

## TOWN MANAGER's REPORT

October 16, 2020

Melissa G. Arrighi, Town Manager

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1. Covid-19 / Hazardous Pay – Response from the County regarding potential Hazardous Pay for school and town employees

“Good afternoon Melissa,

Thank you so much for your email. While Plymouth County cannot approve municipal costs in advance of the application process, we have recently posted a FAQ on our website related to “hazard pay” which we hope you will find helpful. For your information, our counsel has advised that the Treasury Department opined that an across-the-board payment of hazard pay does not qualify as an allowable expense. This is true whether the hazard pay is for public safety or other municipal employees.

Please note that all applications seeking reimbursement for expenses will be reviewed based on information and certifications provided as part of the application process and the specific costs sought for reimbursement, the requirements of the CARES Act, as well as any current or additional guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department.

We hope this information is helpful.

All best,

Tom  
Thomas J. O'Brien  
Treasurer  
County of Plymouth  
44 Obery Street”

<https://www.plymouthcountycares.com/home/pages/municipal-faqs>

[https://www.plymouthcountycares.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf5431/f/uploads/coronavirus-relief-fund-frequently-asked-questions\\_09022020.pdf](https://www.plymouthcountycares.com/sites/g/files/vyhlf5431/f/uploads/coronavirus-relief-fund-frequently-asked-questions_09022020.pdf)

2. Budget Projections

Earlier today, the Baker-Polito administration updated their House 2 budget projections. As a result, DLS has updated the preliminary cherry sheet estimates to reflect these new funding levels. The preliminary cherry sheets can be found on the DLS website.

Preliminary Municipal Cherry Sheet Estimates for FY2021

PROGRAM	FY2020 Cherry Sheet Estimate	FY2021 Governor's Budget Proposal	FY2021 Governor's Revised Budget Proposal	FY2021 House Budget Proposal	FY2021 Senate Budget Proposal	FY2021 Conference Committee
<b>Education Receipts:</b>						
Chapter 70	26,369,547	26,608,077	26,369,547			
School Transportation	0	0	0			
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	1,251,323	1,719,273	1,226,718			
Smart Growth School Reimbursement	0	0	0			
<b>Offset Receipts:</b>						
School Choice Receiving Tuition		0	0	0		
<b>Sub-Total, All Education Items:</b>		<b>27,620,870</b>	<b>28,327,350</b>	<b>27,596,265</b>		
<b>General Government:</b>						
Unrestricted Gen Gov't Aid		4,160,905	4,277,410	4,160,905		
Local Share of Racing Taxes		0	0	0		
Regional Public Libraries		0	0	0		
Veterans Benefits		439,380	482,239	482,239		
Exemp: VBS and Elderly		373,700	428,239	428,239		
State Owned Land		698,033	694,325	693,090		
<b>Offset Receipts:</b>						
Public Libraries		68,994	73,019	73,019		
<b>Sub-Total, All General Government:</b>		<b>5,741,012</b>	<b>5,955,232</b>	<b>5,837,492</b>		
<b>Total Estimated Receipts:</b>		<b>33,361,882</b>	<b>34,282,582</b>	<b>33,433,757</b>		

### 3. NOTIFICATION OF FREE CASH APPROVAL - Town of Plymouth

Based upon the un-audited balance sheet submitted, the State has certified that the amount of available funds or "free cash" as of July 1, 2020 for the Town of Plymouth is:

General Fund	\$10,127,293.00
Enterprise Fund Sewer Chpt 44 Sect 53F 1/2	\$2,155,887.00
Enterprise Fund Water Chpt 44 Sect 53F 1/2	\$2,301,653.00
Enterprise Fund Airport Chpt 44 Sec 53F 1/2	\$116,334.00
Enterprise Fund Trash Disposal Chpt 44 Sec 53F 1/2	\$851,141.00
Enterprise Fund Cable Chapter 44 Sec 53F 1/2	\$63,874.00

This certification is in accordance with the provisions of G. L. Chapter 59, §23, as amended.

#### 4. Veteran's Day Plans

Our Veteran's Director has met with the Commanders of the VFW and the American Legion and have come up with a very good Ceremony proposal for Veteran's Day 11/11/2020 @ 11:00 on the steps at Memorial Hall where both the Huey Helicopter and a war time jeep will be on display. We will be mindful of social distancing and the Governor's guidelines for gatherings and thus do not plan on sending out formal invitations.

#### 5. Mask Campaign (continued from last week)

We have met with the Schools, Chamber of Commerce, and Center for Active Living and we are rapidly pursuing the education campaign to promote voluntary compliance with masks, and to tap into social pressure to heighten awareness and compliance. In the next few days, you will start to see the results of these efforts and hopefully the impact it will have on recruiting youth and certain targeted age categories to wear masks. You will specifically see efforts at the skate park, forges field, and the senior center.



6. Vacancies in Town jobs

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>CURRENT ACTION</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Assistant Pumping Station Operator	Water	Posted Inside	
Cremation tasks	Crematory	Stipend for internal worker	
GIS Coordinator	IT	Posted Inside	
Maintenance Worker	Water	Posted Inside	
Maintenance Worker	Water	Pending requisition	
Master Mechanic	Fleet Maintenance	Open until filled	
OSHA Safety Officer	DPW	Work on Job Desc.	
Public Safety System Admin	IT	Pending Requisition	
Wastewater Superintendent	Sewer	Posted Inside	
Water/Wastewater Engineer	Engineering	Posted Inside	
ABE Teacher	Library	Posted in and out	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Administrative Secretary	Water	Reviewing Applications	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Assistant Town Clerk	Clerk	Reviewing Applications	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS

Dispatcher	Police	Posted Outside	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Maintenance Worker	Parks	Pending recommendation	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Meal Distribution Coordinator	CAL	Posted Outside	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
MEO	Highway	Posted Outside	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Operations Manager	Maintenance	Reviewing Applications	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Procurement Assistant	Procurement	Reviewing Applications	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Procurement Officer	Procurement	Posted Outside	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Recreation Program Supervisor	Recreation	Reviewing applications	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Social Outreach Worker	CAL	Pending recommendation	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Town Surveyor - GIS Analyst	Engineering	Posted Outside	RECRUITMENT IN PROCESS
Building Custodian	DPW-Mem. Hall	Laid Off	NOT FILLING AT THIS TIME
Building Custodian	DPW-Town Hall N.S.	Laid Off	NOT FILLING AT THIS TIME
Librarian	Library	Retirement	NOT FILLING AT THIS TIME
Library Associate	Library	Refused Recall	NOT FILLING AT THIS TIME
Library Technician	Library	Laid Off	NOT FILLING AT THIS TIME
Library Technician PT	Library	Laid Off	NOT FILLING AT THIS TIME
Maintenance Worker	Wastewater		NOT FILLING AT THIS TIME
Administrative Assistant	Collector	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Administrative Secretary PT	Fire	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Administrative Secretary PT	Police	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Airport Operations	DPW	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET

Airport Operations PT	Airport		RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Building Maintenance Craftsperson	Maintenance		RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Electrician	Maintenance		RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
General Foreman	Maintenance		RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
HMEO	Highway	Open until filled	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
HVAC Technician	Maintenance	Open until filled	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Laborer	Cemetery	Reviewing Applications	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Librarian - Youth Services	Library		RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Library Page	Library	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Library Page	Library	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Library Page	Library	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Library Technician Senior	Library	Posted in house	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
MEO	Highway	Open until filled	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Senior Clerk PT	Health	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET
Senior Clerk PT	Planning	Laid Off	RIF-NOT IN FY21 BUDGET

## 7. QnA

Question: Did Kingston waive their right of first refusal on the portion of the Weston Property in Kingston that Plymouth Town Meeting is considering purchasing?

*Answer: The Kingston Selectmen were very gracious and accommodating and unanimously waived their right to purchase the property so that Plymouth could proceed.*

Question: Several individuals questioned the proposed location for the new tower and wondered whether the site was chosen as a result of a study and whether there were certain criteria that made it the best choice and if you could share some of the criteria and why other sites were ruled out.

*Answer: We gave our consultants and the Motorola dealer the following criteria, town owned property to reduce the cost of purchasing, close to utilities (electric) and to Town Fiber also to reduce costs, land that was at least 100 feet above sea level which reduces the height of the tower and the cost, an area that had road access close to reduce costs of access way and a parcel that provided for the required "fall zone". Technically the site needed to be 5 degrees or more greater "offset" of the line of site from the main tower to the police station tower. Anything less than 5 degrees would not provide a true redundant site. The site should be 5 air miles or less from the receiving facilities (police station dispatch and fire dispatch). These were the preferred criteria. That criteria produced 6 sites, Town Hall included. Our radio system vendor ranked the waste water treatment site as the best site for the Plymouth Public Safety Radio System.*

Question: Several individuals suggested that at the present proposed location for the new tower it would not represent a desirable site for vendors to lease because it is in too close a proximity to other sites. So we wondered whether you had received any bids or expressed interest from vendors that in fact the site would be a lucrative place and you would have no trouble attracting three vendors and attaining the anticipated rental income from them. Can you explain more about why you believe it would be a desirable location?

*Answer: The tower is to replace the tower that was dismantled at central fire station, that tower was damaged and condemned, it has been removed for safety reasons. The public safety communication tower was located for the purpose of providing a reliable and robust communication system for police, fire and Ems (and our mutual aid partners). The ability to accommodate any lessees was not the primary concern, however we have planned to have space for up to 3 vendors which could provide the town income. Our primary goal is to provide a robust public safety communication system for the safety of our first responders and the public that we serve. Providing lease space to private companies for them to make a profit is not our goal, but we have the capacity to accommodate any vendors. Cellular service is rapidly changing, small cell 5G sites will change the needs of cell providers. Plymouth already has 9 such sites and a few more planned in the near future, these changes may open additional opportunities for income even with other towers close by, it's unknown at the current time.*

Question: Last, it appeared from the way the article is written that there is some settlement money available to offset the \$500,000 amount but it was not clear how much. We wondered if you could share how much would be available from the settlement.

*Answer: The insurance carrier negotiated with the Town Manager. The settlement towards the new tower is \$240,160.00. Those funds are in a town account waiting to be expended towards a new tower. It was a great settlement considering the original tower cost less than half that amount when it was built in 1978.*

Question: Who can I find out from town hall how the STR tax works, what are the gates, what are the regs? I am inquiring for a person who is inquiring about a summer rental in Plymouth + how the tax works Melissa. Thanks.

*Answer: The state is really the best resource for information. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/room-occupancy-excise-tax#overview>- and there is some very helpful links on the right side of the webpage also.*

Question: ... I'm a resident in Cedarville ..and was wondering who I can speak to about having the two highway overpasses painted (right off exit 2)? They are so ugly and have so much potential for some local art. It's a busy exit especially during the Summer... Also, the welcome to Plymouth sign at the intersection of State Rd and Herring Pond Rd really could use an update. Any ideas on who I can talk to about it?

*Answer: In terms of the Highway overpasses, you are right, they fall under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation. The Welcome to Plymouth sign at State/Herring is the Towns and if you have specific suggestions for changes, I would suggest you run those idea by the Town Dept. of Public Works in conjunction with the Cedarville Steering Committee, as I imagine they would love to weigh in on any changes.*

Question: We received a call from XXX whose family has a home on Big Sandy Pond. He believes he became ill from swimming in the pond and asked us to reach out to the town to request signs be put up to warn people when pond levels in Plymouth have toxic bloom and/or high bacteria counts. He is wondering if warning signs could be put up at the boat ramp and public swimming access points specifically on Big Sandy Pond. He also sited a run-off problem with the drainage ditch on Scarlett Drive, which he said seems to be flowing into the pond in this West Wind Shores neighborhood.

*Answer: It is incumbent on the landowner to post signs – whether that is the Association, the State, or the Town. In this case, DMEA and Public Health notified Fish and Game about posting the state boat ramp at Big Sandy, but there may have been a backlog. They have told us it is now posted.*

*As you mention correctly in your email the beaches at Big Sandy are private and therefore the associations need to post them accordingly as they are not open to the general public for use. The Town staff only posts on town-owned property.*

*There are certainly stormwater issues off of Scarlett Drive that flow across these beaches and into the pond and aren't good for water quality. However, when it comes to cyanobacteria the more likely contributing factor are all of the septic systems around the pond and the nutrient input from them into the pond.*

Question: Can you please do some maintenance on Blanchard Road?

*Answer: Blanchard Road is a private road we do not grade or plow it. As a private road, it is not a road the town maintains but is owned by all the homeowners. There are options, such as petitioning to have the town accept it - but that would require a widening and/or other work to bring it to the standard for acceptance/recommendation by RAC and then Town Meeting.*

Question: Why is the Town going to open up a public building for a flu clinic this year? Isn't that reckless?

*Answer: Town Management, the Public Health Department, and Human Resources have been meeting to discuss this issue as we do typically hold a flu clinic for Town employees. However, due to the extra precautions being taken with the public buildings, and the flexibility and widespread availability of flu shots in many other locations, we will not be holding an internal flu clinic this year.*