

PLYMOUTH TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2025 BUDGET
OCTOBER 24, 2024
6:31PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Patricia Murray
Councilperson Kathryn Clemens
Councilperson Robert Oehme

ABSENT: Councilperson Ray Elsworth
One Councilperson's Seat was Vacant

At the opening of the meeting, Mrs. Clemens made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Elsworth was absent and one Councilperson's seat was vacant. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. The Board came back from Executive Session. Mrs. Clemens made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Elsworth was absent and one Councilperson's seat was vacant.

Ms. Murray began by going through the 2025 Budget line by line. She started with the General side of the Budget. Ms. Murray explained the reasons for the changes. She took some questions.

Mrs. Linda Winton asked how the assessor was appointed. Ms. Murray said the person would have to have the proper education. The position is appointed. Mrs. Winton suggested that there could be a lot of adjustments on the assessment of several properties in the Town. Ms. Murray said that the Town had checked on the price of a reevaluation and it was more than the Town could handle financially at this time. Ms. Robin Farley asked about why the bookkeeper got a raise and the Town Clerk did not. Ms. Murray said the bookkeeper asked for one and the Town Clerk did not.

Mrs. Rhonda Fairbanks observed that the Attorney line went from \$4,800.00 to \$9,000.00. \$12,000.00 has already been spent this year. Ms. Murray said she was hoping that the attorney would not be needed so much in 2025.

Ms. Murray continued on with the Budget.

Ms. Murray took more questions.

Mr. Jerry Kreiner asked if she could tell everyone what expenses came out of line A5132.4. Mrs. Clemens said such expenses as garbage, water, and electricity came out of that line. Mr. Kreiner asked why the Highway Superintendent wasn't there. Ms. Murray said she didn't know.

Mr. Kreiner asked about the raises the Highway Superintendent had received. Ms. Murray said that the position of Highway Superintendent did not receive a raise for about 2 years, so he asked for one last year. This year he asked for another raise. She did not have an answer for why he asked for a raise this year. Mr. Kreiner asked that the Board keep in mind other compensations that are made to the Highway Superintendent such as free health insurance and a "company" vehicle.

Mr. Kreiner complained that Mr. Redenback was not present at the meeting.

He reminded the Board that they should remember where the money to cover the Budget comes from.

Mrs. Jane Pierno asked who Ms. Murray was referring to when she said "she found the money to give raises." (2 years ago.) There was definitely no money found. Ms. Murray said it was former Supervisor Grace Nucero-Alger.

Mr. Winton asked if the Teamsters were asking for more money. Ms. Murray said she was not at the liberty to say. The Teamsters and the Town are currently in negotiations.

Ms. Murray continued on with the Budget.

Mr. Tim Manwarren justified the large increase in the Planning Board costs. They are working on a comprehensive plan which will aid in getting grants. In order to do that, there will be a Town wide survey and a lot of correspondence to be funded. That is just a start.

Ms. Murray again entertained questions.

Mr. Kreiner suggested that the Town Board considered some cost sharing. As in the employee pays a percentage of their insurance.

Ms. Murray moved on to the Highway side of the Budget.

More questions and comments were made.

Mr. Kreiner asked how our Budget compared with other Towns. Mrs. Clemens said she had been looking into the staffing of other highway departments. She recommended that the Plymouth highway crew be reduced by one full time person. She said the Town could not afford to keep that person.

There were questions asked about applying for the State Aid. Ms. Murray explained the timing of applying and receiving this money.

Mrs. Winton asked when the Budget had to be turned in. Ms. Murray said now.

Mr. Kreiner encouraged the Board to go by the numbers when dealing with the Town's budget. It is not a personal matter.

Mrs. Farley asked if there was a Budget line for an outside audit. The answer was no. The State can come in and audit the Town at their discretion. She suggested that a regular outside audit would be a good idea.

Ms. Murray read the total amounts of all components of the Budget.

Mrs. Clemens made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was approved with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Elsworth was absent and one Councilperson's seat was vacant. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:58pm.

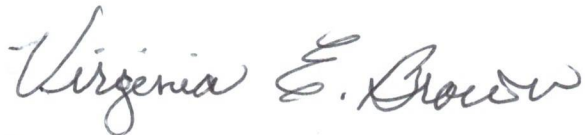
Mrs. Clemens made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was carried with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Elsworth was absent and one Councilperson's seat was vacant. The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:06pm.

Mrs. Clemens made a motion to reduce line DA5142.1 to 120,000.00, line DA9060.8 to 47,200.00. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Elsworth was absent and on Councilperson's seat was vacant.

Mr. Oehme made a motion to approve the 2025 Budget with the changes. Mrs. Clemens seconded the motion. The Board was polled

and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Elsworth was absent and one Councilperson's seat was vacant. Mrs. Clemens made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Oehme seconded the motion. The Board was polled and the motion was passed with three yeses and no nos. Mr. Elsworth was absent and one Councilperson's seat was vacant. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia E. Brown".

Virginia E. Brown

Plymouth Town Clerk

November 12, 2024