

SUBJECT: SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 30, 2006, Immediately following Public Hearing on Ordinances

PLACE: Town Hall Community Room

PRESENT: Mayor Krampitz, Councilman Goodwin, Councilman Zagurski, Councilman Sekorski, Councilwoman Murawski, Councilwoman Scoville.

1. Call Meeting to Order - The meeting was called to order by Mayor Krampitz at 7:58 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Krampitz led audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Discuss and take action on Fiscal Year 2006-07 Budget per Charter Chapter VII Section 3b – Mayor Krampitz gave a brief history of the events that led to this meeting. The Town of Plymouth had a charter change on how to approve a budget. The charter revisions passed last November 8 th. The first Public Hearing was in April and the first Referendum was May 1 st. The amount of that was \$36,878,386 and the vote on that was 236 yes and 1,050 no which included absentee ballots. That failed and a second referendum was held within twenty days by charter and the budget went back to the Board of Finance and they presented another budget which was \$36,085,096. The second referendum took place on May 19 th and the yes votes were 462 and the no votes were 700 including absentee ballots. Therefore, action is needed by the Town Council to adopt the budget. The charter language calls for a 3% adjustment which means up or down. The Town Council will be establishing department totals tonight. Councilman Goodwin asked if we received legal opinion on reductions not exceeding 3%. Mayor Krampitz explained that Attorney Gillette from Day, Berry & Howard gave the legal ruling on this charter language reflecting back to how the budget was done before, Town Council action will be forwarded to the Board of Finance and they recommend a budget document with line items to match the new totals acted upon tonight. This is the first step of three steps. There is tonight. Chairman Merchant believes he can get a quorum in approximately one week. The recommendations will come back to the Town Council for one more meeting to adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 06-07. Mayor Krampitz pointed out that the intent is to honor the work of the Board of Finance by seeking their counsel one more time. The Mayor referenced a worksheet that the Town Council had and explained that she would be making recommendations for each department and then ask for a motion. Councilwoman Scoville asked for clarification regarding Emergency Management as an example from the work sheet and noted that it went down 41% but the Town Council would only be able to reduce it by 3%. The extra money would need to be authorized to be spent and the unspent money would go back to the general fund. Comptroller Gomes indicated the difference in this line item was the removal of generators into the facilities line item. He also indicated that all unspent funds are returned to the general fund. Mayor Krampitz stated that there seemed to be many people here for the Board of Education item and it is listed last because that is how it appears in the budget but she will take that item first. Councilman Zagurski stated for the record that his wife is an employee of the Board of Education. Councilman Sekorski asked a procedural question if the intent was to do a line by line motion on each department. Mayor Krampitz informed the Town Council that each department required a motion. The Mayor and Town Council clarified Public Comment by stating that the public could comment after each motion for each department. **MOTION:** Councilman Sekorski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Board of Education. **SECOND:** Councilwoman Scoville. Councilman Goodwin stated that he has looked at the

budgets and considering the referendum failed and the board was at 3% during that vote, he thinks it needs to be lower. Councilwoman Murawski agrees with the mandate of the people that it has to be cut. Councilwoman Scoville thinks the 3% is fair. Mayor Krampitz stated that she has received some calls about the education budget from people who think that she can determine how this money is spent. She explained that the BOE is its own entity. Councilman Sekorski stated that the ECS grant pays a lot of the cost and creates an actual cost of \$11,000,000 for us. He thought that 3% is fair. The overwhelming majority of public comment was in favor of the 3% increase. The Superintendent of Schools, Anthony Distasio, answered questions about benefits and the Plymouth 16 program. Councilwoman Murawski stated that there are many people here but most of the people who voted are not present and many people present are from out of town. There are other areas in education that can be cut that would not hurt the children at all but this is not the forum to point to where those areas would be. The Mayor took a roll call vote. Councilman Zagurski – yes, Councilwoman Murawski – no, Councilman Goodwin – yes, Councilman Sekorski – yes, Councilwoman Scoville – yes. MOTION PASSED. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for Capital Outlay. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. A few public comments supported the motion because more roads could be repaired. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of no increase for Miscellaneous. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilman Sekorski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for Economic Development. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. Councilman Zagurski asked if the reduction in this department was the elimination of the consultant position. That was confirmed by the Mayor. Public comment was split on the need to have an economic consultant based on the previous performance. Councilman Zagurski – no, Councilwoman Murawski – yes, Councilman Goodwin – no, Councilman Sekorski – yes, Councilwoman Scoville – yes. MOTION PASSED. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of no increase for the Conservation Commission. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of no increase for the ZBA. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for P & Z. SECOND: Councilman Sekorski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for Recreation. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Plymouth Library. SECOND: Councilwoman Scoville. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Terryville Library. SECOND: Councilwoman Scoville. Councilman Goodwin stated for the record that his wife is an employee of the Terryville Library. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for Public Health (other). SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilman Goodwin moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Ambulance Corps. SECOND: Councilman Zagurski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION:

Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Medical Director. SECOND: Councilwoman Scoville. Councilman Zagurski questioned the town's ability to pay the medical director if a fee is charged and we have a reduction in this department. Mayor Krampitz explained that this item also included the Torrington Area Health District, Hepatitis B, and a clinic. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 2.2% increase for Public Health. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. Councilwoman Murawski wanted to note that the town receives a good amount of revenue from this department. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of no increase for Human Services. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 2.5% increase for the Building Inspector. SECOND: Councilman Zagurski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for PWD Maint. Garage. SECOND: Councilman Sekorski. Councilman Goodwin asked if the truck that was requested in the capital outlay item would be restored now that the money is back in the budget. David Merchant, Chairman of the Board of Finance, said it was too early to determine. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for PWD Director. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for PWD Transfer Station. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. Councilwoman Scoville stated that this is the area where the town will feel the most impact. Councilman Sekorski asked the comptroller if each of these public works areas is considered a separate department and if they are could they then be eligible to each seek a special appropriation to cover costs. He was told yes to both concerns. Councilman Goodwin asked for an update on bids and was told that drafts were done. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for PWD Highway. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for PWD Snow Removal. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. Councilman Goodwin asked if that was for material and salaries and was told that it covered both. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for PWD Facilities. SECOND: Councilman Sekorski. Discussion took place concerning street lights and Anthony Lorenzetti, Public Works Director, requested that street lights be removed from this department and placed in a separate line item. Councilman Zagurski asked if street lights purchasing had been considered. He was told that it appeared to be very expensive because of additional equipment and manpower needs. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Fire Dept. SECOND: Councilwoman Scoville. Councilman Zagurski brought the fire hydrant rental issue because it is a fixed cost and will deplete the budget. This needs to be moved to another line item also. Mark Sekorski, Fire Chief, explained there is a \$31,000 hole. He needs to protect the firefighters first and that is where they will spend the money. Dave Merchant, Chairman Board of Finance, stated that

they will find a way to address that problem when they come back to the Town Council with a recommended budget. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilman Sekorski moved to recess at 9:55p.m. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Mayor Krampitz called the meeting back to order at 10:10 p.m. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 1.2% increase for Communications. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. Councilwoman Scoville asked if this was enough to cover our dispatchers. Comptroller Gomes stated that the Board of Finance recommendation was equal to the department request. Councilman Zagurski stated for the record that his son works as a part-time dispatcher. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Dog Warden. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for Emergency Mgmt. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. Councilwoman Murawski stated that the Board of Finance had recommended a 41% decrease in the line item. The by department wording has to go in the charter. Councilwoman Murawski stated that she would formally request that charter revision be placed on the next Town Council agenda. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 1% increase for the Police. SECOND: Councilman Sekorski. Public comment was in support of maintaining the present levels of police protection. Councilman Zagurski – no, Councilwoman Murawski – yes, Councilman Goodwin – yes, Councilman Sekorski – yes, Councilwoman Scoville –yes. MOTION PASSED. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Fire Marshal. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of no increase for Special Services. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for Probate. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Town Clerk. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilman Goodwin moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for Employee Benefits. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. Councilwoman Scoville hopes that co-workers will be willing to give back in order to keep everyone working. Councilman Goodwin asked what the total lay-off count could be if an agreement can not be reached. Mayor Krampitz stated it could be 15-20 staff. Councilman Sekorski asked why we had such a high increase and the comptroller explained it was due to claims. Councilman Zagurski asked if the retirees are included in this amount and was told that they were. Councilman Goodwin asked if the town is looking at other options and was told that others have been looked at. Councilman Zagurski asked if the benefits could be separated by departments and would that help to save jobs. The Comptroller indicated that it would force some departments to shut down. Public comment included eliminating the “by department” language in the charter and the need for the Town and Unions to reach agreement on insurance to avoid lay-offs. Debra Dabrowski, Union President, stated for the record that her union along with the public works union, police union and nurses union are very willing to work with the town. We have members that are

offering to pay double their co-pay and are willing to take a hit on higher co pays. She referenced the BOE co-pay 12% and the \$5 to \$30. Dawn Armbruster, Nurses Union, stated that all of the unions are agreeable to something in the middle of the line. We are willing to pay more co-pays. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 1.7% increase for Insurance. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 2.2% increase for Legal Services. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Tax Collector. SECOND: Councilwoman Scoville. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for Board of Assessment Appeals. SECOND: Councilman Sekorski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for Assessor. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for the Board of Finance. SECOND: Councilman Goodwin. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Murawski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% increase for the Registrars. SECOND: Councilwoman Scoville. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 2.9% increase for the Treasurer. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilwoman Scoville moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease in the Central Office. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilman Goodwin moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for the Comptroller. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. Councilman Goodwin wanted to clarify that we share the comptroller with Woodbury so there is some cost sharing. The comptroller indicated that two-fifths of the salary and health costs are paid by the other community. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilman Sekorski moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of no increase for the Town Council. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION: Councilman Goodwin moved to approve the mayoral recommendation of a 3% decrease for the Mayor. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. Councilman Goodwin stated that he had heard some people may have voted against the budget because of salaries in the Mayor's budget and the irony is that the Mayor's budget was reduced by 9% and now we can only reduce it 3%. So it will increase by 6% because of this process. Councilwoman Murawski agreed. Most of the public comment dealt with educating the public to the new process to help to avoid this next year. Councilman Zagurski – yes, Councilwoman Murawski – yes, Councilman Goodwin – yes, Councilman Sekorski – no, Councilwoman Scoville – yes. MOTION PASSED.

4. Public Comment – This was incorporated into agenda item number three. No further action.
5. Adjournment – MOTION: Councilman Goodwin moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 p.m. SECOND: Councilwoman Murawski. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by: David M. Denis, Council Clerk

