

PLYMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
March 04, 2013

Present: John Henry, Joe Freitas and Barry DeCristofano
Meeting began at 7:00 PM

7:00 PM APPOINTMENT Representative Thomas Calter presented an overall view, process of the State budget proposed by Governor Deval Patrick. Mr. Calter and the Board discussed in length:

- Governor's budget plan was not what the House expected
- Chamber Members were uninformed of the budget
- Infrastructure plan was not included in budget
- There has been no Capital Plan for the past thirty to forty years
- Budget challenges - urban versus suburban - spending and benefits
- House completes budget third week in April
- Senate completes budget third week in May
- The budget will be presented to Governor in June
- July 01, 2013 – balanced budget deadline
- Cherry Street budget for Plympton FY2014 Education \$192,000.
- Local Aide unrestricted \$223,000 increase
- In 2009 Special Ed was \$269,000 for FY14 will be \$1,170,000.
- A handout was given to Board
- Federal Mandate – Circuit breaker figures discussed
- Filed for change in Legislature to change “Formula” funding from 4 to 3 and Circuit breaker from 75% to 80%
- Second piece of Legislature – Agricultural Schools – Parent/Guardian pay for transportation
- Legislature - Special Education medical – working on Medicaid funding versus town funding
- Increase in income tax and decrease sales tax discussed
- A construction fund be established

Mr. DeCristofano asked Mr. Calter where the money to fund his bill to modify the Circuit breaker was going to come from? He replied, that they would find it somewhere. Mr. Henry presented his own study of local towns and their payment structures for the “Formula” calculations, stressing that Plympton pays more than Halifax, Middleborough and Kingston. Mr. Calter took a copy of Mr. Henry's handout and will bring to Chamber and State Representatives.

Mr. Henry asked for Mr. Calter's opinion on the Local Aide budget. Mr. Calter replied, “Level fund budget with last year's revenue figures.”

Mr. Calter reported that 99% of Massachusetts residents now have health insurance.

Mr. Calter reported that the Department of Education (DOE) is examining the “Formula” and he will speak with Silver Lake Superintendent, Mr. Tuffy and follow up on the FY2014 budget.

PLYMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
March 04, 2013
Page 2 of 3

Mr. DeCristofano stated that he also spoke with a representative of the DOE in 2000 and was told that the "Formula" was being examined. Mr. Calter exited the meeting at 8:20 PM

Mr. Frank Bush, Animal Control Officer visited the Board to discuss his recent budget request that was submitted to the Finance Committee and brought to the Selectmen's attention:

Mr. Bush reported that on October 31st Senate Bill 2192, An Act Further Regulating Animal Control, passed into law, these new sections added to MA Chapter 140 Dog Laws update aspects of animal control in our municipalities. Designed to provide long term benefits to the animals and to the public in our communities some key changes, the term "Dog Officer" is replaced with the modern term **Animal Control Officer**. Due to the updated State laws (24 pages in length) Mr. Bush stated that the new changes made by the State require better facilities to hold/quarantine and thermalize structures be in place. Much discussion ensued about the cost of rent per day, \$12.00 for the care of animals and upgrade of sheltering site. Mr. Freitas, Mr. Pleau and

Mr. Bush will continue to discuss the **Animal Control Officer** duties and budget requests:

- \$1,875.00 for Inspections and calls
- \$5,250.00 for Animal Control Officer compensation
- \$12.00 a day (\$365.00 month) increase in budget to keep animals
- \$4,000.00 for transportation van
- Warrant Article at Town Meeting for \$4,380.00 to upgrade facility
- Requested Board to vote for a leash law in Plympton
- Raise the boarding fee to \$40.00 a day for dogs in his care
- Boarding fees collected be put into the Animal Control Officer budget versus the General Fund.

Mr. Bush reported on the abandoned Husky dog that he has in his care for the past two months. The Husky is a one to two year old dog that has "wounds of an unknown source" on its back. Mr. Bush kept the dog as a precaution, in an incubation and quarantine status. The dog had to be kept separate from other animals in the event the wounds were contagious to other animals or persons. There was some discussion of the status "confinement versus quarantine." The dog does not have a health certificate which is required by the State and costs – approximately \$150.00. Members of the Finance Committee, Mr. Russo and Ms. Ossoff happened to be at the meeting and joined in the discussion regarding the budget from Mr. Bush and the health of the Husky. Mr. Bush is actively seeking an adoptive home for the beautiful Husky dog.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Selectmen's report for 2012 Annual Town Report submission.

Penny Engineering, Inc. – Country Store 266 Main Street DEP Release Tracking 4-19723

MEGA July 01, 2013 renewal for Workmen's Comp – Mr. Pleau.

Contract – FY 2014 Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod. Copied Board of Health and await their approval/reply before the Board will sign Contract.

PLYMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
March 04, 2013
Page 3 of 3

Norfolk County Agricultural High School – Projected Enrollment for 2013-2014 terms

Copied Mr. Tuffy and Ms. Karparis.

Providence Mutual Fire Insurance Company – Copied Building Department and Treasurer.

NSTAR – five year vegetation management plan.

New England Center Independence Associates – Architectural Plan reading workshop.

Mr. Pleau reported on the new Town website – March 15, 2013 is tentative start date.

Mr. Pleau reported that Mr. Fernald, Town House maintenance man is coordinating the repairs to the Men's Room.

DATES:

March 11, 2013 Finance Committee at 7:45 PM – discuss Reserve Fund and budgets.

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. DeCristofano to accept the Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2013. Second Mr. Henry. 3/0.

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. DeCristofano to adjourn Meeting at 9:40PM Second Mr. Freitas. 3/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Krance,
Board of Selectmen, Assistant