 in Public Works.

A brief discussion took place regarding Highway -Overtime - requested \$47,000 decrease by \$17,000 to bring it back to \$30,000

A brief discussion took place regarding the Transfer Station Overtime - requested \$40,000 decrease by \$17,000 to bring it back to \$23,000.

Tony Ospiak noted that he originally asked for a list of new employees, new department, and expenses instead of headcount, and briefly elaborated.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding positions and departments.

Roxanne Perugino requested a breakdown of employees.

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, confirmed that the regular employees in fiscal year 26 - were 6 highway crew plus one highway supt. in the budget. In fiscal year 27, we're requesting 7 crew members and the highway supt. and the part-time makes 9.

Eugene Croce confirmed Parks reduced \$44,577 already in the highway budget.

**MOTION:**

Jennifer Brunoli made a motion, seconded by Tony Ospiak, to leave Highway and Parks the same, at the same amounts.

**VOTE:**

Jennifer Brunoli - Yes  
Vicky Carey - No  
Roxanne Perugino - No  
Tony Ospiak- Yes  
Eugene Croce - Yes

**Motions passed 3 to 2**

Tony Ospiak stated it keeps us under 3%, but it troubles me that people have two different bosses, an issue that needs to be resolved in the future, and briefly elaborated.

Jennifer Brunoli stated we need to discuss the budget - I don't think that is for discussion of who is under what department, headcount - different issue, and briefly elaborated.

Roxanne Perugino stated don't feel it is fully explained.

Joe Sopczneski, Public Works Director, stated that part of that budget is manned by highway crew on Saturdays and that will always be overtime.

Eugene Croce stated, just going back to last year's figure.

A brief discussion took place regarding Town Clerk 51610, who requested a part-time position, noted a \$97,616 to \$73,019 reduction of \$24,597

Eugene Croce stated where is the part-time clerical line item?

Vicky Carey requested that it be broken out by one full-time and one part-time under the town clerk.

Vijay Dora stated will insert the line item.

A brief discussion took place regarding Capitals - Compactor -\$180,000

Eugene Croce noted Transfer in and out, missing \$5,000, pg. 25.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, noted that under Recreation, advertising, and conference & training are not part of the program, debatable if the town should be spending money in addition to full salary.

Eugene Croce stated that this is the way it always has been, noting that we only pay for the department head's salary line item.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, stated that you can argue it could be part of the town expenditure, as advertising is used for the program, and briefly elaborated.

Eugene Croce confirmed that Internal transfers should be increased by \$5,000 to \$119,175

A brief discussion took place regarding Capitals -Dash and Body cameras, reducing \$45,000 to \$50,000

A brief discussion took place regarding Police - Overtime \$305,000

Eugene Croce stated re. Board of Education -consider any number over last year's budget.

A brief discussion took place regarding MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement)

Eugene Croce stated, according to an anonymous source, that ECS funding may increase next year. He briefly explained how this could affect Plymouth, particularly in terms of per-student funding increasing from approximately 11-16, since enrollment has declined, we would need to calculate the overall impact. This could represent an additional revenue source, though this information is unofficial.

Vicky Carey noted that estimated revenues are increasing the ECS grant by \$108,000.

Vijay Dora confirmed correct number.

Eugene Croce noted that the excess cost is going up now in the board's budget.

**Board of Finance Meeting**

**April 9, 2026**

**Page 6 of 7**

**MOTION:**

Vicky Carey made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Brunoli, to make the Board of Education's budget the superintendent's suggested budget, a 3.72% increase from last year's previous Amount \$28,605,423.

**VOTE:**

Jennifer Brunoli -Yes

Vicky Carey -Yes

Roxanne Perugino - Yes

Tony Ospiak -Yes

**Motion passed unanimously**

Tony Ospiak stated we are under 3% now, so not heading for a referendum.

Eugene Croce stated correct.

Tony Ospiak stated we still have an opportunity to make adjustments at the Tri Board, hear from the public, council, and listen to the Board of Education once again, - this is not necessarily the final decision.

Tony Ospiak stated that this budget presently requires raiding the rainy-day fund of \$750,000.

A brief discussion took place regarding the mill rate calculation.

Tony Ospiak stated that if the budget is adopted the way it is -will not be going to referendum, but we would be raiding \$750,000 from the rainy-day fund, and next year we will have to come up with that again. There might be places we could examine for reconsideration.

Tony Ospiak stated the town council might decide to add money to the Board of Education.

Roxanne Perugino stated that we are never the final figure.

Tony Ospiak stated that the superintendent had previously noted that they would rework the budget for all parties.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, stated that presently, with changes 2.74%,

Vijay Dora stated the mill rate was 28.17; now it is 28.02

**Board of Finance Meeting**

**April 9, 2026**

**Page 7 of 7**

**7. Public Comment**

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT - OSHA trouble- transfer station needs additional staff, how much money is left over in the rainy-day fund, give a break to taxpayers.4

Vijay Dora, Finance Director, stated that over the last five years, the balances have always been positive, which goes into fund balance; past audited financial statements were positive, and 26 will be once again, and briefly elaborated.

Ray Engle, 6 Knight Lane, Terryville, CT, confirmed you reduced the Board of Education budget by \$75,000. The Board of Education approved a budget that was \$73-74,000 more than the Superintendent's budget. Concerned about the health care line, every district is in the 20-25% range.

**8. Correspondence**

None

**9. Board Member's Comments**

Jennifer Brunoli - None

Roxanne Perugino - None

Vicky Carey - None

Tony Ospiak - None

**10. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele Yokubinas*

Michele Yokubinas  
Recording Secretary

