

1. Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Town Council, **January 6, 2009** 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, Mayor Vin Festa, Robin Gudeczauskas, Council Clerk, and Sal Vitrano, Town Attorney.
2. Fire Exits – Noted for the record
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Acceptance of Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting Dated December 2, 2008
MOTION: To accept the Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting dated December 2, 2008 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski and the vote unanimous with Councilman Sekorski abstaining.
5. Council Rules and Procedures
6. Mayor's Report –
 - a. Town Offices, Human Services & Fire Marshal will begin relocation to Main Street School mid January. All VNA files will be relocated to storage area in Town Hall basement. 244 Main Street will be put into winterized mode.
 - b. Back Tax Collections – Tax Collector, Mayor's Office (Administrative Assistant) and the Town Attorney continue to collect back taxes, in the area of \$100,000 has been collected and an ongoing process.
 - c. Grants – Mayor's office and Town Planner (Khara Dodds) are working on grant applications for STEAP money (\$500,000 for streetscape design) and Small Cities and Towns funds. Economic Development Commission and Inland/Wetland and Conservation Commission are working on a grant application as well. Tony Lorenzetti (Public Works Director) is working on several projects in anticipation of availability of "stimulus" funding which was proposed by President-elect Obama. Concern is shovel ready criteria and will be reviewed. Parks & Recreation Director Brian Forman and the Public Works Department are investigating environmental programs through private businesses as well as the State DEP and grant applications regarding Lake Winfield.
 - d. Correspondence was received from Governor Rell regarding "shovel-ready" criteria for anticipated federal economic stimulus package which was responded to with request to reconsider criteria (correspondence included in Council packet).
 - e. Congressman Chris Murphy requested a meeting to discuss issues affecting Plymouth noting discussion centered on unemployment, health coverage issues, the state of the economy, town projects, the status of current projects and projected projects. Congressman Murphy committed his office to any assistance we may need. The Mayor expressed his concern as a community that Plymouth does not have funding as other communities to get their projects shovel ready and we should not be penalized. If some type of economic stimulus package is available, it should be equally shared by all municipalities. He is responding back to the Governor and State Senators, State Representatives and congressional people as follow through and has had talks with CCM, COST, and both concur on concern on shovel ready mentality. CCM sent listing of projects submitted throughout the state and the Governor sent it back to CCM with rejection note.
 - f. Senate Bill 120 passed by CT Gen. Assembly – allows for, among other items, municipalities to establish a one-time amnesty program to accelerate receipt of revenue

(for Town Council consideration). Allocation was to allow for municipalities to collect municipal tax on service and goods and see no purpose because it provides another avenue of tax revenue for people already stressed from taxes. One time tax amnesty program is for consideration and if Council is interested he will talk to the tax collector and have her move forward.

g. Building Permits/Tax Rolls – several properties “permitted” over the last couple of years were not registered with the Assessor’s office, therefore these properties were not taxed; issue is being corrected. There is a cooperative effort with Assessor and Building office and overtime is set aside to get permitted properties on tax rolls.

Councilwoman Jandreau asked (a) whether the one time tax amnesty program means they do not pay interest; Mayor Festa responded, yes, you can give amnesty for that for one time deal to pay taxes without interest and the thought behind it is you are not collecting anything as it is now and you may jolt people into paying taxes if they do not have to pay interest. (b) building permits, if people got permits for whatever they did how come it did not go to the Assessor’s office; Mayor Festa stated there were a number of people in that office taking care of secretarial duties and due to people in/out some things did not get followed through, and that totaled approximately \$55,000. There is also movement in the Personnel Director’s office to look at training session and qualification of positions and changing job description. There were permits coming in but not enough details to know how many were being permitted. (c) are you able to move Human Services and the Fire Marshal in this month; Mayor Festa stated, yes, will make final arrangements this week. Councilman Sekorski: (a) the Governor’s responses to concern on shovel ready are vague and we do have a shovel ready project on South Main Street; Mayor Festa stated that project is in the works already, a commitment for monies and covered; (b) so anything already going will not be considered; Mayor Festa stated when shovel ready, everything committed, all preliminary, design and engineering work is done and construction company ready to go. Chris Murphy indicated they would be going to Washington and they had not looked at language for this yet. He noted the list of CCM projects and some took the easy way out and used roadway in community as a way to collect money such as road work and resurfacing. This community has many projects in dire need of assistance and we should not be penalized. Councilwoman Jandreau noted on CCM report it says Plymouth and stuff thrown out; Mayor Festa stated it was kicked back and to say shovel ready project would be the Waterwheel but we would not be able to use \$350,000 grant money but that would be closest thing. Have started with Seymour Road in terms of surveying work and will do engineering next but behind eight ball. Other concern is the fact that some of the major cities in the State that have projects going forward and will be rewarded; Bristol has had progress made in their projects but ready to go. Councilwoman Denski stated with regard to CCM, correspondence notes a CT town meeting on January 21st and requested the Mayor get more information on that for her.

7. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

a. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – when talked about moving two departments to Main Street School, she thinks of combining with ideas from other towns and Plainville and move Tax Collector and Assessor into one office; if people go to window of the Tax Collector and there is a problem, they are sent to the Assessor; could cross train two

assistants to help during busy period and it would open big office. That big office could take Tony Lorenzetti, Cathy and Pam Pelletier into that office. Any dealings with office they can go to big window which can handle plans, etc. and that would open 3 offices in the town and one office could have the Personnel Director for privacy and he wouldn't have to share office with Comptroller. You can put Human Services in one office and have Fire Marshal in the other office. Now you have covered three offices and put everyone under one roof. It would make it easier with Tony to stay in contact with his workers. Also it would make accountability for permits and other items; also, cost saving as your public works does permits for dump/transfer station and instead of her collecting money, the permit given and brought to Tax Collector's office to be put through and alleviate money in different offices. At the same time this is a temporary fix for Human Services and Fire Marshal; if you already moved it is cost of moving again. You move in here and we have it all covered in one roof and not needing to move again. From what read in paper they are looking to make MSS retail and PSS housing so we are wasting money by moving twice. Move once and we have them and it opens things up. You have utilized space have. Another suggestion made was Fire Marshal was already here downstairs and is there a reason why he cannot be put there. The reason bringing it up, is at 8:15 last Tuesday morning she was going to therapy and the Fire Marshal was at Lucky Cup; only part time position and may not sound like much but she is accountable for her hours and to be hither and yonder, way of curbing things in and getting under one roof, make simpler, cross train; they could end up working as a team. Also, realize cannot say the number of properties under this thing but the public should have a list of one's not turned over to the assessor's office, public knowledge and should be released through papers and we can figure out how much, the public has right to answer. Mayor Festa responded we do not know yet how many there are and that is what is being worked on. When we have an answer the public will have an answer. Thanks for comments but as for the Fire Marshal previous in basement and cannot put where no handicap means. Appreciate comments on movement of offices, and putting public works under one roof and they need to be in same location but cannot put in space referring simply because equipment will not fit in space talked about. There is no room to put anything else because of equipment that goes along with offices. The opportunity to close down house on 244 Main Street is upon us and we can save money through utilities and fuel. We will not sell off PSS or MSS tomorrow, it is a temporary fix but no matter what we do it will cost a few dollars. Cannot put Leeann here with additional space because she has clinics and needs privacy. Town hall is tight with space and the only thing he can do is take a room like this, divide and then there is no room left for meetings.

8. Appointments/Resignations:

- a. To accept the resignation of Debra Blanchette from the ATV Ad Hoc Committee

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Debra Blanchette from the ATV Ad Hoc Committee, by Councilwoman Jandreau with regret; second Councilwoman Schenkel with regret and the vote unanimous.

- b. To reappoint Michael J. Maffia to an alternate position on the Conservation/

Inland/Wetland Commission; term to expire 9/8/2011.

MOTION: To reappoint Michael J. Maffia to an alternate position on the Conservation/ Inland/Wetland Commission with a term to expire 9/8/2011 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Gianesini. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated he has done a great job and happy he wants to serve another term; Councilman Gianesini stated a point at one meeting when they were discussing fill brought in without a permit and applicant said fill was there when purchased the property; Mike had tripped up and went on Google earth and saw by date that fill was not there and he took time to do that and he is a contributor and comes up with ideas and does an awful lot of site walks and feels he is a real asset to the Commission. Vote: unanimous.

- c. To reappoint George F. Andrews, Jr. to the Water Pollution Control Authority; term to expire 1/21/2012

MOTION: To reappoint George F. Andrews, Jr. to the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term to expire 1/21/2012, by Councilman Sekorski; second Councilwoman Jandreau. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated she did not know Mr. Andrews until he came before Charter Revision and he is certainly a very well qualified environmental engineer and we are lucky to have him. Councilman Gianesini noted he runs meetings very well, has a steady personality, listens and organizes responses when there is public comment. Very considerate of people and explains what he will do; ideal Chair for that Commission. Vote: unanimous.

- d. To reappoint Mr. Philip J. Armbruster to the Water Pollution Control Authority; term to expire on 1/21/2012

MOTION: To reappoint Mr. Philip J. Armbruster to the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term to expire on 1/21/2012, by Councilman Sekorski; second Councilwoman Jandreau. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated she has known Mr. Armbruster for many years and he knows what he is talking about, on Commission for a long time and glad he wants to stay on this Commission. Vote: unanimous.

- e. To consider a request for change in appointment: Edwin C. Smith from regular member of Zoning Board of Appeals to an alternate position; term to expire 2/19/201

MOTION: To accept the request for change in appointment of Edwin C. Smith from regular member of Zoning Board of Appeals to an alternate position with a term to expire 2/19/2010, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilman Sekorski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated Mr. Smith was caught in between a rock and a hard place, cannot make regular meetings and happy he requested change. Vote: unanimous.

- 9. Take Action to Refund property taxes: GMAC, \$211.82; Ronald R. Gravel, \$69.23; Honda Lease Trust, \$93.22; James F. Lynch, \$207.00

MOTION: To Refund property taxes to GMAC, \$211.82; Ronald R. Gravel, \$69.23; Honda Lease Trust, \$93.22; James F. Lynch, \$207.00 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

10. To Take Action to Adopt Resolution for \$300,000 STEAP Grant (Rt. 6 Streetscape)

MOTION: To take action to adopt Resolution for \$300,000 STEAP Grant by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau asked if this is new years' STEAP grant for the next year and what do they want to do with this one; Mayor Festa stated, yes, and continuation of sidewalks. They are looking at plan enacted relative to streetscape which is lighting, curbing along street/sidewalk area; benches, plantings, etc., and continuation of total project having to do with Plan of Development and village atmosphere creating in downtown district. It is total concept of sidewalk which is part of streetscape. Total project from waterwheel site to Allen Street and area referring and continuation of that in concert with grant from CT Tourism and Culture Department. Councilman Sekorski questioned whether they need to reference document and read into record. Attorney Vitrano stated they can reference to motion to adopt resolution as per document in Town Council package. Councilwoman Jandreau withdrew her Motion; Councilwoman Schenkel withdrew her second.

MOTION: To adopt the Resolution as presented in the Council packet "Department of Economic and Community Development State of Connecticut Certified Resolution of the Legislative Body WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. 4-66c as amended by PA 07-7, Section 41, of the June Special Session. The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Plymouth make an application to the State for \$300,000 in order to undertake the Plymouth Route 6 Streetscape Improvement and to execute an Assistance Agreement. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Plymouth Town Council 1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the State Assistance imposed by C.G.S. 4-66c as amended by PA 07-7, Section 41, of the June Special Session. 2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by The Town of Plymouth in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 is hereby approved and that Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr. is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of Town of Plymouth", by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Vote: Councilwoman Denski, yes; Councilman Ganesini, yes; Councilwoman Jandreau, yes; Councilwoman Schenkel, yes; Councilman Sekorski, yes. Motion carried unanimous.

11. To Take Action To Adopt Resolution for Tax Abatement and Relocation Grant For Global Machine Brokers, LLC

MOTION: To take action to adopt a resolution for tax abatement and relocation grant for Global Machine Brokers, LLC by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau asked if this is the normal amount of a

tax abatement and relocation; Mayor Festa stated the percentage has to do with assessed value and relocation varies on how much equipment is relocated. Vote: unanimous.

MOTION: To adopt the resolution “RESOLUTION WHEREAS, Global Machine Brokers, LLC has expressed an intent to purchase property in the Plymouth Business Park, Phase III, specifically Lot #18, for the purpose of constructing a 12,800 square foot manufacturing facility with a value exceeding \$600,000.00; and WHEREAS, the business, Global Machine Brokers, LLC has requested financial assistance in said business; and WHEREAS, the Tax Incentive Committee has made its recommendation for a financial incentive package; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PLYMOUTH: That the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to enter into a tax abatement agreement and relocation grant between the Town of Plymouth and Global Machine Brokers, LLC for an amount up to fifty (50) percent of the assessed value for three (3) years in duration for the tax abatement and a relocation grant in the amount of \$18,000.00 to be paid with proceeds of the lot sale. And further said tax abatement agreement and relocation grant should be reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney.” by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilwoman Jandreau. Discussion: Councilwoman Denski stated she is impressed they mention in there the reason moving to town is because of incentive and we are bringing in new business. Councilwoman Schenkel stated many towns are hungry for business and there are other cities who can offer more money but Plymouth offers element of family and home community for business and is what intrigues them to come here. Vote: Councilwoman Denski, yes; Councilman Giancesini, yes; Councilwoman Jandreau, yes; Councilwoman Schenkel, yes; Councilman Sekorski, yes. Motion carried unanimous.

12. To Set Date To Take Action On Tabled Ordinances

Mayor Festa stated the Council has had ordinances under discussion for some time and offers the date of January 20th for a Special Town Council meeting to discuss tabled ordinances such as Public Works, Local Vendor Preference, Sidewalk, Code of Ethics, Prospect Street School acceptance and Water Company land at the high school.

MOTION: to take tabled Ordinances off the table and to hold a Special Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7 p.m., Town Hall, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilman Sekorski noted some of those issues are ordinances in place vs. some not acted upon and asked if the Mayor can give a brief status of each in the Council packet. Vote: unanimous.

13. To Consider Request for Commemorative Action “In Memorium”

Mayor Festa stated there is a letter in the packet from a former citizen in the community regarding request for consideration to have family remembered for their significant works in the community. This particular letter is one of several and not for this one individual but others. There has been discussion at school building and Board of Education meetings for naming the auditorium and/or a field on behalf of someone in the community. Citing the fact remiss in mentioning other people as well of time and energies and looking at ideas as we move forward with considering doing citizens memorial for plaque that would house blanks to have people honored for efforts without slighting anyone and would be done at appropriate time/place. In number of areas they have a number of different displays, some do a tree of life and trunk of tree base and leaf as memoriam; other communities do sidewalks and know veterans talked about brick

sidewalk and memorial. Open for suggestions and ideas to move forward. The concern the individual has in letter is from wonderful opportunity presented by family member and there are others and a point where we recognize every individual. His office was asked to start heroes program and some things on books to look at. Councilwoman Denski asked if we can we do something at the waterwheel with plaque. Mayor Festa stated you can. Councilwoman Schenkel stated when the Beautification Committee, now Historical Commission, came with idea of bricks because various town people could be recognized and the family can buy a brick, everyone can be recognized and way to fix past for those not recognized and in future those can be recognized. Councilman Sekorski noted this is a issue struggling with for years and years, not recent, and when he was on the Board of Education one member stated we will run out of fields before people to dedicate to and at that time did memorial field with multiple person type of approach. This is a delicate, important issue and multiple things to consider. There is issue of funding and who gets on plaque. Bricks, family purchases brick and we should think about it in regards to village district. Think about it and come up with policy or mechanism on how to get done. Councilwoman Schenkel stated she went to Southington and they have bricks, which have different messages, when walk down sidewalk and it is very interesting and you learn who helped make history there. Councilwoman Jandreau stated there are a lot of people who no longer have families here; who will decide this person did or did not do something for the town which is different than buying a brick to memorialize someone you love. Discussion held and further input can be relayed to the Mayor's office.

14. Council Comments

- a. Councilwoman Jandreau wishes everyone a happy, healthy, prosperous new year.
- b. Councilman Sekorski asked question as he did not see in any notes of the current status of PSS; Mayor Festa stated by January 20th Mr. Lorenzetti will have complete report, oil tank issue relative to pump and working on that issue, has been over repeatedly making sure place is of sound physical condition and no water leaking and maintained in reasonable manner. Councilman Sekorski, did tour all facilities and as part of report will they make recommendation to the Facilities Committee; Mayor Festa stated Facilities Committee will receive report next week by BL Companies and initial review of environmental and due diligence reporting and next week marketability on what can/should be done with particular buildings as well as market value.
- c. Councilwoman Jandreau stated there were two things in packet on Lake Winfield and was that for information; Mayor Festa stated that is what Brian Forman is working on through Parks and Recreation, and everyone working at grant applications.
- d. Councilman Gianesini stated looking at new technology today and the way Obama did last campaign, he thinks we are missing opportunity in town when talk about people and what they did. For new people, some would like to know history, what happened and think there would have to be a committee/group/team or DVD to produce on the Town of Plymouth that can mention things like when Lassy was Selectman, fire house in town hall, etc. When it comes to sports there could be section on like the contribution Mike Glowa and his dad made; we could do new high school and growth in industry that went on. This is an excellent opportunity to have some people piece together and get the high school to work on it and put something together for new people coming to town. Understand Keith Rafaniello is no longer here but his replacement is quite capable

and ideal thing to get citizens to come up with names, and contribute photos or video clips on what they have. Problem having with Lake Winfield and can periodically update but once crank out can make copies and give to people and way to recognize the community as it is and people, contributions and history. Councilwoman Denski stated Mr. Stockwell wants to do that, and this is a little town with a lot to offer.

15. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas, Clerk of the Town Council