

1. The Public Hearing of the Town of Plymouth Town Council, **July 22, 2008 was called to order at 6:30 p.m.** by Mayor Vin Festa in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall. In attendance: Councilwoman Jacqui Denski, Councilman Peter Giancesini, Councilwoman Jeannine Jandreau, Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, Councilman David Sekorski (arrived 6:45 p.m.), Mayor Vin Festa, Robin Gudeczauskas, Council Clerk and Tony Lorenzetti, Director of Public Works, Dave Bertnagel, Interim Comptroller.
2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Fire Exits Noted for the Record
4. Public Hearing on Resolution for Curbside Trash Pick Up Program – Mayor Festa thanked attendees for coming to the Curbside Trash Pick Up Program public hearing for public comments; this is the second hearing for comments, questions, concerns and noted there will be a referendum on this question. Presentation given by Mr. Lorenzetti on the curbside program with a review of the bid solicitation for curbside solid waste collection with the low bidder being Copes of Watertown who are in attendance tonight. At the last hearing there was a lot of discussion on the transfer station, and noted handout available for review. Currently municipal or residential solid waste removal through hiring of a private vendor or bringing to the transfer station. Proposal is that all residential solid waste will be picked up curbside. Recyclables will remain the same. Transfer collection of metal, bulk items, waste oil and tires will remain at the transfer station going from a 6 day to 2 day operation and no solid waste collected at transfer station, bulk items only. Solid waste proposal was set to allow for barrel sizes and program provides for barrels for each resident, automated collection and opportunity for resident to purchase a second barrel at a cost of \$60 plus a \$25 delivery fee. Plan is 5 year bid with (2) 2 year options on bid and the town will own barrels at end of contract. Schedule for pick up will be the same day as recyclables but weekly. This includes single family, multi family up to 4, municipal housing units and some dumpster services to town facilities as part of the program. The town will look at future transfer station costs which are significant if stay with current program. By contracting solid waste it will change ways of operation which will save money. Councilwoman Jandreau asked on condos, collecting from dumpsters or how; Tony stated there will be a specific dumpster location within. Dave Bertnagel reviewed financial implications as presented, and has put together a scenario based on bid and current operations, handout reviewed, as well as keeping the transfer station open. This (handout) is conservative and worse case scenario; reviewed. Going through budget process in keeping transfer station open is on the top of this sheet going out for 5 years; bottom is the same but with curb side pickup; first year analysis shows if stay the same it would be \$293,000 additional cost and .35 mills or roughly 1.2% increase in taxes and not until fiscal year 09-10 budget. Also, employee at that location will be addressed by Tony. This analysis shows employee on town rolls and if employee is eliminated there will be additional savings to approximately \$236,000 including salary and benefits. Five year plan working on now for transfer station and capital improvements needs to be addressed. Estimates from \$400,000 to \$1 million for transfer station; regulations change. Estimate calculation reviewed. Council Questions: Councilwoman Jandreau on new recommended proposal contract services tipping and not paid now? Dave Bertnagel said contract services is all in one and below segregated. Councilwoman Schenkel, (1) why if opening transfer station a day or day and a half, why is salary overtime listed. Dave Bertnagel stated salary overtime is contractual; Saturday is overtime and will be part of

contract negotiations. Tony Lorenzetti stated there is also a man at the leaf and brush facility on Saturday. (2) she was asking specifically for the Board of Finance that they want to see a cost savings in terms of employee, gave an extra employee this year; Tony Lorenzetti said position not filled; and they want a cost salary savings for taxpayers. Tony Lorenzetti stated there would be a cost savings either way even if position filled because transfer station and leaf brush facility come from highway department. Public questions: Brad Butler, 127 Greystone Road, top column in yellow, jumping salary from 09-10; Dave Bertnagel stated in budget process the fiscal year 08-09 request for second position at transfer station and depending on this whole curbside plan it would have to be addressed if curbside fails and will need additional employee at that location.. Bob Leroux, 297 Scott Road, would cost of bulk items remain the same or would that become more expensive? Dave Bertnagel stated it would be the same from his understanding. The more garbage you throw away the more the cost to the town and for recyclables, if you throw away instead of recycling the tipping fee costs go up. Ted Scheidel, Administrative Assistant, stated Plymouth is one of 14 towns in the consortium for collection and recyclables. There are tipping fess charged each municipality and garbage fee is \$65.50 and tipping to recycle plant is \$35.50 and a savings if garbage tonnage goes down and recyclable goes up. With this plan we need to increase education to increase recycling. The Town of Plymouth is way down in the amount of recycling to the point where lower than what committed to by population. It is a fact that curbside collection of municipal solid waste does increase recycling; easier to police because the state has asked that 25% of waste be recycled. Initiative for curbside automated will help to get to number and then we will go to single stream recycling. Single stream recycling is where you throw all your recyclables into one container vs. current separation of metal, paper, etc. Current costs of transfer station has need for repairs and additions if it is to remain operating and it is expensive; DEP also has changes to regulations and salary will increase as need for more than just one person and need for two if continue the way going. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, people that use Oliver trucking now, the tipping fees the town does pay but Oliver reimburses the town for the people they collect from and all tax payers are not paying for this. That cost factor would mean this budget will go up as you are not being reimbursed from Oliver who is picking up for private people. Newspaper articles stated Thomaston went to referendum and in fear of losing rubbish pickup and that was one way of cutting budget. Back in the 70's we had rubbish pickup and too expensive, done away with and went to transfer station which was cheapest way. Love creativeness if we do rubbish pickup it will save us. At the last public hearing a remark was made of to stand at the transfer station will cost you the \$8. That did not add up. There is a new attendant there and have heard he is doing excellent job, sweeps up after cars leave; not worried about getting nails; things have improved. She does not take her stuff to the transfer station and uses Oliver yet she is against rubbish pickup because that is one way to tie hands and say this is how much going up every year and if you look there is increase; it will cost about \$700,000 to bring transfer station up to standards. That \$700,000 will last us 30 years and costs will not consistently go up. Maybe more of a feasilibty study needs to be done. As people who work in any industry today they are constantly finding ways to do things more consistently with less people but in the Town of Plymouth we need more people. Want efficiency studies done in this town and feel overburden with employees. Wants her voice known she does not support this. Jean Arden, Sherman Lane,

are they going to have bulk pickup at curbside once or twice a year. Mayor Festa stated that program is not figured into this aspect and being looked into separate. (2) looking at number \$1.6 million from now to propose at end of 2013 and that money could be used to fix the transfer station and then it is done. (3) she and husband are starting, as getting older, to get rid of things and took a lot to Salvation Army and to Plymouth Congregational Church, who does not want more as they cannot get rid of what they have, and does not want to throw out. Salvation Army stated they throw a lot away and now where does it leave her to get rid of stuff. If you get rid of two quilts you will not have room in barrel. Her mom is elderly and if she comes to live there they will need to get rid of pots and pans, cannot throw in trash and what do you do. Dave Bertnagel stated relative to expenses in question 2; \$1.6 is over a 5 year window and worse case scenario. There may be further savings if position is eliminated and over five years down another \$250,000 or so. Dianna Schenkel, only food and garbage decomposable goes in cans; no paper or plastic. Quilts and household would not be curbside. The issue is our transfer station is inundated with basic household trash; the only way to make improvements is alleviate strain on the transfer station and take consumable trash out. Ease the burden on transfer station to be assessed, evaluated and properly repaired. (4) are they (Copes) giving a list of what can go in barrels. Councilwoman Schenkel stated Copes will give a complete list of items and help educate citizens. She found at the last meeting that Copes to be customer friendly; for example in snowstorm on coming back same or next day if miss. Mayor Festa stated in response to her third question there is a proposal looking at swap shop at transfer station where there are communities who have resident sit and exchange particular items of value and worth from one to another. Jean Arden stated her son went to the Cape and at their transfer station they do have building called swap shop; but here planning and zoning stated there is scavenging ordinance; Mayor Festa stated not if set in proper way. Dave Bertnagel stated revenue reimbursement for clarification the number is reflected on reimbursement for tipping fees and built in to analyses. Ken Jobabby, 10 Frankie Lane, (1) worried about mill rate and heard him say it may go up and having hard time keeping his house the way it is and everybody is having hard time now, oil prices up, and now an increase in mill rate. Dave Bertnagel stated mill rate between .34 and .375 mill increase equates to 1.2% increase. (2) If on border line that may be a lot. Peter Gianesini stated if in the event it does not go through and you are not spending, you need to pay \$700,000 for the transfer station which will be added into the mill rate over time. Peter noted if you go to the transfer station there is little supervision and people do not put window stickers on and with Phase 2 of the Federal Stormwater requirement all dumpsters need to be covered and impossible for one man to cover; will pretty much be mandated for two people to work there and down the road very substantial costs in increases at transfer station and with all the new requirements by EPA and work down the road. Lynn Robinson, 14 Richmond Drive, question on what is allowed to throw in trash hearing you cannot throw shirt or pair of shoes, only trash trash. Tony Lorenzetti responded that you can throw shirts, quilts in solid waste. Plymouth has mandatory residential recycling and in terms of that basic items are food containers, glass, plastic, cans, newspaper, cardboard because the market is so good; can also put junk mail in recyclables and there is a container at the transfer station for recyclables. Household hazardous and yearly several waste days are held in this region for ability to bring for free such as oil based paint, something under kitchen sink, bulk items will continue to go to transfer station. Transfer station also offers electronic

recycling such as big screen TV's, additional manpower problem is attendants cannot check bags and what goes in. If the public needs information please go to public works. Sounds like there is a need for more education and he will work on that. Mr. Dunbar, Copes, stated the business has been around since 1930, family owned and operated, he is 3rd generation and sons 4th generation; provide services to 8000 single family residents, condo units and approximately 1000 commercial customers. What can put in refuse; easier to say what cannot such as hazardous waste. Can put anything not recyclable coming from house except sofas which are bulk waste. Website gives list of what cannot and can be thrown in. Recycling issue, have been pushing since 1987 and the State mandated in November 1991. Great program and future of business. State will mandate 50-55% recycling and encourage people to recycle. Currently in Watertown he will go into the school systems and preach recycling to kids who go home and encourage parents to do it. He has also put on recycling program for Lions, Rotary Clubs, etc. Bob Leroux, 297 Scott Road, don't you think recycling would work better with weekly pickup as he has rough time on keeping track what week and larger containers. Mr. Dunbar stated the future of recycling will be single stream and they are starting pilot program and looking at automating their recycling program. Two barrels in back of the room are smaller and would be for recycling and his hope is in the future the bigger barrel will be used for recycling and smaller barrel for rubbish. Items recycle will increase in single stream with aerosol cans, any type cardboard, pizza box, 6-7-8 plastics. Tony noted Mr. Dunbar is not recycling contractor and the town does have larger buckets in public works for \$5 each and vendor will pick up any other open containers at curbside. Audrey Bennett, 61 Preston Road, stated trends in recycling are going towards need for more and more specialized people to be involved; cost effectiveness is interesting in that 1% down to \$12 if paying 1000 for taxes and also considered concern on gas if goes up may pay more in gas going to transfer station. Also, with recycling as consumers we need to be aware of people whose garbage are those who manufacture and we need to write letters to people who give us stuff in plastic and get rid of anti theft device which we need to throw away and pay to throw away. Cost for private removal, if you can pay for it great but our economy is in a delicate position and over long haul this will be something to do or not do and will cost more in long run. Greg Girch, 11 Knight Lane, go over, heard about mill rate will go up and is there monthly fee charge. Dave Bertnagel, most part, worse case scenario in the first year of budget will be one shot cost for town of \$293,000 and that number could be lowered if position at transfer station is not needed and lowered by \$55,000. The mill rate is .34 mills or .375 increase and no monthly charge but 08-09 budget set and based upon trend, if higher percentage of recycling, the \$293,000 may shrink to \$200,000 or \$190,000 and that will affect mill rate. There is not a monthly fee on top of cost because it is part of tax. Councilwoman Schenkel (1) what was the projected deficit originally facing in November. Dave Bertnagel stated the town wide deficit was roughly \$700,000 - \$800,000 operating deficit for general fund and ended the fiscal year projection with \$104,000 surplus and turned around. (2) We have a group of people working hard to do the right thing for citizens in this town and would not bring this proposal without being sensitive to shrinking budget, economy. As a whole they have been working hard since November and hope you will consider this; financially this will help give 5 years for grant money to offset costs to fix transfer station, which the state mandates and not under our control and need to make changes, hope that as budget savings are tabulated throughout this period we keep

citizens informed. Jean Arden, 8 Sherman Lane, number .35 and then .375 which number; Dave Bertnagel stated variance depends on position itself and if eliminated, mill rate will be lower. Peter Giancesini noted a resident brought up point about gasoline and if you drive one mile from house to transfer station and two miles per week and 52 weeks is 104 miles and 15 miles per gallon is 7 gall x 4.25 is \$29.75 which is already more than double the increase of mill rate that average size homeowner would pay. Brad Butler, Greystone Road, assume transfer station will need fixing and how much will that be. Dave Bertnagel responded \$400,000 to \$1 million right now to keep operation as today and every year have upgrades for DEP regulations. Tony Lorenzetti gave status of current transfer station noting the hopper wall where basic solid waste is thrown would require improvements and preliminary numbers a few years ago, excluding site work and engineering, was \$300,000; obviously driveway will need to be fixed either way and if go with scale and certainly hopper itself would need upgraded. Technology in terms of hopper has changed and new technology has self contained compactors within truck and no potential for leakage on ground and environmentally friendly. Improvements to transfer station are not known except driveway repair and paving in range of \$72 to \$73 per ton plus. Currently do not have ability to enforce what is going in compactor. Study showed 1800 vehicles per week going in there and breakdown by hour is a lot of vehicles. DEP changes are looking to segregating items we collect. Charles Brewer 18 Lake Plymouth Boulevard (a) if resident take wood or bulk items to transfer station is there a fee; Tony Lorenzetti stated there is currently a fee and there will be a fee. (b) Other thing he wanted to comment on is he understands and do not know powers of worker, but if they want to see registration and check stickers there are a lot of people doing u-turns in driveway. Tony noted ideal way is to have someone checking at gate and someone above checking at hopper. (3) \$25 in Bristol for pickup truck. Tony noted person needs to change trailers, move trailers, watch what people are putting in and in terms of authority, it is a transfer station and everything needs to be segregated. Councilman Sekorski noted comment is overall problem of control of transfer station, thanked David Bertnagel for numbers. Long term, he does think numbers will go down by regulated what goes in, more versatility on bulk and how handling. A few pieces of timber and paying full fee and would like a variable fee structure which cannot be done unless person at gate looks at what is in truck and questions is it feasible if under right controls we can get break even opportunity and look at fee structure to make more compatible and accurate for people. Also recycling metals if better control we can recognize substantial gain and think some of those will help offset costs. Tony Lorenzetti stated one thing that came up from the study is approximately 90% of people went to the transfer station to dispose of regular household waste and 10% of people doing everything else and the way it is set up is to focus on 90% coming in. Now the commodity market is up and got higher bid for metal salvage at transfer station and need to be diligent. If able to focus more they can probably change financial outlook. Councilwoman Denski (a) would like to address every other week issue because if encourage recycling it will get out of hand in homes and have some type of blight bucket in back yard. Tony Lorenzetti stated they are not looking into every week recycling and depends on how much you are willing to pay; there is no limitation if you want two buckets and the advantage of recycling is they are suppose to be washed and clean and would not attract animals and can be stored for two weeks. We are currently not delivering as much recyclables as a community. (b) asked if we will have to repair transfer station, is

that cost included in mill increase; Dave Bertnagel stated repair of the transfer station is part of the 5 year capital improvement plan and he is working on plan with Vicky Carey. The town has a lot of debt falling off in next 5 years and depends on what happens with curbside pickup. Bob Leroux stated with the cost of fuel more and more people are burning wood and coal and where does ash go? Tony Lorenzetti stated in contract if you put hot coals in container it will get damaged and the resident is responsible for container but basically you have a few choices depending on what burning, how, and residue. There may be no value to plant and some may be better off putting in yard and theoretically you can put some in containers but the best thing is for you to find somewhere to put ashes. Audrey Bennett stated she composts and can add ash to compost and good fertilizer. George Withers, 15 Highland Road, what if you have more trash than will fit, do you leave it curbside. Tony Lorenzetti stated program is automated and you get a large 96 gallon container or smaller 46 gallon and have option to buy second one which will be picked up as part of program. He has two containers for family of 5 and generally fills one. The option is to buy a second barrel, one bucket for free and \$60 for second bucket plus \$25 delivery. Mr. Dunbar stated concern is Christmas and overflow, and one time per year they send out a second truck for bags due to overflow. Bonnie Leroux asked for clarification of coal ash which was going to transfer station. Tony Lorenzetti stated landfill will also get closed and operations there will change and in terms of ashes, he mixes coal ash in with topsoil for yard. Gerry Bourbonniere, Fairmount Avenue, noted cost between recycling per ton and msw per ton; if you recycle there is more money the town saves and less tipping fees for msw. Tony Lorenzetti reviewed payment to Bristol Recovery Group of 65.50 per ton and recyclables at \$30 less per ton to dispose of. Tony Orsini, 7 Virginia Road, member of the fire department and differs with Tony on disposal of ashes as last year they had 3 structure fires because of improper disposal when ashes were put in cardboard box alongside of house and advocating coal ash; Bonnie Leroux stated she has a metal trash can where they go until cool. Tony Orsini stated ash should be taken in metal container to transfer station and seeing dump operator with pay loader scoop up ash and dump in demolition trailer and if acceptable fine. Worried about getting message on improper disposal of ashes, wood or coal. Tony Lorenzetti stated this is an operation that requires more thought and will look at metal container for ashes. Tony Orsini stated if wood ash is put in garden and windy night will end up with brush fire. He urged for proper disposal of ashes in metal container, lid, store outside and then take to transfer station and dump once or twice a week. Audrey Bennett not only with wood or coal ash, grass clippings, leaves are things we dispose of and using common sense to not start fires but other towns are taking things such as this and doing big composting for the town and is this something as a trend. Mr. Dunbar stated a lot of towns are doing this program for their town and they encourage garden clubs and not a lot of people do that. Mr. Jobaggy stated town composts at brush dump and people can go there for compost. Tony Lorenzetti stated at old landfill site they do compost and people can take compost or woodchips. Jean Arden, asked if the town decides to fix the transfer station, are grants available to help defray costs and also on the swap shop the town can contact Town of Barnstable for what they do. Mayor Festa stated there have been grants in the past and that money is drying up and we do not now what is there until look and a point in time response is probably next year but until war is finally over and ended there is not money. Swap shop issue have residents from community involved in cities and towns

around state and do have information and after meeting will get more information from her. Mr. Butler, statement made that curbside increases recycling, why. Mr. Dunbar stated what is currently going to the transfer station is easy to throw in hopper; they encourage people to recycle and if roll barrel out with garbage and every other week recycling and the neighbor puts it out there is peer pressure. Gerry Bourbonniere, single stream recycling and in Bristol have test program and recycling in neighborhood went up because instead of small bucket they use large and everything went in. Bristol wants to go to single stream because of savings cost factor. People at transfer station, in Bristol they have 6 full time employees because of what goes on and if looking for same type of transfer station you will have to put more people at that transfer station to accommodate what we as a town want to throw away. Personally he would like trash pickup and a few things he doesn't like but overall program looks great. We as community, peer pressure on recycling, need to educate everyone on what recycling actually means. Ted Scheidel stated he worked booth at Bristol Home Show and one of the busiest places for recycling was for Bristol Resource Recovery. Councilwoman Jandreau stated another reason increase recycling is people are saying that is not enough and put recyclables aside for room in garbage can. Mr. Dunbar stated in response to gas issue, environmental savings as they do 80 homes per hour on 4 gallons of fuel. Ralph Zovich, 4 Knight Lane, thanked the Mayor and Council on second hearing and is reporting in capacity of Chairman of the Board of Finance and meeting on this subject as agenda item last Thursday. The Mayor asked the Board to look at numbers and make recommendation and after a lively discussion, the Board of Finance did not take any action and cannot make recommendation. He shared comments and concerns of board members and part of the discussion centered around labor savings, they added a person to public works payroll for this fiscal year and if referendum passes and need to staff the transfer station 12-16 hours per week and net savings of 32 or more hours per week. Public Works can make position part time or person can be utilized in another area. In the current years budget, public works director requested additional second person to man transfer station but needed to cut that position, everything on recycling is true. Ralph stated he does not recycle however if he rolls a barrel down the driveway, separate trash anyway and go to single stream that will be easy; plastic burns but cheaper and environmentally sound to recycle. He is in favor of trash collection and stated most agree there is going to be a small cost increase and the only loser in this proposal is Oliver. Worse case scenario presented by comptroller will not happen because the comptroller is giving the people the maximum cost if we have the least amount of revenues and incur expenses. We will have more revenue and will get more recycling and will have more scrap metal recovery and less environmental liability. Changes in environmental laws cannot be predicted. Worse case scenario is 1/3 mill and if tax increase next year it will be because of the outrageous cost of petroleum. You will not vote for this project because it is \$12 per month or \$12 per thousand on taxes but because environmentally positive, it is convenient and no one has says they like taking garbage to transfer station. He has been asking people why go there on Saturday and don't you have anything else to do; no one says because they socialize there. Personal concerns shared that the town will have to maximize revenues and be strict about enforcing recyclables and people like him should be fined; need to make clear to citizens if vote yes they enjoy exactly what will happen with transfer station being converted to recycling center, fee structure, hours open; bring guard shack and that attendant in now should come closer to gate and person

should see every car coming through. Comment on bulk drop off like furniture, appliances, tires and if the transfer station is not open then it will be dropped along the side of the road; what kind of citizenship is that and maybe small minority of people who will do that and may actually need stronger littering and anti-dumping ordinance and ask that the Council be aware if that situation arises they may want added patrols and ask Police Chief and commission to do that. In comptroller analysis it may be only \$200,000 additional cost or maybe \$100,000 cost and he talked about this with the comptroller and town attorney. If the referendum passes, the people are authorizing a not to exceed number and if much less expense to the people, we will review next March or April and will look at figure, see how the demolition costs are going, scrap metal recovery costs, work with public works on labor utilizations and make sure actual savings are greater than what is published here so cost is less. Gerry Bourbonniere, with barrels do you have maintenance team to repair broken lids, do we call public works or you; Mr. Dunbar stated office of staff is open from 8a.m. – 4 p.m. and 24 hour answering service; and have people who go out to do maintenance after call in. Tony Lorenzetti clarified discussion on ashes and was referring to part of contract dealing with hauler. Facility in Bristol does not want ash but small residential quantity and he will work with the fire department to develop a program they feel makes sense and get going and appreciates the input. Brad Butler, 127 Greystone Road, (a) if go to curbside will transfer station not require 2 people for covers or different situation; Tony Lorenzetti stated there are certain things to look at but still looking at two people on Saturday and if one day in week will look for highway department person to get there and not sure if ability until look. Will be reducing amount of usage by 90% at the transfer station and specializing on other things. (b) he does like going to the dump and recycles and composts. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, fees we pay for bulk down there at transfer station, if open 1-1/2 days you will find more on the side of the road because it is a inconvenience to go down on a Wednesday or Saturday and some people work those days and thinks that is another point to be brought forward. The brush dump, how often on side of road due to opening; you will increase stuff on side of road. Gerald Brewer, it might be worth something and boy scouts derive a lot of income for trips from containers at transfer station, is that still going to be available to bring bottles there. Tony Lorenzetti stated he is not looking to change at this point. Councilman Giancesini stated he is not familiar with other towns but his son is in Southington and they have private pickup, transfer station is not open every day and do not see garbage, brush or appliance on side of road and a bogus argument. Melanie Church stated in Southington at the transfer station everything can be brought there for free. Peter Giancesini stated how many people work there; and you pay for salaries and benefits in taxes and not free.

With no further comments, Mayor Festa thanked everyone for coming and noted August 12th is the referendum and it is your call, your vote and the will of the people will decide program.

Public hearing closed at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Gudczauskas, Council Clerk