

1. The Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Town Council , **March 4, 2008 was called to order at 7:00 p.m.** by Mayor Vin Festa in the Community Room, Town Hall. In attendance: Councilwoman Jacqui Denski, Councilman Peter Giancesini, Councilwoman Jeannine Jandreau, Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, Councilman David Sekorski (7:25 p.m.), Mayor Vin Festa, Robin Gudeczauskas, Council Clerk and Sal Vitrano, Town Attorney.
2. Fire Exits – Noted for the record.
3. Pledge of Allegiance

**MOTION:** To amend the agenda to submit between items 13 and 14, item13a for “Authorizing Resolution for FY 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant” and giving permission to submit at this time, by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

**MOTION:** To amend the agenda Item 12 to add the following name for refund of property taxes, Francis Bart, in the amount of \$92.03; by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

4. Acceptance of Minutes, Regular Meeting 02/05/08  
**MOTION:** To accept the Minutes of February 5, 2008 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel; discussion last page correction, “Chairman Giancesini” should read “Councilman Giancesini”. Vote: unanimous.
5. Presentation by Kevin Maloney, Representative/CT Conference of Municipalities – Mr. Maloney introduced himself and gave a short presentation of what CCM does: a) Advocacy at the state level: legislative advocacy; members get immediate email or fax when appropriation and finance committee’s report is out on grant numbers; executive branch advocacy; litigation. b) Advocacy on federal level: litigation; c) Research and Information Service; d) Training; e) Annual Fall convention with trade show and spring conference/trade show; f) Bulletins and Publications on areas such as state, federal, health, public policy, environmental, management, municipal director, ethics and conflicts of interest; g) Media Relations; h) CCM Website, CCM-CT.org for legislative action center, members only section, job bank and more; i) one-on-one visits to member towns; j) Computerized Municipal Labor National League of Cities; k) Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium; l) Energy Program; m) Municipal Management Consulting Service; n) Insurance Programs. Tara, senior researcher, gave overview on how the research contact would be of service for the Town of Plymouth – reviewed research service; legal opinions are not provided Her office should be extension of town hall staff; finance and budgetary, salary statistics noting salaries are only released to CEO; publications catalogue in packet distributed to Council. Mayor is advised of all calls requesting information. Included in packet is a list of how other small towns have used CCM in the past. Questions: Cost of service is \$7,942 per year. Cost benefits of workers compensation insurance and is there significant decrease in claims and costs; Kevin will speak with CIRMA and respond back to the Mayor with comparable towns who have been members. Health and safety program and tips, workshops on all issues will be done after analysis of workplace is performed. The Mayor thanked CCM for their presentation.  
**MOTION:** To take a 5 minute recess at 7:22 p.m. by Councilwoman Jandreau; second

Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

Meeting called back to order at 7:33 p.m.

6. Presentation by Michael Suchopar, Executive Director/Bristol Boys & Girls Club and Family Center – Michael gave presentation and thanked Council for letting them speak about Bristol Boys & Girls Club and Family Center. They provide unique services, there is a broad spectrum of things they can do, and would like to come into Terryville and help out. Background and motto given noting a long history of serving the community, celebrating 100th year of service. Currently merging Family Center and ImagineNation, before and after school programs in 10 schools. Now do a tremendous amount of character programs on how to make kids better kids and how to better themselves, values, diversity and understanding of what that means. Have 4 divisions and 15 locations; Club Division (Laurel Street unit and Cambridge Park unit which is outreach program on Davis Drive); School-based Division, 11 before and after school sites servicing about 400 kids around the city; The Family Center celebrating 80 years of existence in the community as well as their Older Members group celebrating 85 years this year; Imagine Nation Museum. Core programs: Ron Burns, Director, reviewed each of the core programs: Character & Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; the Arts; Sports, Fitness and Recreation. Youth Development Strategy: sense of belonging, sense of competence, sense of usefulness, sense of influence. Overall Club Initiative: project learns. The Need for this program reviewed. The Model: homework help and tutoring, high yield learning and leisure activities such as chess and checkers, parents and adults are encouraged to support their children, collaboration with schools, recognition and incentives. The Result: higher grade point average in subjects such as math, reading, history. Visual representation of sites given. School Based programs, Jeff, K-5 Bristol elementary school to extend day as enhancement program of the school day, reviewed. The Family Center, Ellen Zoppo, Director: first girls club in 1928 in nation; well known for synchronized swimming team, gymnastics, dance, etc., and also have discovery program which reaches to families with disabilities and also looking into reaching into autism, home to Bristol's young parent program. Pool program is still very strong at all levels. Many programs offered are portable to other towns. Doreen, Director of ImagineNation museum which is the newest addition opening in 2004 with 40,000 visitors each year; features of museum reviewed; encourage learning while having fun with hands on exhibits. Michael Suchopar invited the Council to come for tour; do have sponsors and one commercial of supporter shown.

Mayor Festa thanked them for all they do for the children. Councilwoman Denski asked what is their vision to bring together in Plymouth; Mr. Suchopar stated it is open but need to know exactly what you (Plymouth) want; do know MSS will be an empty building and a great resource center and could take programs and function out of any site; be involved before and after school with programs is very easy; would like to become a large service facility in the Town of Plymouth. They would need to talk specifically about activities and what things do not apply but need to start a relationship. Councilwoman Schenkel asked about tutoring for kids referencing a study shows that girls have more difficult time in math and science and do they incorporate fun into learning. Michael referenced Power Hour program that they do and partnering with schools more to deal with specific

problems that specific kids have.

7. Public Comments on Non Agenda Items – James Deutsch, 34 Orchard St, Chairman of Charter Revision Commission stated they have a public hearing scheduled on Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room for the public to be aware of items the Commission is working on. The Commission meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays in the senior lounge.

8. Town Council Rules & Regulations – No discussion.

9. Presentation of Babe Ruth League Award

**MOTION:** To table until the April meeting by Councilman Sekorski: second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

10. Mayor's Report

1. Correspondence – Distributed report from Chief of Police relative to canine situation, general orders and job description currently for review and item will be placed on agenda for negotiations to include in contracts. If successful it will come for approval by Town Council.
2. Negotiations Update – Friday will have another meeting on negotiations of 5 contracts and hopefully will come to conclusion. Two additional will be taken and hopefully by end of March will be complete.
3. Informational Item on Veteran's Property Tax Exemption – Packet contains information on this item. The Mayor spoke with the Assessor on veterans who have come forward. The packet information is a particular state statute that allows a municipality to further exempt taxes of property owned by veterans.
4. Posting of Positions – Have posted for human resources, full time comptroller, public works truck driver, dispatcher positions for police department, secretary positions for individual boards and commissions posted internally. Response to postings has been amazing and there are a number of people in need of work.
5. Update on Joint Workshops – Met last Monday and have had some response from workshop and the start of opening dialogue of various boards and commissions. Will continue to work and bring additional departments, commissions and boards to dialogue in open format.

11. Discuss and Take Action on Appointments to Boards and Commissions to Appoint the Following as Regular Members to the WPCA: Louis Santos, Gary Pelletier, George Andrews

**MOTION:** To Appoint the Following as Regular Members to the WPCA: Louis Santos, Gary Pelletier, George Andrews; by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Ganesini. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau noted the WPCA Chairman gave glowing reports and she feels it is good to have these volunteers stay on. Councilman Ganesini stated he missed a few meetings and the group of people on WPCA are exceptional and very familiar with what the treatment plant is up against and all deserve reappointment. Vote: unanimous.

12. Discuss and Take Action on the Refund of Property Taxes for Steven Dallan, \$37.02 and Daniel A. Cahill, \$19.84; Francis A. Bart, \$37.93 and \$54.10 totaling \$92.03.

**MOTION:** To Refund Property Taxes for Steven Dallan, Daniel A. Cahill and Francis A.

Bart, \$92.03, by Councilwoman Jandreau, second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau requested sums on Steven Dallon and Daniel A. Cahill. Mayor Festa stated sum on Steven Dallon is \$37.02 and Daniel A. Cahill, \$19.84. Vote: unanimous.

13. Discuss and Take Action on the Resolution of Endorsement for OPM Regional Performance Incentive

**MOTION:** To Discuss and Take Action on the Resolution of Endorsement for OPM Regional Performance Incentive, by Councilwoman Jandreau, second Councilman Sekorski. Resolution read into record by Councilwoman Schenkel: "Be It Resolved that the Mayor, Vincent Festa, be and hereby is authorized to act on the behalf of the Town of Plymouth which endorsed the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal referenced in Section 8 of Public Act 07-239 – An Act Concerning Responsible Growth.. Such proposal is attached to and made a part of this record." Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**13a.** Discuss and Take Action on Resolution "Authorizing Resolution for FY 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant" and Giving Permission To Submit At This Time

**MOTION:** To handle the Emergency Management Performance Grant, by Councilman Sekorski; second Councilwoman Jandreau.

Resolution read into record by Councilwoman Schenkel. "Be It Resolved That The Mayor, Vincent Festa, be and hereby is authorized to act on behalf of the Town of Plymouth in executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, for participation in the FY 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant program".

Discussion: Councilwoman Denski asked what this grant is. Mayor Festa stated each year CT provides money under homeland security grants. This grant application was due 10/27/07 and he just came across it. Ted Scheidel contacted the State department and the application will now be submitted upon action by Council. The amount of this grant will be in the area of \$15K. Vote: unanimous.

14. Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution for a Contingency Grant in the Amount of \$10,000.00 for Playscape at Plymouth Center School

**MOTION:** To Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution for a Contingency Grant in the Amount of \$10,000.00 for Playscape at Plymouth Center School, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Resolution read into record by Councilwoman Schenkel. "Be it resolved that Mayor Vincent Festa, hereby adopts this policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under the Connecticut General Statutes Section 4a- 60(a) (1) 1 and Section 4a-60a,(1) as amended in the State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 of Sections 9(a) (1), and 10 (a) (1) of the Public Act 07-142. Be it resolved that our Mayor, Vincent Festa, approve this Contingency Grant Application to the Office of Policy and Management in the amount of \$10,000 for the Playscape at Plymouth Center School and that our Mayor, Vincent Festa Jr., is authorized to sign grant application and grant award." Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau asked what a contingency grant is. Mayor Festa stated in the application process

of a resolution being passed by town could and involves application format in grant process and a particular ongoing process at Plymouth Center School and was brought to his attention. It was at BOE offices and a P.T.A. parent came forward, brought the application to my office and indicated the town had to be sponsor of the grant to continue furthering the playscape at Plymouth Center. Vote: unanimous.

15. Discuss and Take Action on Resolution for the Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation Program

**MOTION:** To Discuss and Take Action on Resolution for the Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation Program, by Councilwoman Jandreau: second Councilwoman Denski. Councilwoman Jandreau read the resolution into record: “Be It Resolved that Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr. is authorized to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Town of Plymouth with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut for the Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation expanded program, and to fix the corporate seal.” Discussion: Mayor Festa thanked Ted Scheidel for getting involved in this. Again, last year we did not apply for any refunds on this grant process and amount of \$19,099 is a great help in providing response transportation to the elderly. Vote: unanimous.

16. Town Council Liaison Reports

Councilman Dave Sekorski – Ambulance Board of Directors meeting update that they are running training sessions for 18 potential members of corps., participating in the disaster drill this weekend; and we need to appoint another member of that Board of Directors and have the ability to appoint two members and only have one member. Have not attended Capital Improvements who are meeting now and have report due to Council stating the previous Council had changed the charge of that committee and lowered threshold of what is allowed to \$5k and not the best thing to have done noting \$100k was the previous threshold. The lower threshold is complicating their ability to do long term planning and there are major projects on the plate that need to be assessed and prioritized.

Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel – Police Commission, followed up with the Chairwoman, good meeting and has met new Officer Marino. Board of Finance is underway and has started budget process. Last workshop was attended by the Tax Collector who discussed collection of back taxes. Workshops are every Monday and Thursday and encourage the public to come out and learn about budget. Charter Revision is under way and look forward to public hearing.

Councilwoman Jeannine Jandreau – Housing Authority are completing goals; Fire Commission meeting – Chief’s report was published in the newspaper; Fire Marshal report read into record; had a tour of the fire house at last meeting, very interesting and kept in A-1 condition. She congratulated the firemen for all the work they do in those facilities. Health Board changed meeting date to the third Tuesday of each month. Economic Development Commission is working on the waterwheel park, phase 1 starting in the spring; read ongoing projects report into record. ZBA did not have quorum this month and a member has given resignation and a new member will be needed. Planning & Zoning, Feb. 28 th meeting met with school building representatives to discuss sidewalk and permanent certificate of occupancy, agenda items reviewed. Inland

Wetlands enforcement report reviewed and continuing/new applications reviewed. New member needed on this commission also. Attended Veteran's Memorial Service and thanked them for putting on program. Public Works highway superintendent report read into record; Director of Public Works report read into record.

Councilman Peter Giancesini – Inland Wetlands Commission, two enforcement reports given and minutes are available for review. Dave Zukauskas served about 10 years of very good service and has resigned from this commission. He discussed all people in town who serve on boards and commissions and there have been so many people who served/worked long hours and get little recognition and suggestion came that in future have something, even pot luck, to invite people who have served regardless of party affiliation. They work hard and are doing their best for the town and feels people should be proud of what they have done. A get together is not something the town can fund but invite to get together for contributing to making the community what it is. Planning & Zoning meeting overview given. Ron Mormile will be retiring and suggestion the new hire spend 3 months with Ron and get filled in and get familiar with the town. Chairman Herzing brought up that members, according to Charter, are appointed for 3 year terms and under State statute it is suppose to be 5 years for regular members and 3 years for alternates. He felt the number of years to serve is open and maybe the Town Clerk should look into that for verification. He also brought up looking for Plan of Development, 8-24's to be filed in case of two school buildings because they need to be aware of use for future of town. School Building Committee – teachers are unhappy with desks because they are not sturdy and explanation that manufacturer will reinforce and if not working they will replace; café chairs are scratching floors and looking to purchase carts (\$2600) to move chairs; two floors to maintain and will purchase another sweep and vacuum; holding off on purchase of a baby grand piano of \$10k and \$7k purchase of waiting room furniture until project is over to make sure there is enough money; asbestos removal is double of what estimated; concert was held; Jim Murdock was in the audience with several questions i.e. (a) sidewalks at new school and if there is extra money they will be done; (b) why no signs on street for school; (c) kids are walking in the middle of the street; (d) noticed outsider perimeter lights on during daytime hours. WPCA meeting missed and apologized to members.

Councilwoman Jacqui Denski – Parks and Recreation – Director, Brian Forman, is doing outstanding job, recreation programs are up and running, registrations accepted and on line, wonderful new ideas and overview of meetings given; Veterans playground would like to open bathroom; possible adults softball and volleyball leagues; family outdoor movie night at MSS. Library Board, architect looked at ceiling and discussion of replacing entire roof and concern on funding. Just learned library is wireless hot spot and books dated before 2000 are being taken off shelves. BOE, mandatory in house suspension is not funded by grant; charter change recommended; 8 staff retired or resigned; redistricting is in place; reconstruction of old Terryville High is underway.

17. Town Council Comments: Councilman Sekorski, follow up question on meeting held and is date for tour of town set with consultant group. Mayor Festa stated no date set yet. Councilwoman Schenkel read in paper that Brownsfield group consultant to get funding to clean up waterwheel is not supported by Governor Rell and should we send someone to

explain to the Governor how important this funding is to our community and the waterwheel project is solely funded by grant money. Councilwoman Denski will volunteer services for tour if needed. Councilwoman Jandreau was asked to remind everyone that the Human Services is collecting cell phones for military; also noticed that all commissions should be doing fire exits and they are not and they should be notified to do so when starting meetings; Charter Revision public hearing is very important on March 26, 7 p.m. in the Community Room and please attend and tell them your thoughts.

18. Adjournment

**MOTION:** To adjourn by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas, Council Clerk