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 regular March 3, 2025, Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, Jennifer Brunnoli, Eugene Croce, Tony Osipiak, and David Sekorski-excused absence, Vijay Dora, Town of Plymouth Finance Director, and Mayor Joe Kilduff

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance: Jim Kilduff, Chairman led the group and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Notice of Fire Exits Jim Kilduff noted the Fire Exits for the record.
- 4. Public Comment

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT – Board of Education's budget – bus, noted assessor and tax collector

5. Acceptance of Board of Finance 2025 Calendar Meeting Dates
Distributed for perusal and review. Acceptance of the Board of Finance 2025 Calendar Meeting dates.

6. Mayor's Presentation of Proposed Plymouth Town Budget TY 2025-2026

Mayor Joe Kilduff highlighted in detail various sections of the Town of Plymouth Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 - Mayor's Proposed Draft Budget # 1 dated March 3, 2025, 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)

Mayor Joe Kilduff welcomed and thanked all members of the Board of Finance for their dedication and service to the community.

Mayor Kilduff stated this is a proposed budget of \$47,273,424 that represents a 2.73% increase from the prior year and as currently constituted would bring a proposed mill rate of 39.99 and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated this proposed budget is as per the current law. Re. How we value motor vehicles, motor vehicle mill rate capped, and vehicle assessment - noting the motor vehicle list took a significant hit and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted ECS Governor's proposed budget cuts another \$100,000 - the number that we have presently in the presented budget.

Mayor Joe Kilduff's highlighted areas:

- ❖ Presented budget cuts police officer, noted technological needs for the Police Department expensive, officer retiring -2 months current staffing level and reduction September 1, 2025 to avoid layoff.
- * Revenue Accounts interest investment income on track \$600,000 (not aggressive) calculation.
- Recommendation to take \$200,000 out of the fund balance to specifically pay for our portion of the Downtown development plan.
- * Expenses re. Police, Public Works, and Central Supply.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated - Jamie Terry, Technology Director's past - presentation has previously shown how far behind we've gotten on our technology infrastructure. There are some serious needs and we do meet those needs in this budget, both in capital and in our operating budget, and briefly elaborated. Noted would like to split that off (own department) from central supply.

* Registrars, (comfort level -built-in) dependent on referendums and early voting, staff requirements, etc.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated re. Employee Benefits -a large driver of our costs. Again, we do fully fund the pension and retirement contributions and briefly elaborated.

❖ The Health Insurance line does not show a significant increase.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated re. medical buyout – noted budgeted at \$28,000 last year, and believe that was a typo - it should have been \$58,000 and briefly elaborated.

❖ Property and Casualty Insurance, again another \$100,000 - quote directly from our brokers.

Mayor Joe Kilduff introduced the new Finance Director Vijay Dora, - and noted appreciation of the Finance Director and staff for all of their effort, work, and the significant amount of time in helping the Mayor put together this budget.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted - Police Department's significant increases due to the Connecticut Police Accountability Act. Noting the need and importance to make sure that we both receive and maintain our accreditation. Proposing a \$260,000 increase (with position cut) and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff for clarity - noted this was the first year of union contracts. All the union contracts were settled after the budget was adopted. So you will see in the budget - significantly large increases.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted that last year's budget did not reflect those raises. There was a line item -wages, and wage adjustments - being aware a significant amount of money went into that line item, that was reduced significantly this year. Noted will see large percentage increases and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted – this is really over two years versus one because those raises were not in effect in last year's budget. So just for that clarification, it happens every time we have a union negotiation that goes past the date of the budget being adopted.

Board of Finance Meeting March 3, 2025 Page 3 of 4

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted for the record, you're going to see raises in there, they are getting the raise that was agreed to with their union contracts and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted Public Works - we are trying to at some point get our public works group back up to at least 10. We do take a small step forward here. Again, we are actively trying to hire for our public works department and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted the public works department – added/filled half a position, individual already employed in public safety and briefly elaborated.

- Sand and salt we need to boost this particular line item up a little bit and briefly elaborated.
- Noted the significant amount of \$700,000 debt principle and interest that has fallen off, noted various possible scenarios/options.

Mayor Joe Kilduff discussed and noted the importance of various capital projects FY 2025-2026 (list), ie. upgrade technologies, etc., and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff re. Downtown Revitalization transformational plan - Capital or transfer to Economic Development Plan needs \$200,000 -- So far, granted just shy of \$2M from the State of Connecticut, \$250,000 for a planning grant, and \$1.7M for implementation of the plan. The town needs to kick in our fair share/portion. Amount of \$400,000 - is able to offset for a match but we need an infusion of \$200,000 for the next three years and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted the importance of the grand list growing close to the pace of expenses rising and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Fraud Risk Assessment has been completed. We are giving our Finance Director time to read and review before distributing for perusal and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted Aid to Roads, maintained, and possible grant.

Vicky Carey requested past (years) (columns) – excel spreadsheet - visible for review and briefly elaborated.

Tony Osipiak questioned the proposed amount for overtime for Police.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted present staffing level appropriate amount of \$275,000.

Tony Osipiak questioned the part-time position – benefits.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted position would not be eligible for benefits.

Tony Osipiak suggested a special tax levy.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated personal opinion political, paid by Taxpayer funds, cost, built-in level or debt and briefly elaborated.

Board of Finance Meeting March 3, 2025 Page 4 of 4

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted capital project list – education – roofs - was not on the list. Capitals has not scored these as of yet, will be forwarded for perusal and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff, Board of Finance - Chairman noted Board of Education Sinking Fund requests and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey requested a Sinking Fund balance.

7. Board Member's Comments

Jennifer Brunoli - None

Vicky Carey - None

Eugene Croce - Blight vs Revenue Report, Extra Duty Fund, and Park & Rec. Fund, questioned \$600,000 Bond issuance.

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted leftover bond from referendum (2011) (noted never bonded) not spent – infrastructure (under budget) – need council approval - \$600,000 allocation (never bonded -not drawn ontaken)

Tony Osipiak - Commend Mayor on detail in budget. Request Board of Education meeting for follow-up questions.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Vicky Carey seconded by Tony Osipiak to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

Michele Yokubinas Recording Secretary