

1. The Regular Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Town Council, **December 2, 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, Mayor Vin Festa, Robin Gudeczauskas, Council Clerk.
2. Fire Exits – Noted for the record
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Acceptance of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting dated October 7, 2008
MOTION: To accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2008 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.
 - b. Special Town Council Meeting dated November 10, 2008
MOTION: To accept the Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2008 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski and the vote unanimous.
5. Council Rules and Procedures - none
6. Mayor's Report –
Zoning Enforcement Officer Hired, Mr. David Elder – Background given noting much experience through career, involved with Brownsfield in Naugatuck Valley; Council of Governors in southwestern section of CT; worked in Windsor Locks in enforcement; Senior Planner; versed in legal issues. He was a finalist in the position for our Town Planner, highly qualified with college credentials; high recommendation from references. He is doing an excellent job so far, working 2 days per week and Saturdays which accommodates many townspeople.

Budget Preparation for FY 09-10 is underway – Dave Bertnagel is in the process of moving forward; staff meeting this week to discuss preparations as well as he and the Mayor are meeting with boards/commissions to bring up to date on the kinds of requisitions looking for and process to be followed.

Spending Freeze to be activated – in packet is a letter going to staff relative to department heads on spending freeze to be activated next week in taking conservation measures on electrical and heating; supplies by doing double sided copying and to have secretaries do double sided; no more color ink in printers. Due to economy what it is, indication in today's news, realizing in recession and if not improving will have worse activity; need to stay within budget guidelines and adhere to actual spending as necessary. Anything above and beyond needs Mayor and Comptroller approval.

Relocation of Human Services and Fire Marshal Offices to Main Street School – have had a great deal of discussion since VNA was dissolved and the impact on that building on Main Street where they were housed for maintenance, electrical, heat, etc. was not cost effective for two people in that building. As a result of discussions with the Superintendent there are rooms available and it will make it easier for senior citizens to have access to Human Services and the Fire Marshal will also be there. This move will save on winter upkeep and maintenance on current offices. Will talk with BOE relative to

amount of space using.

State Capitol – Property Tax Relief Meeting – Leeann Meyers and the Mayor were invited to participate in symposium at Legislative Office Building two weeks' ago with good discussion from panelists re property tax relief and sad component that nothing can be done this year to enact tax legislation to give property relief. Told Legislation have passed for municipalities options such as freeze in place and pilot component where municipality had motel/hotel within town on surcharge of local tax per room per evening and goods/services on tax for this community and keep tax for ourselves. Question impact on local tax payer to provide them tax relief and do not see equation; for now no legislation forthcoming. Talking changes in Washington which will bring relief to cities and towns. If money is forthcoming any project that is shovel ready will be considered and in regard to that we have been getting projects up and running, looking into and sending notices to Washington.

Comptroller Meetings with boards and Commissions – reviewed earlier.

Auditor's Report – setting up last phase; Comptroller met with them today to pick up remainder of outstanding issues; one of which was cemetery committee reports which have been brought forward; will receive information for final report which will come back for publication.

Homeland Security Grant for ATV Rescue Vehicle – secured and received notification \$9900 will be received; and in discussions we have additional approximate \$24,000 sitting there that is ours and have spoken with Paul Schwanka to put in application for necessary equipment.

Meeting with L. Wagner Regarding State/Federally Funded Grants – they handle our Small Cities and Towns Block Grant applications (STEAP) and hope we will have some money available for local community.

Back Tax Collections – Ted Scheidel could not be here but has reported back taxes have been increasing each day and a great deal of money has come in, over \$140,000 so far, and continues to come in. Grateful he is working with tax office to bring in back taxes to alleviate financial problems.

7. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

a. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville – you have talked about Mayor's reports and ask question re (1) Homeland Security Grant and doesn't police come under and could use it also for surveillance cameras; Mayor Festa stated it is a potential for that. Mrs. Church stated they had requested something and were told it could not come until next budget, and this is for safety into police department. (2) Back tax collections, thinks our Board of Finance and Dave Bertnagel and Ted Scheidel need to be thanked for the back taxes being collected more aggressively this year as they stayed on the tax collector. Know Vinny lost some help in his office by Ted taking that over and he needs to be complimented; Dave Bertnagel back in January when received list of back taxes it opened BOF eyes. These people need to be complimented because they have not let up in

asking questions. Ted went over and above his job in pulling these out and Sal Vitrano also in his work in collecting money. Too bad it wasn't done sooner and now is better than never. (3) Auditors report, will that be ready for the election; Mayor Festa stated it will be ready within the next month.

8. Appointments/Resignations:

- a. To accept the resignation of Mr. David Barbieri from the Capital Improvement Committee.

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Mr. David Barbieri from the Capital Improvement Committee with great regret, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated Dave gave this up to get on Charter Revision and help was needed there and he did this to help out. Vote: unanimous.

9. To Discuss and Take Action To Approve Statement Of Support Challenge of the National Guard and Reserve – Mayor Festa stated in packet is correspondence relative to explanation of this movement forward through US Conference of Mayors; information from email is self-explanatory and the question is if Plymouth is signing on as municipality in support of National Guard and Reserve relative to growing involvement in national security. They are attempting to get a nationwide movement of cities, towns and Mayor's, and want to "recognize the National Guard and Reserve as essential to the strength of our Nation and the well being of their cities. In the highest American tradition, the patriotic men and women of the National Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession. They train to respond to their community and their country in time of need. They deserve the support of every segment of our society." The National Guard and Reserve do not receive the same recognition as enlisted individuals in armed services and the Conference of Mayors is looking into giving recognition and support to these groups and individuals. Councilwoman Schenkel asked if this support statement is saying we will provide employment and will give flexibility to participate; Mayor Festa stated that would be part of it such as regular enlistees and draftees are entitled to. Councilman Ganesini stated Reserves and Guards have been put into the position, other than when major conflicts in World War II or Korea, and have been put to the test to be away from families and jobs, stressful on individuals and families and employers where no back up. Sacrifice giving to country deserves sacrifice the rest of us have to do; and look today in Iraq and Afghanistan where the majority are from Reserve and Guard. We are lucky in this area where no natural disasters and they are being called upon to assist civilians. Their roles deserve support and respect. Too many instances where people coming back and laws being broken in regard to employment and we should recognize them.

MOTION: To authorize the Mayor, Vincent Festa, to sign the Statement of Support document on behalf of the Town of Plymouth, by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

10. To Enter Into Executive Session For The Purpose of Union Contract Negotiation Considerations; AFSCME/UAW

MOTION: To go into Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. for the Purpose of Union contract negotiation considerations, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel

and the vote unanimous.

Mayor Festa stated the Council is out of Executive Session and back to the regular meeting at 7:44 p.m.

11. To Take Action, As Necessary, From Executive Session

MOTION: To accept the Contract for WPCA and Public Works for the Town of Plymouth by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau and the vote unanimous.

12. To Take Action On Resolution For Supplemental Agreement Between Town of Plymouth and the Connecticut Water Company (Water Booster Station – Industrial Park)

MOTION: “AGREEMENT dated this 2nd day of December 2009 between the Town of Plymouth (the Town), a municipal corporation located in the County of Litchfield, State of Connecticut, acting herein by its Mayor duly authorized, and The Connecticut Water Company (the Company), a corporation organized under a special charter of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut. WHEREAS, the Town is expanding the Plymouth Industrial Park (the Park) located off Napco Drive within the Town and requires water for domestic use and fire protection therein: WHEREAS, the Company is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) and has a franchise to supply water in the Town of Plymouth and presently supplies water to portions of the Town; WHEREAS, additional facilities to supply water to the Park expansion are needed; and WHEREAS, the Company cannot provide needed service to the Park expansion through its existing facilities or through an expansion thereof; NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promise contained herein and subject to the conditions set for in the original agreement between the Town and the Company dated the 22nd day of February 1972, amended as hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows: 1. Amend Paragraph 1 by adding the following: The Town shall cause to be constructed at its cost a water booster pump station (the Station) to supply water and public fire protection within the Park expansion. The Station shall be substantially as shown on a map entitled “Contract Drawings, Plymouth Industrial Park-Phase III, Water Booster Station” prepared by Maguire Group, Inc., New Britain, CT dated July 31, 2007, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. The Station shall include pumps, expansion tanks, generator, valves, piping controls and other appurtenances necessary for the operation of the Station. All Materials shall be as indicated in the contract documents. The Station shall be located in an easement to the Town. The Station shall be constructed in conformity with rules and regulations of the DPUC relating to public water systems and in accordance with good engineering practice. 2. Amend Paragraph 7, Section C by adding: Completion of the expanded system in conformity with this Agreement and to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company not later than September 5, 208. By Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski and the vote unanimous.

13. To Approve Town Council Meeting Schedule 2009

MOTION: To approve the Town Council meeting schedule for 2009 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated the meeting of November 4, 2009 will be a special meeting. Vote: unanimous.

14. Council Liaison Reports

- a. Councilman Ganesini – summarized meetings attended for Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning; WPCA cancelled; School Building. At I/W it was noted the State is looking for list of projects that could be started quickly as well as authorizations by I/W and P&Z, and Tony Lorenzetti was looking to get that list compiled and should be complimented as well as commission members for their input.
- b. Councilwoman Jandreau – ZBA did not meet; I/W met to discuss grant and O/Z Gedney property; Housing Authority; Fire Commission and Fire Marshal reports read into record. Board of Health and Human Services did not meet; Public Works, Mr. Lorenzetti's report did not come through; Mr. Schultz report read into record. Charter Revision met and took some votes for town manager form of government and appointed tax collector and town clerk.
- c. Councilwoman Schenkel – EDC meeting very productive and met new town planner, Khara Dodds; Blight Committee meeting; Board of Finance.
- d. Councilwoman Denski – Parks and Recreation noting Lake Winfield is the top priority and questioned when the Waterwheel park is complete who will be responsible for it; Mayor Festa stated he has discussed this with Public Works and Recreation, how the Charter references this and should a Facilities Manager be determined from current employees who will be responsible for lawn mowing, maintenance, etc. When the waterwheel is complete it will be a great undertaking to maintain this park and it will need to be well documented. Library Board, roof complete and inside looks good and believe it stayed within the budget; new community resource board up; art raffle going on. Questioned if Boards can do fundraisers. Mayor Festa stated they cannot do that and contribution would need to be in form of contribution through Comptroller's office and he will research further. Councilwoman Jandreau stated Human Services tried that and were told to stop, discussion held. BOE – CT Association of Public Schools and Superintendent awards given; will receive Award of Excellence from CABA for technology; THS sign will be marquee with orange/black and kangaroo on sides by Lauretano Design. Punch lists at high school are being worked on. NEASC gave preliminary report. PTA Council is sponsoring a comedy hypnotist on Friday, Dec 12th.

15. Public Comments

- a. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – (1) Human Services and Fire Marshal are moving to Main Street School, is this decided we will keep this property and why moving. Mayor Festa stated, no, the move is strictly for conservation purposes to cut costs where we can. Have a difficult time with snowplowing of walkways around building at Main Street and with Leeann being only one there during day, for clinics, etc and some health issues to take place for seniors it is much easier for them to walk over flat land of parking lot at school. Same thing for Jack and his department will move from 3rd floor to main floor and move is for the time being. (2) How are we dealing with elderly getting in with stairs. Mayor Festa stated it is flat and right down hallway from back parking lot. There will be privacy provided when the doctor comes in to do work with elderly people as well. (3) Heat exchanger behind the Eli Terry Middle School which came off and put up a new one with renovations and understand that may be moved to MSS and will that open asbestos and was that approved by anyone. Concern with heat exchanger because that money could have been used for new school instead of Eli Terry middle school.

b. Ralph Zovich, 4 Knight Lane – 1) as Chairman of the Board of Finance who has been stating concern on economic conditions. We have to maximize revenue and control costs and compliment the Mayor and Council for moving forward with these issues and feel spending freeze is important to continue as it does help to monitor discretionary spending. Issue with property tax relief - the reality is the State is looking at \$400 million deficit this year. Other issue commend is issue working on and collection of delinquent taxes. Concern to meeting held with P&Z, School Building, Mayor and Councilman Giancesini and Councilwoman Jandreau, the issue brought forward that we do not have enough money to build a track and finish sidewalks required by modified site plan and working on a compromise. The suggestion by the Comptroller who said until we have an absolute accounting of every nickel spent on the project, propose we allocate \$300,000 into a Reserve Account as encumbrance against the project which will cover all of the final change orders, road repairs, sidewalk up/down North Harwinton. Site plan is being presented to P&Z on 12/11 and encourage all members of the public to attend. He feels it is a good compromise. Made proposal on piece of property sitting next to the school parcel that was never intended to be a part of the project; voted to buy acreage of Roy property to have room for athletic field and never specification in education specs or in contract or referendum to use the Roy house. The site plan includes the property to relocate the barn and have acreage to build the track. The house sits on a postage stamp parcel and easement on land records for fire road. The house should be sold and proceeds of the sale of that residential property would need to be split with the state because the State reimbursed us when we bought that property. We sell the property and for what we gain on proceeds we use to cover difference of sidewalk; sidewalks need site lines and there are dangers going down to subdivision and extend sidewalks to Meghan Boulevard. If we don't build sidewalks now they will never get built. With support of Council and with the Town Attorney's help, we need to sell that Roy property. Financial issues - we have all heard about mortgage and all based on premise that home prices would rise; crisis trickled down to us; our status for municipal borrowing we will pay slightly higher municipal rate. On revenue side from State as it trickles to Plymouth, he learned of statistic which will have impact on us that 45% of all of the state income tax revenue comes from Fairfield County; and as investment banking firms are laying off and without that revenue, the State of CT is in a bind and need to cut expenses or raise other taxes. We receive 50% state funding in ECS, reimbursement and other state grant money. If the State is not collecting their revenues and cannot raise taxes in other areas, they will cut back the flow to surrounding towns that share in those revenues. We are looking at bleak budget year coming up. No tax increase next year will be highly unlikely. To minimize impact; any lobbying the Mayor can do at the State Capitol is needed. We will have to do something. He has promoted tax sales which is long overdue; we may actually need to auction off some properties such as American Modular; if we don't start tax sales and accelerate foreclosures the mill rate will have to go up on everyone else. Our credit rating is good; we are not talking about raiding fund balance; we still have industry and people in town are working. We need to increase collection of delinquent taxes, look at ways to put property back on grand list, need to sell lots in industrial park. Good news - auditors report this month on December 11th and the auditor will put a clear perspective on our current financial situation and whether plans for going forward are appropriate. We were supposed to have annual report for fy 6/30

available at election and some delays and it will go out for printing soon. Councilman Giancesini asked – (a) now that the VNA is dissolved what will that do to the next cycle; Ralph stated already adjusted downward the revenue to put expenses in balance; now by dissolving the VNA we have no more ongoing expenditure and do have some receivables. They are trying to go back 2 years for Medicare billing. Do not anticipate a loss because they ceased operation and hope to recover some of the old receivables. (b) on sidewalk with plan to take CL&P energy grant, that will need to go to referendum or town meeting. Ralph stated when that money came back to the town, the BOF noted no approved project to apply money to and Dave put it into a reserve account similar to capital projects and we would need approval or recommendation from the Council on what they would like done with the money. It would be a resolution from Council with approval from finance and then to town meeting. (c) looks like thought is to provide grants to States for infrastructure improvement; our town the sidewalks are closest and if in January the Congress passes legislation this is something to get done quickly and money into system and we could see entire sidewalk deal funded. Ralph stated there are a number of projects through public works that are in phases; if Congress allocates money for infrastructure, Tony has two projects funded under local capital outlays. One is reconstruction of Seymour Road and surveys and preliminary engineering work are getting done and if the federal government funds that we would widen, straighten and have sidewalks. Another project before DOT is to remove hairpin curve on South Main, Garber's corner, and then the intersection at Agney and realignment.

c. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – not to burst bubble but Senator Colapietro on tv was stating when passed bill for water company property that at least half had to be used for school which is limited to 26 acres; we may get stuck paying for Roy property and to make loans for it you are ahead of the game. If not funded for \$435,000 we will have to sell and asked Tom and he said at least half the land from the water department needs to be used for the school and when Jeter Cook and Jepson came they said they would only take 18 acres and need to look at this before making plans to sell. If we need to pay for it it may be a good place for police and fire department. If it is costing the taxpayer you will need to find a way to get it back to them.

16. Council Comments

a. Councilwoman Jandreau – went to Veteran's Day memorial at park and very nice service and thanks the people who put it on.

b. Councilwoman Schenkel - the community is aware the animal rescue foundation had a fire and received call from Felix Borkowski who is concerned about them rebuilding and wants to make sure the organization gets back on its feet. They do have insurance money for rebuilding.

c. Councilman Giancesini - second that; he was coming out of IGA and smelled fumes and it did not take long for fire guys to get there. This town is very caring and supportive of people and organization in need and we will continue to do so in future.

d. Councilwoman Jandreau – Human Services is in need of people to help with Christmas program for children and a lot of teenagers in need and they need clothes. It

will be a cold winter and hard for many.

e. Councilwoman Denski – commend finance board in advance as it will be tough budget year.

17. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Gudeczauskas, Council Clerk