

1. The Regular Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Town Council, **February 5, 2008** was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Vin Festa in the Assembly Room, Town Hall. Mayor Festa noted a sign was posted indicating the meeting would be held in the Assembly Room and not the Community Room. In attendance: Councilwoman Jacqui Denski, Councilman Peter Giancesini, Councilwoman Jeannine Jandreau, Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, Mayor Vin Festa, Robin Gudeczauskas, Council Clerk, and Sal Vitrano, Town Attorney. Councilman Dave Sekorski was excused.
2. Fire Exits – Noted for the record.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Acceptance of Minutes of The Regular Town Council Meeting, December 4, 2007; Special Town Council Meeting, January 2, 2008.

Councilwoman Denski questioned Minutes of December 4, 2007, Agenda Item 10d and 14 that she did not recall making those motions; discussion held.

**MOTION:** To accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2007 with changes to who made the Motions if needed once tapes are reviewed, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

**MOTION:** To accept the Special Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2008, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

5. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

a. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – She went to the State of CT re Educational Cost Sharing and distributed information received referencing page 5, second full paragraph (read into record) “There is no longer a Minimum Expenditure Requirement. While the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) remains in effect, there are a number of changes that affect its calculation. Although towns were traditionally required to appropriate all ECS grant increases to their boards of education, they may use a portion of their FY 07-08 and FY 08-09 increases in ECS aid for non-educational purposes.” She stated the Town gave \$330,000 through increase in tax dollars and did meet the minimum requirement and did not take the BOE’s money. The Town has also given them more than 50% of our town money and wanted that noted. She stated she is tired of hearing it at every meeting that the town took their money and the town is spending it.

b. Ann Tuleja, 383 Allentown Road – Stated she is on the Facility Committee and wanted to tell the Town Council that the Bristol Boys & Girls Club came before the Committee last month and did a phenomenal job detailing services they have to offer and feels it is in the best interest of the community if the Council invites them to a meeting. They are looking to expand into Plymouth and gave one of the best presentations she has ever seen. When they were done, she thought why not Plymouth. Mayor Festa stated he does have a meeting with them and will be setting a date for a presentation to the Council.

**MOTION:** To put back on the Agenda Council Rules and Procedures, by Councilwoman

Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

**MOTION:** To put as Item 6 Council Liaison Reports, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

6. Liaison Reports

a. Councilwoman Jandreau reported on Economic Development Commission noting they have hired a grant writer, have approved sale of Lots 9 & 10 to Applied Controls, sponsoring Manufacturer's Expo at the Lyceum in March; Inland Wetlands Commission meets twice monthly and she had Peter Giancesini will each attend one meeting per month and gave brief update on the Commission; Planning & Zoning overview of applications given; ZBA update given; Public Works and Highway Superintendent monthly report submitted to her were read into record; Housing Board update given; Human Services lacked quorum for monthly meeting; Fire Commission update given and Fire Chief report read into record; Fire Marshal's reports for November and December read into record.

b. Councilwoman Schenkel reported on BOF preparation for upcoming budget season and a letter by the Chairman to the Mayor and Superintendent on getting the budget passed on the first try; Police Commission budget is very impressive and concise and congratulations to Ron St. Onge to Detective; she attended the Chamber of Commerce dinner with the Mayor, Councilwoman Jandreau and complimented the Police Chief for her attendance that night and her dedication to the community by doing things that are not part of her job but she reaches out to business people and the community; Charter Revision Commission has a very enthusiastic group and held great discussions and reviewed recommendations by the Council and other ideas. She strongly urged the public to participate.

c. Councilman Giancesini noted all meeting minutes are available for public review and gave a brief report on WPCA attendance at a State conference on energy efficiency, creation of a town color coded system-wide sewer map, potential funding on grant money available to towns for clean water; Inland Wetlands attendance by public on development at Harwinton and North Harwinton Avenue with concern for potential siltation issues with final decision by the Commission to deny the project; School Building update on new high school and difficulty with contractor, contracts issued for rest of schools renovation at old high school and Fisher, a group of individuals attended recent meeting expressing concern on track at the new school stating existing track is not up to league standards with cost of a track at \$750,000 and waiting to see if there is any money left over after all renovation projects are complete; Planning & Zoning concerns with applications that are denied and applicant immediately goes to ZBA, need follow through.

d. Councilwoman Denski reported on BOE celebration on school opening, looking to bring back out of school suspension, one oil tank was removed this month and second will be done in spring, redistricting of elementary schools has begun; Library roof replacement work has started, Friends of Library will be hosting several fundraisers including scrap booking workshop in April and a goods and services auction in September; Parks & Recreation have hired a new director, Brian Forman, and activities

will begin in third quarter and are looking for new software system to track activities.

## 7. Mayor's Report

a. Terryville Fire Department will hold a disaster drill at the new high school on 3/8 & 9

b. Board of Education has sent a letter dated January 16, 2008 to the Mayor regarding the school turn over relative to moves. Councilwoman Jandreau questioned whether the BOE can split the property and give only part of the property back to the town. Mayor Festa stated at this point in time they cannot do that; the intent of their letter is to indicate what they would like to do and a procedure by Statute and Town Regulation would need to be followed and go before the Council and P&Z.

c. Farmington River Watershed Conservation – waiting for return phone call but looking to protect the watershed area part of which is the Pequabuck.

d. Animal hoarding issue – Complaint came in on a resident with a number of animals which an inspection by the State and local Animal Control officers was done and nothing out of the ordinary was found and a comment given on how well the animals are taken care of. The complaintant has been notified.

e. Workshop invitation dated January 31, 2008 was sent to Board and Commission chairs for Capital Improvement project workshop on February 25, 2008

f. February workshop regarding USDA grant/loan programs held and a number of issues were discussed with application deadline of March 28, 2008. Application including engineering study, components on project and preliminary approval from the Town to go forward need to be done prior to application submittal. Suggestions included Lake Winfield, police department, police department with senior center, open space for passive recreation. If qualified, the interest rate would be 4.37% over 40 years. This is being worked on through the Mayor's office.

g. Update on Solid Waste Curbside Trash Collection – memo from Tony Lorenzetti dated January 18 th in packet for review. Tony reviewed stating existing sold waste contract expires the end of July and his goal is to get public bid available by the end of March so that the Mayor will have information when dealing with the budget process. Things to be discussed on solid waste include curb side, recycling, transfer station issue. Mayor Festa stated he will re-educate people relative to recycling. The Town is involved with Bristol Resource Recovery recycling program and are responsible for a certain amount of tonnage which is down and we are paying for what we are not recycling. There are fewer and fewer bins for recycling. He will work with the school department to do program as part of language or math. Recycling is costing taxpayers money and they need to participate in recycling. Discussion held on whether people who recycle should be rewarded but awareness needs to be raised. Tony reviewed pilot program implemented in Bristol to put large sized recycling container out for paper, cardboard, phone books, plastic and glass with a potential savings on the collection side as it is done by driver and automated. Costs are \$65.50 per ton to get rid of solid waste and \$33.50 per ton for

recyclables. Discussion held.

8. Discuss and Take Action on Appointments to Boards and Commissions

a. Correspondence in packet dated January 24, 2008 to Treasurer Dave Barbieri regarding a Deputy Treasurer.

**MOTION:** To approve the appointment of Anthony Orsini as Deputy Treasurer, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Ganesini. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated Tony does so much for this town and he is everywhere and anywhere as needed and happy to see him doing this. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** To appoint Scott Gray from an Alternate to Regular Member of the Inland Wetlands Commission, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated she goes to these meeting and Scott is always there. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** To reappoint Pablo Arroyo to the Police Commission, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated Pablo does a good job. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** To appoint Michael Maffia as an Alternate to the Inland Wetlands Commission, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Whether this position is an alternate or regular member. Mayor Festa stated a regular member is in Iraq and this position is for someone filling in. Discussion held noting at each meeting the Chair would state whether Michael would be an alternate that night or a voting member. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** With great regret to accept the resignation of David Zukauskas from the Inland Wetlands Commission, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Ganesini. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated Dave has been on that commission a long time and does a great job and she feels badly that his work load prevents him from staying. Councilman Ganesini stated at a meeting attended Dave was able to go back 12 years and remember information. He has leadership knowledge and will be tough to replace. Mayor Festa read the letter of resignation from David Zukauskas into record. Vote: unanimous.

9. Discuss and Take Action on Refund of Property Taxes

**MOTION:** To refund property taxes to Delores Spielman in the amount of \$533.85; Cara Lynn Hubbard in the amount of \$93.61; Carol or Raymond Brouker in the amount of \$70.01; Gary Allen in the amount of \$174.88, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski and the vote unanimous.

10. To Fix The Compensation of the Council Clerk As Per Chapter III, Section 3, Page 11 – Mayor Festa stated he has difficulty in filling clerk positions to Board and Commissions and the current pay is \$100 per Commission for the first 2 hours and \$12.50 for every hour thereafter. It was brought to his attention if minutes are done verbatim it is \$100.

Prior to adjusting this a few years ago, Chairpeople were giving raises at will from time to time. One request down the road will be to look at the pay scale. The charge of the Council is to fix the salary of their clerk. Discussion held.

**MOTION:** To set the compensation for the Clerk of the Council at \$125.00 for the first 2 hours and \$15.00 per hour thereafter and an additional \$100.00 verbatim, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel stated the amount of time to transcribe is time consuming and when Boards and Commission have multiple people with feedback and input and community input, it can take six to eight hours to transcribe on a particular meeting that lasted two hours. It is a very time consuming and lengthy process. Vote: unanimous.

11. To Introduce By Resolution The Request That The Mayor Make Application For STEAP Funds In The Amount Of \$500,000 Consistent With The 2005 Plan Of Conservation And Development – Mayor Festa referenced memo from Bill Kuehn dated January 31, 2008 that is part of the Council packet; reviewed noting EDC voted to recommend the town apply for \$500,000 to invest in sidewalks and pedestrian amenities along Main Street and the pattern for sidewalk construction/replacement be consistent with the design being developed by BL Companies for the Rite-Aid and Waterwheel sites. Councilwoman Jandreau read the Draft Resolution into record “Whereas: the State of Connecticut has announced the availability of funding through Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) authorized under C.G.S. 4-66c as amended by PA 07-7, Section 41, of the June Special Session. Whereas: the maximum amount of such funding is \$500,000. Whereas: the Town of Plymouth has embarked on improvement to the downtown area centered at the historic Terryville Water Wheel. Be It Therefore Resolved that the Town Council does hereby instruct the Mayor to make application for STEAP funds in the amount of \$500,000 to plan and improve the streetscape and public area adjacent to the Terryville Water Wheel and the surrounding downtown area consistent with the 2005 Plan of Conservation and Development.”

**MOTION:** To approve the Plymouth Town Council Resolution as read, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Ganesini. Discussion: Clarification that this money all goes for sidewalks was confirmed. Mayor Festa to confirm whether this is a 4 year grant or the town is in its’ second year. He also noted an upcoming meeting with the American Legion Post in regard to a brick sidewalk component to the monument area and the ability for people to buy a memorial brick through the American Legion Post and will bring written information back to the Council. Vote: unanimous.

12. To Take Action On The Request Of The Education Department To Have The Public Works Department Sand The New High School Driveway And Parking Lot – Gerry Perusse, BOE Business Manager, stated presently Public Works sands all school parking lots. The Town could not sand during the storm in December until the BOE came before the Council for approval to sand the new school. He is asking to continue with the practice of sanding. Councilwoman Jandreau asked what the extra cost will be, how much sand is used, does he have money in the budget and does the Town get reimbursed from the BOE for this work. Tony Lorenzetti, Director of Public Works, stated he does not primarily use sand and is using salt with the cost between \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year to do the new high school depending on other schools getting pulled off. His line item is

currently in deficit and reality is he has to take care of schools. Discussion held on use of salt vs. sand, pretreating, usage, erosion, environmental advantages and disadvantages. He cannot top off salt stockpile at end of season due to lack of a salt shed and leftover money from previous years' budget was turned over to the General Fund. At the end of the season he submits documentation to the Town showing expenses. He noted historically sweeping is a cost which may go down due to less sand being put on roads. Gerry Perusse stated he submits expenses to the State as an expense to the Town to fund education. He thought sanding would be the same as always and did not budget for sanding in their budget noting plowing is bad enough for the new school due to the way it is set up. Councilwoman Schenkel stated STEAP funding could be used for salt and sand shed and could be a great opportunity down the road. Mayor Festa noted a few years' ago the Town bought the materials and supplies to do a salt shed and they say and rotted away.

**MOTION:** For Public Works to sand the new high school driveway and parking lot, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel stated concern that salt and sand is over budget and now need to add in the new high school and how will we pay for this. Tony Lorenzetti stated he reviewed his budget at the last BOF meeting and they understand circumstances and advised him to take it easy and do what he has to do. He noted that the salt delivery is driven by transportation costs which have gone up. Ralph Zovich, BOF Chairman, stated Mr. Lorenzetti came before the BOF and was up front on over run and depleted part of material budget. He acknowledged if winter continues he could be as much as \$50,000 in deficit. Councilwoman Schenkel noted public safety is prime and asked that the public understand and sometimes this is what happens. Vote: unanimous.

13. Discuss and Set Dates For Workshops For The Following: Pubic Works Commission, Historic Property Commission, Sidewalk Ordinance, Local Vendor Preference, Blight Ordinance, Code of Ethics – Discussion held on holding independently and requested Mayor Festa set calendar for February, submit dates with informational items on each one using Meeting Date Schedule and to invite Tony Lorenzetti to the workshops at his leisure for knowledge of impact on his department and viewpoint. Mayor Festa stated he will also include other department heads that may be affected.

**MOTION:** To have the Mayor set the agenda for the month of February taking into consideration liaison meetings, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

14. Discuss and Take Action On The Request Of The Police Commission To Approve Five Weeks Vacation Time For The Chief of Police – Ann Tuleja, 383 Allentown Road, Police Commission Chairman, stated at their January 8, 2008 meeting the Police Commission came out of executive session and unanimously approved to send the request to the Council for five weeks vacation time for the Chief of Police. Every commissioner put comment on record on why they wanted this to happen. She stated Karen Krasicky has brought a lot of community policing to our community, and she is not an 8 – 4:30 Chief. She is in town all the time, mentors, she gives of her inner strength and vision, member of Red Hats, works with the clergy and churches, attends Lenton Luncheons, on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the Lions Club, Rotary Club, is in attendance the entire weekend of the Terryville Fair and is basically in town for anything

and everything. Part of her monthly report to the Police Commission includes number of meetings attended per month which has been monitored over her three years in Plymouth. She has always done work during her 2 weeks vacation; has written hundreds of thank you letters, written General Orders on her own time. The Chief came to Plymouth with 27 years of experience and at the time it was prudent for the Mayor to give two weeks and she realizes we have the best fit for our community and a new face for our police department. The Captain will be in charge when the Chief is not here. She asked that the Council endorse this request as the Chief has worked for it, put in time and effort above and she feels proud to have Karen Krasicky aboard. Councilwoman Schenkel stated she wholeheartedly supports this request and has been watching the Chief and actions speak louder than words and the Chief has commanded respect, increased morale, is an asset to the community and well deserving. Chairman Ganesini recalled when the search was done with the Association of Police Chief whose organization is professional and a town does not take a person with the years of experience such as this with two weeks' vacation. He feels this request is very appropriate and we have a very qualified person who brought experience and professionalism to a town like this. Councilwoman Jandreau stated she was on the Council when Karen was approved as Chief and her resume is to kill and we are absolutely very lucky to have her here. The Chief will come back at night to go something going on and then does more work at home. She recommends the 5 weeks as requested.

**MOTION:** To Approve Five Weeks Vacation Time For The Chief of Police by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

15. Council Comments – Councilwoman Jandreau stated she received a complaint that someone should look into lights left on at the old high school for no reason as her understanding is that many lights are on and costing money. Also, congratulations to Ron St. Onge for his promotion, to those honored at the Chamber of Commerce dinner including Wollenberg Transportation, Michael Ganem, Cindy Scoville, Leo Club, Bill Kuehn and Thomaston Savings Bank as she is very proud of all of them for their service to the community.

16. Adjournment

**MOTION:** To adjourn by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Gudeczauskas, Council Clerk