

1. The Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Town Council on **May 6, 2008 was called to order at 7:01 p.m.** by Mayor Vin Festa in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall. In attendance: Councilwoman Jacqui Denski, Councilman Peter Giancesini, Councilwoman Jeannine Jandreau, Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, Mayor Vin Festa, Robin Gudeczaukas, Council Clerk and Sal Vitrano, Town Attorney. Excused absent, Councilman Dave Sekorski.
2. Fire Exits – Noted for the record.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Acceptance of Minutes – Special Meeting April 3, 2008
MOTION: To accept the Special Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2008 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Page 4, item 11, “\$20,000” should be “\$30,000” and Page 6 “hereby authorized to sing” should read “hereby authorized to sign”.
AMENDMENT TO MOTION: To amend the motion of the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 3, 2008, Page 4, Item 11, “\$20,000” should read “\$30,000” and Page 4, item 11, “\$20,000” should be “\$30,000” and Page 6 “hereby authorized to sing” should read “hereby authorized to sign”, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: None.

Vote on Amendment: Unanimous with Councilwoman Schenkel abstaining.
Vote on Motion unanimous and Councilwoman Schenkel abstaining.

Special Meeting April 15, 2008

MOTION: To accept the Special Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2008 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilwoman Denski stated page 3 at bottom “Per” should be “he”.

Vote: Unanimous

Special Meeting April 22, 2008

MOTION: To accept the Special Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2008 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilman Giancesini stated on page 2, paragraph 2, his comments were on North Main around Fisher and as he recalled you could not just put sidewalks in but need change of property lines and would like after “installed” be added “on North Main Street”. Mr. Lorenzetti stated that could be done or easements. Councilwoman Denski requested clarification on page 1 at bottom, “discussion held of feeling that there was much more correspondence than what could be located”. Mayor Festa stated the issue was that there was not much material in the folder on the sidewalk issue and there should have been more information because of length of time being an issue and researched. Vote: unanimous

Special Meeting April 23, 2008

MOTION: To accept the Special Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2008 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

5. Town Council Rules and Procedures

MOTION: To amend the Agenda to include Resolution for Bonding Proposal \$385,000 for WPCA As Item 19, Item 19 becomes 20, 20 will become 21, by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

6. Public Comments on Non Agenda Items

7. To Remove From Table Babe Ruth Recognition Presentation – Joseph Sekorski

MOTION: To Remove From The Table The Babe Ruth Recognition Presentation by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

Mr. Sekorski, 47 Town Hill Road and President of Babe Ruth, apologized for changing this item on the agenda several times. He explained recognition of Babe Ruth, noting office in Trenton, NJ sent plaque through Babe Ruth league and with no facility to display it, he would like it hung in town hall. It names incorporators in 1958 (read into record). Mr. Sekorski explained he started as umpire, coaching, managing, administrative end and now president. He recognized coaches, managers, players who have kept it going the past 50 years. In 2001, the Terryville Babe Ruth changed to Mike Glowa Babe Ruth League; at one point there were 9 boy's teams and 5, 13-15 year old teams but they have gotten away from 13 year old team; and 8 years ago started softball program. He dedicates this plaque to all those people involved in Babe Ruth and still are. Plaque read into record and presented to Council to be hung in Town Hall. Mayor Festa stated on behalf of the Town Council and residents, he accepts this plaque in gratitude.

8. Mayor's Report

1. Correspondence: Letter from Water Wheel Committee Chair to Committee Members which highlight issues as written by Dave Philbrick, Chairman. Jeannine stated this Commission is also open to the public.
2. Beautification Committee – reestablished and at the first formal meeting, based on Charter, there is to be chair and vice chair – Patrick Herzing is the Chairman, Dianne Russell, Vice Chairman, and approximately 15 people in membership for this committee. Movement is to start clean up throughout town and this committee will ask for volunteers.
3. Blight Workshop Reminder 5/29/08, letters going out to property owners listed as blight properties inviting them to meeting and then move forward to recreate blight ordinance and implementation. Melanie Church asked if the Building Inspector will be invited and the Mayor stated he would.
4. Human Resource/Personnel Appointment – has been recreated as of yesterday; William Bellotti has been appointed part time and on job; have had several meetings yesterday and today; will develop employee handbook and personnel policies/procedures. He will be at a future meeting to meet Council. Background reviewed.
5. Memorial Day Parades: Sunday, May 25, 2008 Plymouth and Monday, May 26, 2008 Terryville. Committees formed to make sure parades are organized; will be fly over that day and thanks to Keith a request submitted to State department to clean up Main Street.
6. Collection of Back Taxes Update – Attorney Sal Vitrano gave background noting he and partner, Bob Wynn, have met with the Mayor, Tax Collector and Assistant Tax Collector to discuss issue of collection of delinquent taxes. They have approach which thought would be successful and that was to develop list of 10-15 delinquent tax properties and target that list with demand letters and if necessary, proceed through tax foreclosure. Set up criteria (reviewed), wanted to develop track record and make it known that the Town is out there and looking to enforce the right to collect taxes and to make clear to property owners it is their responsibility to pay taxes. In first month from targeted 10-15 demand letters collected approximately \$23,000 of delinquent taxes; one in amount of over \$11,000 in real estate and over \$2300 sanitary sewer hook up and over \$600 in delinquent water fees; second property over \$7,000 in real estate and third property over \$3500. It is clear we are moving forward and pleased to announce this in the first month and will report periodically.
7. CT Rural Development Tour/Councilwoman Denski, Councilwoman Jandreau – email received and read into record by Councilwoman Jandreau from CRDC Team dated May 5, 2008. Background given on tour of town with CRDC Team, transportation provided by Wollenberg TLC. Bill Kuehn was tour guide and he did a good job.
8. Neighborhood Assistance Act Update Meeting Scheduled for June 3, 2008, 6:30 p.m. to hear from any organization in town interested in applying for Neighborhood Assistance program grants.
9. The Rededication of the Ted Knight Bridge Canal Street Connector Within the

next several weeks/ Public Works – Mr. Lorenzetti will get a date noting it is on schedule to be finished around the end of May. Invitation to family and relatives of Ted Knight will be sent.

10. Commend Representative William Hamzy for Work and Effort Initiating Legislation Known as “Jen’s Law” – newspaper article; bill initiated legislation reviewed and going to Gov. Jodi Rell for signing. Thanks to Mr. Hamzy for his effort in this and will send letter to him. Councilwoman Schenkel stated this law is groundbreaking and she is proud of our community who has been able to put this forth.

9. Appointments/Resignations

1. Appointment of Randy Olmstead to the Beautification Committee
MOTION: To table this item until next month's meeting by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.
2. To accept the resignation of Richard Daponte from ZBA
MOTION: To accept the resignation of Richard Daponte from ZBA as requested to be done immediately by Mr. Daponte, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel with regrets and the vote unanimous.
3. Appointment of John Murphy From Alternate to Regular Member ZBA
MOTION: To appoint John Murphy from Alternate to Regular Member of ZBA by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Giancesini and the vote unanimous.
4. To accept the resignation of Maurice LaCourse from Sexton position St. John and St. Mary Cemeteries
MOTION: To accept the resignation of Maurice LaCourse from Sexton position St. John and St. Mary Cemeteries by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.
Mayor Festa noted the Town Clerk requested appointment but he has not been able to contact and putting on hold.
5. To accept the resignation of LeeAnn Meyers from Human Services Director Position
MOTION: To accept the resignation of LeeAnn Meyers from Human Services Director Position by Councilwoman Jandreau with regret; second Councilwoman Schenkel with regret. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated LeeAnn has done a wonderful job as Human Services Director and she will be greatly missed.
Vote: unanimous.

10. Take Action to Refund property taxes: Gerald Allain \$6.90

MOTION: To refund property taxes to Gerald Allain in the amount of \$6.90, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Giancesini and the vote unanimous

11. To Discuss and Take Action on the BL Companies Contract For Design for Phase 1 of the Waterwheel Park:

Attorney Vitrano stated contract is being proposed regarding the Phase 1 of the Waterwheel Park project with BL Companies and suggested that scope of services are BL Company provide property survey, bid support contract administrative services. He has reviewed contract in terms of form and appears in order. Question he has is whether or not this contract needs to approved by Council and/or approval by BOF. Mayor Festa stated only thing he spoke about is money which is there and appropriated through grants. Attorney Vitrano noted options that the Council can table the matter until discussed with interim comptroller as to whether or not the BOF needs to review and approve, can approve contract subject to, if necessary, the BOF approve, or can deny the contract. Realistically he felt Council should either should table or approve the contact subject to determination and action if necessary by BOF. Councilwoman Denski asked for time frame in terms – Attorney Vitrano stated they are looking to go out to bid for the east side of park and portion deeming to be Phase 1, looking to put together plans and specifications, go out to bid on consultants contract for \$31,800 and no time frame in this contract. Councilwoman Jandreau had question on whether the Lions Club offered to do that section and Mayor Festa stated the Lions Club will take area as part of “adopt a sidewalk” program. He noted the issue at hand is if look at conceptual drawing they need to move forward on design phase of complete project, Phase 1, as well as the beginning of Phase 2 and issue at hand is the Lions Club will put park benches with grass, trees, shrubbery and maintain on yearly basis. This agenda item involves BL Company’s start of movement forward to begin design and internal workings for this particular project. There are other phases that need to be dealt with in a time frame and next phase is to look at BJ Tool Company and what can be done to acquire that piece. Another section owned by private individuals and need to do negotiations with them. Complete development has to do with acquisition of additional properties and clean up of property. This is being developed strictly with grant money and no tax money is involved at all at this particular time. Councilwoman Schenkel stated while excited about this it is prudent to table this item only because she would like to know what the comptroller has in fund for grant money. Suggestion is we do have meeting on the 29th of May and happy to come for special Town Council meeting this week or next to know exactly what funds are available as grant money is rare and precious. Councilwoman Jandreau stated she has a sheet from EDC on grant money and most of the \$350,000 is still there. Melanie Church stated blight portion of that property was to be next thing done; Hart property was to be next step. Mayor Festa stated we have contracted for studies in that area and demolition; Tony Lorenzetti stated it is in front of P&Z on Thursday for demolition and there is also a flood plain there.

MOTION: To table until the Mayor has a chance to talk to the Comptroller and can coordinate with BOF and Attorney Vitrano, by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

12. To Discuss and Take Action On the Following Ordinances:

Public Works Commission – Need more information, need legal advice, and were going to model on some code of ethics. Need advice on getting rid of an ordinance that was already established. Attorney Vitrano stated one that exists now but no people are on it; if you are looking to redo it you would amend; you can rescind in same procedure to rescind or abolish as you would to establish. If a public hearing to establish you would need public hearing to abolish.

MOTION: To establish a public hearing on the Public Works Commission for the purpose of gathering information to see if we want to abolish, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

Historic Property Commission

MOTION: To begin taking applications for the Historic Property Commission by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Gianesini and the vote unanimous.

Sidewalk Ordinance

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

Local Vendor Preference –

MOTION: To hold a public hearing for the Local Vendor Preference on the same night as Public Works Commission public hearing to hear from the public on abolishing by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski and the vote unanimous.

Code of Ethics

MOTION: To table to gather more information and revisit at a later date by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Denski and the vote unanimous.

13. To Discuss and Take Action On Setting Date Regarding Ordinance Workshop For ATV Issue – Mayor Festa noted in packet were a few pieces of correspondence relative to ATV issues and asked to allow individual to speak.

MOTION: To set a date on issue of ATV by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Vicky Carey, 665 Greystone Road, Plymouth requested that she be offered and able to attend meetings and has done extensive research between DEP and CT Statutes on ATV's and seeing there is such a problem with ATV's in different areas in town, she would like to help the Council in tightening up. There are Statues that allow municipalities to make an Ordinance but it is specific in certain areas. Councilwoman Jandreau stated the Council will take any help they can get and was on Council 4 years ago when this started and glad it was brought up again. Councilwoman Schenkel commented that it appears society is changing and issue with ATV's is that they are very powerful and in hands of young people not skilled or trained, and issue in her area is they go up and down road, on other people's property. She welcomes the workshop. Mrs. Carey stated there are Statues on book that assert fines by DEP on State property and unfortunately either our police are not able to enforce but when reading through Ordinance if property owner tries to stop ATV person on their property and they do not stop, they are subject to fines. A lot of laws are not being enacted by towns and

new laws being enacted by DEP. Councilwoman Schenkel stated she is not against people having fun with their recreational vehicles and not everyone is reckless; it appears people feel threatened to not enjoy privacy of their own home.

Vote: unanimous.

14. To Discuss and Take Action On Request That The Town Council Obtain Evaluation Assessment For Both Prospect and Main Street School Properties

Letter from Rodney Houle dated April 8, 2008 in packet; Mayor Festa has spoken with Interim Comptroller and money is available

MOTION: To spend amount up to \$50,000 for evaluation assessment of Prospect and Main Street Schools by Councilman Gianesini; second Councilwoman Jandreau.

Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel questioned if concern is with property values and current economic climate of State, and will we get fair reading of true assessment; will it be skewed based on economic climate. Carl Johnson, Vice Chairman of the Municipal Facilities Committee, stated need for starting point of assessment to look at marketability and need to know property worth to town in case they want to sell it. Hildie Siemiatoski, 249 E. Washington Road, stated she serves on committee and only comment is that there are those that feel that both MSS and PSS are truly assets to this community and also there are several people that have expressed opinions as far as liability and we definitely need assessment. Vote: unanimous

15. To Discuss and Take action To Enter Into An Agreement With Nationwide Payment Solutions On Behalf Of the Plymouth Park And Recreation Commission

Mayor Festa stated packet has application and this is something for Council approval to enter into agreement to use MasterCard and/or Visa card to make application for programs within Parks and Recreation

MOTION: To enter into Agreement with Nationwide Payment Solutions on behalf of the Town of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Mayor Festa stated this is new to the Town;

Councilman Gianesini stated it is a service for people to take action online instead of coming into town hall. Mayor Festa stated he has clarification from legal counsel. Great

opportunity to test waters especially with budgetary constraints and moving forward and could branch out into some great areas in town hall. Vote: unanimous.

16. To Discuss The Curbside Trash Pick Up Bid Opening Process; Tony Lorenzetti

Mr. Lorenzetti gave overview: in March solicited for curbside solid waste collection; 2 options in bid document; manual collection; automated collection; and automated bids came in equal to or lower with bucket included than without bucket. Did put a 5 year initial contract together for bid and supplemental 2 year options. Received 4 bids with different prices. The containers would become the property of the Town at expiration of contract. We are hiring a company to do this and not done by the Town. Did have 4 bidders: Copes, CT Waste, All Waste, Albreada; bid tabulation distributed to Council. This is strictly garbage pick up and plan would be to extend recycling contract. Container and paper on side; single stream is a bigger container and everything goes into container. Goal is to increase recycling and goal of bid is to get curbside collection on same day as recycling collection so that it is all brought out to curb on same day. Prices range from \$8.68 per unit per month to \$11.85 per unit per month (per unit is per household). Recycling and amount of money the Town is losing because of usage – we have minimum tonnage for our area and if we don't supply minimum amount we pay penalty for hauling. Some towns go to smaller containers for seniors to wheel out. Councilwoman Schenkel questioned modular property on Old Waterbury Road that business will do recycling; Mr. Lorenzetti stated that is another type of recycling and anxiously waiting to see how that transpires and their plan is to process materials and ship by rail. He also noted that current trash to haul is solid waste to Bristol which runs through 2014 and currently recyclables go to Berlin; market is looking at potential shift to single stream which would change processing at these facilities. Also noted is that Bristol Public Works picks up with their vehicles. George Andrews, Old Waterbury Road, asked if the transfer station would still accept municipal solid waste; Mr. Lorenzetti stated the goal would be not to accept municipal solid waste. Proposal before Capital Improvement for transfer station upgrade and even with curbside there is a need for bulk items to be handled there and should be able to focus more on metals that come in. Melanie Church 328 Main Street, asked about since rubbish pick up and do as Bristol to pay \$20 you can bring anything down instead of fees for refrigerator, stoves; Mr. Lorenzetti stated that is on the table and up to Council but demolition material is specialty waste and tonnage is expensive. Jim Deutsch, 34 Orchard Street, last time this was looked at a few years ago, the vendors were looking at running the transfer station and what is discussion on that. Mr. Lorenzetti stated at this point the town would look to run it but could run on much lesser hours. We did have study done on how many people were going for solid waste,

metals etc. Jim Deutsch asked what is percentage of recyclables and has there been any time we did not pay penalty. Mr. Lorenzetti stated, yes there was but economy has direct impact on recyclables; newspaper is large portion of waste stream and people are reading online instead. He felt the number of households that recycle is close to 50% but it should be higher. Noel Schenkel, 269 Mt. Tobe Road, stated with regard to fees etc., if you put a stove or refrigerator on your front yard with free sign it will be gone. Melanie Church asked is there an offer of 2 barrels for people who want more than one. Mr. Lorenzetti stated the first is free and second would need to be charged and vary \$60-\$65; containers are suppose to last 50 years. Mr. Lorenzetti stated to Council he will need to come back and talk exact dollar amounts. With regard to people who do not recycle, the Town does have ordinance that tells people to recycle. These funds will also subsidize household hazardous waste days.

17. To Discuss The Budget report From the Interim Comptroller Dave Bertnagle – Mayor Festa stated Mr. Bertnagle is at a meeting and will be coming in late.
MOTION: to table until his arrival, by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

18. To Discuss and Take Action On Pay Scale of Secretaries To Boards And Commissions – In packet a schedule of payment relative to secretaries, commission they represent, amount being paid and status after two hour meeting. Reason this item has been brought to attention is the Town has been getting less and less secretaries to take on responsibility of commissions; commissions are asking secretary to do verbatim minutes which takes a great deal of time and many who work during the day are doing in evening and spending 4-6 hours to type verbatim and many are indicating they are no longer willing to serve; meetings are going to 11 p.m. and feel pay is not adequate for amount of work required to do in posting agenda, attending meeting, typing/editing, contact of applicants and members, posting minutes, notification to members, etc. Amount being paid, Town Council clerk is \$125 and all others \$100; 2 people get paid overtime because time done during work day; chart reviewed. Have spoken with several individuals who indicate it is not worth it; there are now 4 boards and commissions requiring verbatim minutes and issue at hand is losing individuals from doing work; most people are town hall employees during the day and not allowed to do work during day and the only one allowed is P&Z who does Land Use and part of contract stipulation and only one without restriction. Question is if the Council would like to peruse and discuss at future meeting or take action tonight. Mayor Festa clarified notes at bottom in handwriting; background given on salaries set; examples given. Discussion held noting suggestion to invite chairman of each board and commission for discussion on FOI as well as some standards of work for a secretary for their commission; you can have one that does verbatim and can be revised six or seven times and there are others FOI compliance and minutes can be done in shorter time. No reflection on secretary but limit on how much to give if secretary has repeated over time and what is causing additional work. Health & safety and public safety receive overtime. Need standard and focus work on 2 hours vs. repeated conversation. Need to determine if commission is overloaded. Further discussion on how do you time study work done at home relative to transcribing minutes with suggestions on by what is submitted, submit per page; need individuals trust and honor of how much at home typing noting there are times where meeting is complex and need to listen to tape over and over and there have been some who work up to 6 hours at home and not putting time in; they could get abused with verbatim and such and can we prevent that from happening; verbatim is not as much as time spent; tape is matter of record and use alongside with printed minutes because in true FOI you need motion and vote and no details; question if boards and commissions need written record and then individual do verbatim of it; how fast a person can transcribe from recording to a computer to get work done. If tape becomes official verbatim then you resolve issue. Discussion on need to step further and have FOI commission come in to discuss in workshop on this issue and what is necessary and not as matter of record. Once you start using tapes as matter of public record you keep tape library up to snuff and they do not go missing and then you revert back to written word. Boards and commissions need detailed accounting especially when legal actions pending. Councilwoman Jandreau stated being a liaison to commissions, some meet an hour and some Land Use minutes are 7-8 pages and these people get paid the same thing and not fair. Commission that have short meetings and one page and others need detail and then after it is corrections need to be done; opinion is that you cannot do a plain thing and need to look at each commission and how much time a secretary is transposing minutes and length of meetings. Suggestion to hold a workshop to talk to

each commission for needs and equitable and fair scale; in past straight fee whether worked ½ hour or 3 hours and several commissions would give yearly raise and others did nothing; need to be informed of responsibilities; need to come to meeting with Chairs of boards and commissions and find needs, what is secretary dealing with. Mayor Festa stated the Council needs to keep in mind regardless of what we pay or how, if we have no secretary we are in dire straight if business is not recorded; outside secretary fees are astronomical. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, how many times have you needed minutes because you cannot find a tape and you needed those to be somewhat exact, and there are a lot of meetings. One is BOF and a lot of things they are doing and if minutes are just with motions, you would not know what was discussed, agreed to or not; former Charter Revision and former Mayor brought forward on intent on Charter and took minutes to see if anything was written and those written minutes with the Charter and legal opinion before aggregate on whether to combine budgets and add to the budgets. What they used were written minutes; you want to know intent and those need to be verbatim. We need the history of Charter Revision, they are all verbatim and some meetings really need to be and should be at a higher scale. With reference to Trish who takes everything in shorthand, then turns around and emails to everyone to make sure minutes are right because listening to tape; commission is very active and verbatim minutes can save time on corrections and steps are important.

MOTION: To table and have workshop with Commission Chairs by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

19. Resolution for Bonding Proposal \$385,000 for WPCA

MOTION: To waive the reading of the Resolution by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

MOTION: To act on Resolution entitled “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$385,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PREFABRICATED GARAGE AND ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF PLYMOUTH AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$385,000.00 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE” by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau. Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel asked Mr. Vigeant about new Statues that this will not apply to debt service and all money collected through sewer fees will pay this bond. Mr. Vigeant stated, yes. Councilman Gianesini asked that the WPCA review high technology, need, regulations and explanation on what equipment will do. George Andrews, Chairman WPCA, gave summary of project noting most recently DEP initiated a new policy where they are basically trying to enforce regulations in place with regard to disposal of grit and waste collected at head works at plant. This is considered a special waste and to be handled as such. They are proposing acquisition of equipment to reduce the amount of grit and material and expectation they will dispose of a few cubic yards vs. 8 drums per week. The garage will house new equipment and two parking space for service trucks. Councilwoman Schenkel stated she recently came across “Green” grants from United Technology and if need additional equipment or to offset costs, she can make those applications available. Melanie Church asked if the transfer station is contaminated from this. Mr. Andrews stated in the past screens and such were brought to the transfer station and disposed of, but some question as to legality and the State has come out with policy memorandum on that which they are responding to. Mr. Lorenzetti stated it has to get hauled away and needs to be done. Melanie Church asked if damage was done; Mr. Andrews stated damage specifically was not done and sands were mixed in with solid waste to Bristol.

Vote: Councilman Gianesini, yes; Councilwoman Denski, yes; Councilwoman Schenkel, yes; Councilwoman Jandreau, yes. Motion carried 4-0.

20. Town Council Comments

Mayor gave vote status: Mayor Festa noted budget passed 586 yes to 126 no = 712 votes

Councilwoman Jandreau noted boards and commissions doing well noting Planning and Zoning approved Genovese Manufacturing to move into industrial park.

Councilwoman Schenkel stated she is proud of the BOF who has done phenomenal job with budget; state of CT took notice and we had reporters today; Charter Revision has invited people in to talk about charter changes; thanked everyone for their patience on her strict travel schedule for work; Ted Scheidel is recognized by United Way and kudos to him; approached by Mr. Smith in her district who would like Council to consider a list where residents could have wood for burning to off set high fuel costs and something for consideration. Keith Golnik, 46 Orchard Street, stated he got a hold of a log from a neighbor and got furniture grade maple from that and it can be used for other sources as well as heating, etc. Tony stated he does have people request it.

Councilwoman Denski – reviewed notes from BOE meetings; Parks and Recreation concerns on Lake Winfield; movie night June 6 and rain date June 7, Bee movie; Library Board.

Councilman Gianesini – reviewed notes from Inland Wetlands, Planning & Zoning, School Building, WPCA. Blight meeting workshop for 29 th not able to attend

Mayor Festa clarified that Parks and Recreation has appointed replacement, William Milish who was part time and moving into full time. MSS movie night under the stars on big screen. Fuel and gas costs, may be wonderful opportunity to know business people in town and walk/drive locally instead of going out of town. Moving forward with Lisa Phillimore on getting to do “Taste of Plymouth” with coupons for establishments; it is time we realized that without some of these people our taxes would be higher. Suggestion to go on television to have “chat” and ask people to start going to our local businesses. **MOTION:** To remove from table Item 17 by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

17. Dave Bertnagel gave overview of 07/08 budget, taken on issues in curbing expenditures and have saved \$150,000- \$200,000 in this years budget with freeze; did have major issues with revenues; every department did a great job in being aggressive, issues are getting resolved; still meeting with VNA and tax department to curb potential deficits and getting positive to that end. End of ‘07/08 see surplus and do not know how much at this point; issue with snow/ice budget, fuel oils, etc. but overall good. Happy 08-09 budget passed and starting fresh and several new initiatives in budget with Parks & Rec; police extra duty realigned; capital projects big issue addressing and have worked with Vicky Carey and did phenomenal job in Capitals for next 5 years and have plan in place; debt service, BOF in past did phenomenal job in limiting amount borrowed and will be able to tackle infrastructure, buildings and town in whole. Grant, receivables and receivables in Tax Department and VNA will be watched; economic climate not the best and one of few towns in the state with zero mill increase; going forward in audit report is

collectable area. BOF will address that as well. Have implemented new procedures and approval of requisitions; over time issues; will have issue in public safety because of illness and vacation and being dealt with by Chief. Question on recent news of foreclosure and jobs unstable, are you planning on safety net or aware there may be impact on revenue collections based on hardships. Dave Bertnagel stated if recognize surplus at end of this year we will have safety net for next year with that surplus. Revenues this year were adjusted accordingly. Keith Golnik suggested that names of delinquent property tax people be posted on town website; noted that is public information. Councilman Giancesini commented when he was on BOF, shortcoming would periodically be updated and virtually nothing on how revenues were coming in and when you had no input on that end it is hard to say how things are going; and are there thoughts of tracking revenue once a quarter and show where we are. Dave Bertnagel gave update on budget process and revenues were not addressed past and there were fictitious revenues, examples given such as Hancock Dam patrol, blight fees and BOF does get revenue and expenditure reports monthly. Mayor stated the Springbook computer program allows every department to know exactly what is going on with budget in his department. Dave Bertnagel noted issue in beginning that accounts were being charged erroneously because there was no money in that line item. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, comptroller had mentioned and now ask if he is doing anything on each year employee can accumulate sick days and when retire they get that and is there account for that money. Dave Bertnagel clarified where budget for 2 people retiring; there is currently no mechanism in place for retirees for payoff of sick and vacation time; his recommendation is to heart and hypertension and compensated expense; \$100,000 reserved for each in fund balance to cover payouts and currently \$613,000 in liability and none funded and going forward it is being addressed. It stays within general fund but line item and will look into funding mechanisms. Councilwoman Jandreau thanked Mr. Bertnagel for his hard work and answers.

21. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary