

Town of Plymouth

80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Board of Finance

Telephone: 860-585-4001
Fax: 860-585-4015

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Jim Kilduff, Chairman called the regular April 7, 2025, Board of Finance meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Community Room. Members in attendance: Victoria Carey-Vice Chairman, Jennifer Brunnoli, Eugene Croce, Tony Osipiak, David Sekorski, and Vijay Dora, Town of Plymouth Finance Director. Also Present: Dr. Bonnie Doughty-Jenkins-PVAC, Anthony J. Orsini, Director of Emergency Management, Chief Mark Sekorski, Terryville Fire Department, Ray Kovalski, Fire Marshal -Terryville Fire Department, Chief Karen Krasicky, Captain John D'Aniello, Detective Bilotto, and Tad Johnson-SRO – Plymouth Police Department

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. **Review Police/Communications/Fire/Emergency Management/Ambulance**

PVAC – Ambulance budget

Dr. Bonnie Doughty-Jenkins -President Board of Directors - Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance stated an overall 10% increase, re. Narrative previously provided for perusal.

Eugene Croce questioned any justification for a 10% increase.

Dr. Bonnie Doughty-Jenkins stated this is due to the cost of living increases from different organizations, noted had to shift things around, and briefly elaborated.

Emergency Management

Tony Orsini, Director of Emergency Management stated a slight decrease because had to transfer some items to Public Works, generator, generator maintenance, and lease. The Public Works Department was handling 99% of that and briefly elaborated.

Tony Orsini stated most items are weather-related - have been fortunate and briefly elaborated.

Tony Osipiak questioned the purchase of equipment from ARPA funds. Do you think that you have the proper equipment that you need?

Tony Orsini stated Gator benefits all first responders. Emergency services are housed at station 1.

Eugene Croce stated we don't see the transfer to Public Works.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN OF FINANCE OFFICE
2025 APR 11 PM 11:50

Fire Department

Chief Mark Sekorski, stated basically went up on two items - truck repairs and pump testing. Only \$6,500 because costs went up, and all other line items stayed the same.

Chief Mark Sekorski stated we don't need any more vehicles in the fleet, no purchases - we only upgrade, we only need replacements when necessary, and briefly elaborated.

Police/Communications

Chief Karen Krasicky stated the importance of not cutting existing police officer position, up to full staff - 4 on every shift, this cuts down on overtime.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated unfortunately no other choice but to eliminate the SRO position, not a police officer.

Chief Karen Krasicky read Officer Johnson - SRO duties from Sept. 2024- March 2025, displayed visibility – Noted positive rapport that he had with students, school administrators, guidance counselors, nurses, social workers, custodial staff, parents, and teachers. Re. Behavioral, medical, and/or crisis issues, assisted in teaching alcohol/drug abuse alongside the Terryville High School health teacher. Spoke with students re. Careers in law enforcement. Noted Police presence during the election, and listed other achievements of SRO, and briefly elaborated.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated the importance of Public Safety and the safety of the community which is first and foremost and briefly elaborated.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated service contracts switched to Axon due to problems with past provider.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated the total cost is \$454,000 for five years, each year \$90,677.93 for service contracts - take that out and put that under capitals – then we could possibly use the Police Extra Duty fund.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated the salary for a police officer is \$89,605.22 actual difference is \$1,072.71 positive.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated already funded for July and August.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated if you put the full amount surplus of \$15,000.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated would like the Board of Finance to consider this.

Jim Kilduff stated the importance of the SRO position in today's environment, which needs to be maintained.

Dave Sekorski questioned/confirmed the proposal to cut an officer - I am presuming that's the difference between what you requested in the patrol and detective line versus what the mayor recommended. It was one \$1,619,000 and then it was dropped to \$1,449,000

Chief Karen Krasicky stated "Yes", that was also the evidence court officer that was removed right off the top – part of it. So, if you add \$25,000 roughly to this for for them, which would be for the first couple of months, that comes to about \$195,000 which if you add the two salaries together, that's what the salaries are possibly going to be.

Dave Sekorski questioned/confirmed does the "4" officers per shift in your fully staffed count include a supervisor.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated supervisor was included in the "4".

Dave Sekorski questioned does the supervisor patrol normally.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated "Yes" Sometimes that's part of their responsibility, if officers are tied up on calls and/or for other emergencies – would then take calls.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated we have an Administrative Sergeant that we just got. This was actually in this year's budget, the need for accreditation, etc., Salary will be adjusted after individual leaves - will be taken out of service contracts and briefly elaborated.

Tony Ospiak stated after reviewing crime statistics in Connecticut, Plymouth seems to be doing pretty well. Considered an overall safe community and I attribute that to the work of your officers. They do a good job!

Chief Karen Krasicky stated "They do, Thank you!"

Tony Ospiak stated re. SRO, does his duties overlap with school security personnel in the Board of Education Budget.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated "No" he is there as a police officer.

Tony Ospiak stated re. SRO - valuable importance.

Tony Ospiak questioned if he would be involved in any investigations on school property.

Chief Karen Krasicky confirmed "Yes", calls after patrol hours, follow-ups, etc.

Tony Ospiak questioned chairs and tables that we authorized, and were told that this would bring in revenue - did it bring in revenue?

Chief Karen Krasicky stated \$1,940 in revenue last month.

Tony Ospiak questioned if it brought down training costs.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated if we host class, noted free seats, scholarships, and noted savings, etc.

Tony Ospiak questioned the difference between conference and training and internal training lines.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated conference and training are what we spend and the internal training line is the revenue line item.

Tony Ospiak questioned the training line item. (follow-up)

Karen Krasicky stated ammunition went up – not very significant increases on other items.

Karen Krasicky noted the importance of certified vs non-certified, cost, and briefly elaborated.

Tony Ospiak questioned the four corporal positions, but we have not officially instituted the program – not in effect.

Karen Krasicky stated invitations were sent for promotional ceremony promotions of three Corporals and one Seargent.

Tony Ospiak questioned cameras, and if we had a purchasing agent would that have helped, we are replacing them with superior ones.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated replacement process, data storage doubled, etc.

Tony Ospiak noted/confirmed cruisers, were fully staffed, fully equipped, and briefly elaborated.

Chief Karen Krasicky confirmed presently 18 cruisers and two trailers.

Tony Ospiak requested to look at forces around 100 to 125 and the number of cruisers they utilize and briefly elaborated.

Tony Ospiak questioned how many police cruisers we purchased in this current year.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated purchased two, captain and detective, no marked units, to keep costs down and briefly elaborated.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated one replacement was mine, took a lease to save money for the town.

Jennifer Brunoli questioned revenues are you planning on hosting?

Chief Karen Krasicky stated we have been hosting emergency medical classes every couple of months.

Jennifer Brunoli questioned parking tickets revenue is down.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated would look into the number (follow-up)

Vijay Dora, Finance Director stated verified amount should move to the extra duty of \$23,000.

Tony Ospiak stated I do not support the cutting of a police officer in the budget – should find funds.

Dave Sekorski questioned how you calculated overtime.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated that is based on 5 vacancies, a minimum of 2, that does not account for long-term sick, injured, individuals who decide to leave - we try to average that out and briefly elaborated.

Chief Karen Krasicky noted the house accountability bill HB6004 – reporting and briefly elaborated.

Tony Ospiak stated Police have the option of 8 people (fully qualified) besides you and the captain – 8 people to command three shifts – that should help with overtime.

Chief Karen Krasicky stated “Yes” it should.

Captain John D'Aniello gave a detailed PowerPoint slide presentation and discussed in detail some highlights included:

Captain John D'Aniello complimented the switchover to the new tech service Twin Lakes.

Captain John D'Aniello stated re. SRO position, and the 25th officer that we need. Clarified court evidence officer this is due to the change over to Axon court systems, and changing over to the Axon repository.

Captain John D'Aniello noted after the transition to LCD previously had 5 clerical staff in the Police Department - now that work has fallen on the officers and detective bureau, noted officers have to spend 10-15 minutes making case jackets themselves, instead of being out in the community and briefly elaborated.

Captain John D'Aniello stated the court systems instituted/implemented a law, while the state implemented a law. It's all of our court procedures are going digital and that includes the evidence repository that the court is now requiring us to do.

Captain John D'Aniello stated the reason we asked for this 25th officer this year, and the Police Commission did approve it, put it in the budget - because we are trying to reduce the burden on the Detective Bureau in order to allow them to be an effective Detective Bureau again.

Captain John D'Aniello stated the whole point is that these decisions you make in terms of the budget. Noted it's our lifeblood, it affects the level of service that we're able to provide.

Detective Bilotto gave a detailed insight into what it entails to be a detective, noting the position has grown exponentially over the last 10 years – noted acts as evidence officer, property officer, (responsible for all evidence and property on hand in this Police Department and controlling inventory) re. RPO (Risk Protection Order) duties, noted acts as a court officer and court liaison and re. Responsibilities also, (listed numerous individuals that he answers to daily) - responsible for the review, preparation, and physical transportation of court paperwork, and the full final product to court every morning which also requires travel to New Britain and briefly elaborated.

Detective Bilotto noted added responsibilities constantly changing and growing due to new state laws impact of the political climate, advances in technology, updates in case law, new policies, procedures, and then our accreditation.

Detective Bilotto stated department as a whole, maintaining certain industry standards, and monitoring protocols, and any error in judgment, detail, or unintentional omission can put us department and town at severe legal liability, and briefly elaborated.

Detective Bilotto wants to focus on what our real true responsibility should be. Noted the introduction of police accountability laws and regulations governing transparency places a massive burden on the shoulders of law enforcement personnel.

Detective Bilotto noted work that goes on behind the scenes. Noted that the focus of the detective division should be serious crimes.

Captain John D'Aniello noted the importance/necessity of keeping the officer and adding back the 25th officer to the budget, noted mandates, and briefly elaborated.

Eugene Croce questioned if adding clerical (any savings) would solve some of the problems.

Captain John D'Aniello noted present staff (Dawn and Austin) complimented both their institutional knowledge and work ethic and noted clerical could be put in position but a lot would then still fall back on an officer and briefly elaborated.

Tad Johnson, SRO stated a police presence in schools is a benefit to the community. Residents want to see an officer in their schools. They want to know that their kids and your kids are safe, and having security is probably the biggest point.

Tad Johnson, SRO noted his role is the communication with the staff at the school about what goes on outside of the schools and how it transfers into the school affecting that student/school, and can respond appropriately and briefly elaborated.

Tad Johnson, SRO stated our goal is community outreach and make sure our students/kids feel safe/comfortable with the police, and briefly elaborated.

Vicky Carey questioned how do you split up your time between schools.

Tad Johnson, SRO stated that depending on the needs of the school, incident, or situation more predominantly, visibility is important not to interrupt class, required desk work that is done in the office in High School with still open door policy.

Chairman of Police Commission - Cathy Paskus stated we all feel SRO can not be cut, we see reports of what Police Officers do. Noted positive feedback regarding SRO Tad Johnson – Please look for a way to not cut these positions.

Captain John D'Aniello stated re. Time constraints. Financial decisions made will impact the level of service we provide and officers want to provide the highest level of service to the community and briefly elaborated.

Captain John D'Aniello presented a detailed PowerPoint - some highlights included:

Captain John D'Aniello noted corrections in line, spent to date \$65,000 in overtime -mandatory, accreditation mandates, and briefly elaborated.

Training & Conferences – 1000.42.4201.420101.53200

Regular Training - Career Development Training | Promotional Training | Succession Planning
\$54,000

Specialty Training
\$3,000

Police and EMR/CPR Recertifications
\$10,200

Total for Training– \$67,200

Total for Promotional Exams
\$6,000

Total for Conferences and Associated Expenses - \$25,318.64 (Estimated off FY25 numbers)
Total Estimate for 1000.42.4201.420101.53200 Training and Conferences for FY26 - **\$98,563.64**
(THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE AN TRAINING OVERTIME PAY)

Training Overtime

1. Spring Qualification Range (Pistol and Shotgun) – Mandatory
2. Fall Night Qualification Range (Night Shooting Pistol and Rifle) – Mandatory
3. September In-Service (New Case Law and Law, DUI, Pursuit, Stop Sticks, Laser/Radar, Court Evidence, Use of Force Form and Policy) – All Mandatory
4. Taser Recertification, OC, Baton, and Handcuffing – Mandatory
5. Active Shooter, Blue on Blue Encounters, De-Escalation and Defensive Tactics – Mandatory
6. ERT member training 2-3x's per month (1 Officer)

7. NVCIT Monthly Trainings (2 Officers)

Each full department training is estimated at \$12,000-\$15,000. There are five (5) full department trainings listed above. That is between \$60,000 - \$85,000 just for the full department trainings alone. This year alone without the ones highlighted in red completed yet, we have spent approximately \$65,000 in Training Overtime.

Overtime Past History

If you average the 12 years in deficit, the average adjustment needed is \$96,136.

If you average the 13 years (1 in surplus) the line is on average adjustment needed is \$86,309.

FY26 Adjustments

1. 1000.42.4201.420101.51630 – Overtime FY26 \$275,000 (Department Requested \$300,000)
2. 1000.42.4201.420101.53200 – Training and Conferences Estimated FY26 Need \$100,000 - (Department Requested \$130,000)
3. Training Overtime Needed – \$85,000 to \$100,000 (Minus the \$30,000 above, \$55,000 to \$70,000 is still needed regardless which above line it is placed into)

What should be done:

- True up the Training and Conferences Line - \$100,000
- Move the additional \$30,000 that was requested in Training and Conferences to the Overtime line for Training Overtime Costs (Brings Overtime to \$305,000)
- Still need \$55,000 to \$70,000 for Training Overtime

Estimated True Number for Overtime (OT and Training OT Costs - \$360,000 to \$375,000)

Tony Ospiak questioned if these police exams will go under training, any line items for exams will disappear.

Captain John D'Aniello stated your decision, need to figure that out, and briefly elaborated.

Tony Ospiak questioned if there is a big difference in percentages between conferences and training.

Captain John D'Aniello stated some are held out of state - dependent on need/requirements, depends if contractual or mandatory. Noted two phases of accreditation initial and advanced. Then a 4-year-cycle, budget is fluid, the true number for the present time/budget may increase or decrease and briefly elaborated.

5. Continue Pass Thru of Budget FY 2025-2026

Jim Kilduff noted the service contract, and item maintaining SRO when finalizing the budget. (Follow-up)

Vijay Dora, Finance Director stated the Motor Vehicle grand list – re. Supplemental bill timing – this amount is included in the budget and not extra revenue to report and briefly elaborated.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director stated - re. FY 24 Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant -read an email/letter into the record dated April 7, 2025, from Christine Goupil -Policy Development Coordinator/Policy and Management/ Dear Municipal CEO and CFO: Please be advised that after making the required statutory payments from the Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund pursuant to section Section 4-66p of the Connecticut General Statutes, there are no remaining funds for Fiscal Year 2024 to provide a Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant. While the initial sales tax revenue projections at time of budget adoption were higher, the actual sales tax collections were weak through the duration of Fiscal Year 2024, leaving no available funds for a grand payment.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director noted that the ECS Grant – hopefully, will receive payment by the end of April.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director clarified that parking tickets of \$23,861 (misquoted) will be moved to the Extra Duty Fund.

Vijay Dora, Finance Director stated police department cruisers acquisitions-2 new vehicles in -2023, 2 new vehicles in 2024, 5 body-worn cameras purchased in 2025, 4 of them at the cost of \$316 each and a total of \$1,264 and another one for \$425 noticed quoted thru general fund, should be re-classified thru capital account and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff gave an update to the public - per a motion from the Board of Finance. We sent a request to the mayor, who forwarded it to the town lawyer to explore the legality or the possible use of some of the funds in the police extra duty fund for other budget items other than police capitals. So we're getting a legal opinion on that and that's been sent out.

Jim Kilduff noted there's a lot of money due to the hard work done by the police. Vijay Dora Finance Director is constantly updating the amounts due to its changing all the time and briefly elaborated.

Jim Kilduff stated presently we fund so much of the capital needs for the police out of that.

Jim Kilduff noted my opinion, and I make that clear. Maybe you could do a little, but you have to be very careful that you don't budget ongoing salaries or things like that in large amounts -because it's not proper to do that. Since the next year that could go way down. I liked the original intent of funding capital projects out of that and briefly elaborated.

Ray Kovalski, Fire Marshal noted an increase change - on wages, which is contractual for our administrative assistant and for myself and the deputy. Also, noted Service Contracts -eliminated record management system -no longer using (2,800), Periodicals \$300,- need to buy not available online and Membership and Dues \$100.

6. Public Comment

Ann Marie Rheault, 125 North Main St., Terryville, CT – noted Extra Duty Fund must include senior retirement contributions, which is a little over 24%, and FICA along with extra duty, salaries, and expenditures. Confirmed that body cams, (5-year service contract) are an operating expense, not capital. Noted only the verified ending balance as of June 30, 2024, should be allocated for the 2026 budget. Current year revenue or expenditure profits should not be used, since their final figures are still uncertain. The verified June 30th balance with all the expenditures - that's usually what you use as the basis for determining how much you can take out.

Randy Picard, 140 Old Waterbury Road, Terryville, CT – advocated for SRO, and noted the importance of this position. SRO in schools is for some students an opportunity to speak to an adult and thanked Tad Johnson, and appreciated what this position entails. Shared personal story of profound loss and implored Board of Finance to keep SRO in school.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, CT - can save money/labor -instead of 4 and 3 go back to 5 and 2, and less overtime.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Board Member's Comments

Dave Sekorski - requested a copy of Plymouth Police Department's presentation, Service Contract Line – Body Cam, capital line (follow-up).

Jennifer Brunoli - None

Vicky Carey - Requested Vijay Dora, Finance Director to provide the Board with the ending balance of the Extra Duty Fund.

Eugene Croce - Thanked everyone for coming!

Tony Osipiak - None

Jim Kilduff thanked everyone for coming!

Jim Kilduff stated both the Board of Finance and Vijay Dora are doing a great job!

9. Adjournment

There being no further business of the Board of Finance, a motion was made by Eugene Croce seconded by Dave Sekorski to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Yokubinas

Michele Yokubinas
Recording Secretary

