

1. The Special Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Town Council, **February 9, 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. Town Council Rules and Procedures

5. Mayor's Report –

a. Departmental Meeting with Department Heads/Supervisors: Discussion regarding budgetary issues; economic stimulus package, current budget issues, prioritizing budget guidelines for FY 2009-2010 budget. Major concern on current and anticipated budget is looking to keep at zero percent increase again this year hoping to forego need to furlough or layoff staff; freeze on spending and looking at issues re keep all expenses down in all areas. Have talked about if we do happen to be lucky to receive stimulus money where would it go; 09-10 budget preparation, Comptroller and Mayor have asked department heads for worse case scenario and if reduce by 10% what effect would it have and to come up with plan "a, b, c" -- with "c" worse scenario for layoffs and golden handshake; "b", look at staff and reduce positions not necessary to keep town hall going; "a" plan is to hold everything to close as possible and keep moving as have been running on zero increase this year. Have had a great deal of discussion and input from department heads in developing narratives for budget and fortunately good working relationship with employees and they are working to make sure budgets at zero and some at minus increases. Have had individual employ giving back hours of time and not putting in for overtime and working for snow days off. Employees working and very cooperative.

b. Back Tax Collections – Tax Collector, Mayor's Office (Administrative Assistant) and the Town Attorney continue to collect back taxes. Have looked at \$1.3 million to keep on current budget for coming year and to that point in time with back tax, interest we have collected \$350,000 in back tax with interest from October until now. Give Ted Scheidel a great deal of credit and working with tax office. Do have a long way to go. Looking at potential of picking \$1.7 million and hope that will be enough to tide over next years' budget. Moving forward to include legal counsel office in trying to get money back into coffers.

c. Grants – Mayor's office submitted applications to State Departments for grant money for Lake Winfield, Waterwheel Park/Streetscape, Health Programs for Seniors, Small Cities and Towns Rehab Programs; Mayor's Office will continue to work with town department officials to submit grant applications on behalf of the town; and have had some people coming in offering assistance to get grants moving forward and will keep apprised.

d. CCRPA – Mayor's Office submitted projects for "shovel ready" consideration to regional office for submission to the State and submitted to COST; have taken three projects forward to the state for consideration.

e. Congressman Chris Murphy – announced the potential allocation of "stimulus" dollars for education in the amount of \$733,000.00; he will continue with efforts to secure federal assistance for communities within his district. That would be in two years if approved and Chris will move

forward to continue efforts at federal level for assistance to the community.

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); requested the Tax Collector appear before Town Council in March to discuss this issue.

g. Building Permits/Tax Rolls – Status of Corrections/Revenues added to Grand List. Will have impact on what is added to grand list for coming year. Building department with enforcement office, inspector and secretary as well as assessor's office working to correct problems on particular permits stored away rather than sending to assessor office; moving forward and should see some increase in grand list.

h. COST Conference – Connecticut Conference of Small Towns; report on items of interest/concern. Great presentation by COST to look at shovel ready programs and representative from legislature present to give presentation and was more of a battle of politicians; concern so noted by audience relative for them to come back with alternatives to this issue affecting financials of each community and they will have budget presentation in June; the attitude of federal and state level is this coming year will be a bad one but 2010-2011 will be worse; need to watch expenditures as best we can. Today received news diesel fuel down a great deal and have cemented price range of half of what we paid this year.

i. Correspondence – Letters of Appreciation to LeeAnn Meyers, Town Hall Employees, Keith Golnik for community service/assistance re work done at East Church at cemetery work and at Allentown for taking on work voluntary and becoming sexton at St. Matthews and so noted by letters and on behalf of town thanked personally.

j. Safety Committee Meetings – Bill Bellotti, Human Resource Director, is facilitating monthly safety meetings and training workshops to provide assistance to employees to help reduce Worker's Compensation claims. Program and committee member's changes monthly and working with Kerma to reduce claims and to date have been pleased with outcome and percentage of decrease in compensation claims Plymouth has shown.

6. Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

7. Appointments/Resignations:

- a. To accept the resignation of Donna Borysewicz from the Parks & Recreation Commission

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Donna Borysewicz from the Parks & Recreation Commission, by Councilwoman Jandreau with regrets; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

- b. To reappoint Karen Zagurski to the Parks & Recreation Commission; term to expire 11/05/2011.

MOTION: To reappoint Karen Zagurski to the Parks & Recreation Commission; term to expire 11/05/2011 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated Karen did a great job as chair and will do a great job as regular member and thanked for her term of chair and the town should be very

grateful to her. Councilwoman Denski noted she agreed 100%. Councilman Gianesini stated she served in a period of turmoil and handled herself with great decorum. Vote: unanimous.

- c. To reappoint Barbara K. Rockwell to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire 11/05/2011

MOTION: To reappoint Barbara K. Rockwell to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire 11/05/2011 by Councilman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated Barbara has also done a great job and happy to see they want to reapply. Councilwoman Denski stated as liaison both Barbara and Karen give great strength to the commission. Vote: unanimous.

- d. To reappoint Linda L. Kazmierski to the Parks & Recreation Commission; term to expire on 11/05/2011

MOTION: To reappoint Linda L. Kazmierski to the Parks & Recreation Commission; term to expire on 11/05/2011 by Councilman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated again Linda is very strong in supporting chair and vice chair during turmoil last couple of years and deserve reappointment. Councilwoman Denski stated she puts her heart and soul into everything she does. Vote: unanimous.

- e. To reappoint Patrick Herzing to the Planning & Zoning Commission; term to expire 2/12/2012

MOTION: To reappoint Patrick Herzing to the Planning & Zoning Commission; term to expire 2/12/2012 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated she serves as liaison and Patrick is very knowledgeable and sticks up for the town and is very good with people and doing a great job and serves reappointment. Councilwoman Schenkel stated this is a really tough commission and walking a fine line on what is right for the town and right for the public and a job he has grown into and has done a great job and should give support. Councilman Gianesini stated he is sharing liaison, and noted Country Gardens in Wolcott going on for a long time and he stuck with developer and number of times talking and pressure to pull bond and agonizing sitting there session after session and they worked way through it and roads are in, certificate of occupancy given out. Patrick is quite demanding but also quiet understanding and will cooperate with people when they make an effort. Vote: unanimous.

- f. To reappoint Lawrence Deschaine to the Planning & Zoning Commission; term to expire 2/19/2012.

MOTION: To reappoint Lawrence Deschaine to the Planning & Zoning Commission; term to expire 2/19/2012 by Councilwoman Jandreau, second Councilman Sekorski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated Larry is a great guy, doing a great job and happy he is there and wants to stay. Councilman Gianesini stated Larry is a stabilizing mature influence and when things get warm he tends to mollify the situation and never seen it necessary

where need to call police and have seen when things are hot but to be expected and wholly recommends reappointment. Vote: unanimous.

g. To reappoint Keith Golnik to the Police Commission; term to expire 1/14/2012.

MOTION: To reappoint Keith Golnik to the Police Commission; term to expire 1/14/2012 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated how can we not keep Keith, he is good guy and does a good job. Councilwoman Denski stated he gives his heart and soul. Councilwoman Schenkel stated he is a great influence on commission and stability making nice to work with. Councilman Gianesini stated mention not only a couple of issues puts time into but recall Planning & Zoning when discussion held on what would happen with track up there and representing students to make sure we kept on top and looks like going in and people like him showing up and voicing opinion and rallying people and important in community of our size. Mayor Festa stated that Ann Tuleja, Chairman, is not here due to illness but did send note that he has been a great asset to the commission and defends and supports renomination wholeheartedly as he goes above and beyond call of duty and does job diligent and with great deal of valor. Vote: unanimous.

h. To appoint Michael Ganem to the Parks & Recreation Commission; term to expire 11/8/11.

MOTION: To appoint Michael Ganem to the Parks & Recreation Commission; term to expire 11/8/11 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Denski. Discussion: Councilwoman Jandreau stated everyone knows Michael and if he applied to be there he will do good job, good worker and good person to be on this Commission. Councilwoman Schenkel stated he is a lifelong servant to this community and thinks he will make a wonderful addition to the commission. Vote: unanimous.

8. Take Action to Refund property taxes: Todd E. Bednaz, \$9.24; Robert J. Luther, \$100.05; Joseph A. Santorso, Jr., \$40.15; Schultz Corp., \$673.04.

MOTION: To Refund property taxes: Todd E. Bednaz, \$9.24; Robert J. Luther, \$100.05; Joseph A. Santorso, Jr., \$40.15; Schultz Corp., \$673.04 by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

9. To Take Action to Adopt Resolution for Local Bridge Program, State Project No. 9110-0013 – Mayor Festa stated that project adopted in August 2007 under the previous administration and needs to be resubmitted under current administration which is a DOT requirement every time you have a new administration. Council need to do reading of resolution and paperwork that follows is recertification of supplemental application process.

MOTION: To take action to adopt the Resolution by Councilwoman Jandreau and read into record “Resolution Be it RESOLVED, that, Vincent Festa, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Plymouth is hereby authorized to sign the LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION on behalf of the TOWN OF PLYMOUTH for Town Line Road over Hancock Brook, Bridge No. 110013.” Second, Councilwoman Schenkel. Vote: Councilwoman Denski, yes; Councilman Gianesini, yes; Councilwoman Jandreau, yes; Councilwoman Schenkel, yes and Councilwoman Sekorski, yes. Motion unanimous.

10. To Take Action To Approve Memorandum of Agreement Among State of Connecticut, Dept. of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, and The Town of Plymouth – Mayor Festa stated material in packet is relative to memorandum and consideration to put into record although rather lengthy.

MOTION: Councilman Sekorski, To put into effect “Memorandum of Agreement Among The State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Coordinating Regional Planning Organization (“RPO”), Council of Governments Central Naugatuck Valley, The DEMHS Region 5 Regional Emergency Planning Team, And The Town of Plymouth” and further described in Amendment in Packet this date and submitted as written including Appendix A; second by Councilwoman Jandreau. Discussion: Councilman Gianesini asked if the Mayor was aware if this is for police cars and fire vehicles or number given to us. Mayor Festa responded he does not know what is coming of it yet and is in contact with Paul Schwanka from his involvement and when he gets information he will share with Council. Councilman Sekorski stated without approval of this we are not eligible for consideration under terms of agreement and need to submit this part of protocol to be considered based on needs, etc. Vote: Councilman Sekorski, yes; Councilwoman Schenkel, yes; Councilwoman Jandreau, yes; Councilman Gianesini, yes; Councilwoman Denski, yes.

11. To Discuss CCM Energy Purchasing and Efficiency Programs

Mayor Festa stated we have two gentlemen from CCM with presentation and handout for Council and introduced Kevin and Andy. Andy Marola stated his presentation, short and to the point, is relative to the program they have to offer noting these are difficult economic times and has good news from economic standpoint. The purpose of the programs, purchasing and efficiency, (1) pay less for energy use; (2) use less energy when have those going which will drive costs down and the two programs are important and work well together. Have been at this for over 5 years, successfully, having done contract for electricity purchasing in CT for 125 towns and school districts. Why join..competition is key and they do procurements by having supplier competing to offer best terms and conditions on contract and best price can get. Need to have a good contract to sign and need to know contract. With this program you start with contract that are competitive with suppliers and then go to market; energy markets are great; make decision now to make step is opportunity and important time historically to get in and say you like pricing and want it for future budgets. In 2006 increase which talks about generation part of electric bill which was deregulated in 1998 (page 2 of handout reviewed) on purchasing program. To get new rates in place needed competitive bid down day after Katrina; program offers more flexibility and if you like price in a particular month from a particular supplier will recommend, otherwise will say hold off. Now is a good energy market. Figure at bottom \$4 million savings in 2007; annualized saving \$4.5 million in 2008. If stayed with utility company those participating would have spent \$4.5 million extra with utility company. Comparisons, Bristol is in and results last year saved \$96,000 in program. Obviously Plymouth is a smaller community and cannot promise \$96,000 in savings. The smart thing to do, non obligation to do and if do not like price not obligated to sign contract but do encourage to explore options. Purchase program question: Councilman Gianesini (1) negotiate on monthly basis or term; Andy, fixed term with 1, 3, 4, 5 year fixed pricing and choice of supplier, length of term and price. (2) do you find community involved since do not force to pick particular

supplier or do you find bulk will go with one or spread out uniformly or 80% use one. Andy responded he would not say 80% use one but 75-80% have opted for 5 year contract. Energy prices long term are usually locked in so that one item in budget will know what it is. Andy reviewed next program, efficiency, which is training to help reduce energy use which reduces cost. Program goes through 2 steps and first, energy benchmarking, and rates piece of equipment and how efficient vs. another for the same. EPA has data base for buildings and they will benchmark our buildings in comparison to similar in this part of country. It is on a scale of 1 to 100 and will do process and come back with report telling what our building is. If 75 we are an energy qualified building and no cost for this process. The other thing they do is have engineers go through building and figure reason why the building scored what it did, and have explanation why it adds up to and report will state benchmarks, what engineer found and what can be done to improve. If get involved in program, reviewed installation period, and tell what they can do with amount of money spending today and how to make it spent efficiently. If energy use goes down while making improvements in program every bit of savings accomplished during installation stays with community. After installation period is over have (a) utility bills which will be less, approximately 30% in case in packet; (b) municipal lease, guarantee savings created from equipment installed in building will cover lease payment and if do not save, they cut check for \$5 each and every year of program. If exceed and save more than stated, that extra money stays with community. Any excess savings will stay with community to help reduce costs and tax dollars. Have that situation for program (7-10 years) whatever is acceptable financial term for the town. This is designed mutually and the town us involved in what the program will look like. Will have better, more efficient equipment; program is not obligation and only cost involved is if the Town decides to do it you are redirecting dollars spending now for lease to cover cost of equipment and hopefully nothing else except margin of savings back to community. Not a new concept but CCM version of concept made better. Councilwoman Schenkel (1) stated savings of \$96,000 in one year in Bristol; did they do upgrades. Andy responded that was on purchasing program; (2) first program is broker for several services; Andy, electric and natural gas; (3) incentive to upgrade energy efficiency through windows, furnace, roof whatever to make efficient and not allow energy to waste. Andy stated he is not promising to put in new windows or roof on building but if it uses energy they will look at it. (4) when you buy freezer package, buy in bulk, if you throw in freezer your meat will stay colder if buy freezer. Andy: now you are paying bills, electricity to CL&P, necessity and cannot operate without; they are saying if pay less for electricity need to use; efficiency is not use so much kilowatts and reduce by having a furnace 96 % efficient and that represents "x" units of energy which will save money. If you save that today in environment where costs rise, your actual savings will increase. That is extra and have done 5 phases with Naugatuck schools and town paid for from savings; compare what would happen if did nothing vs. what you are working with and budget would have been \$1 million more simply because osott of energy more. (5) with the lease program how much are you getting for improvement out of savings degree. Andy, zero. (6) Depreciation of equipment, what is new energy efficient appliance come out and if already invested. Andy responded they look at upfront costs of equipment and how much to operate and they do calculation. Will do analysis on equipment, i.e. boiler with 40 year life span and 15 year program and life

span is 25 years more of municipal lease. Lessee is the town and them helping town competitively bid money and they will help get lowest interest rate. There is nothing behind scenes where making money on money. If you have capital dollars to do this that is the best way. This program says forget capital dollar, what is it costing today and if they get it to cost less will that cover cost of new stuff and can come up with program that pays for itself. Councilman Gianesini (1) aspects of second part of program, energy efficiency, sounds similar to those offered by CL&P and United Illuminating and the only thing coming down road in technology and many years before come out; if going into lease no super new technology will come out in fear investment wasted. Andy responded that every rate payer pays a bit of money into fund and that is returned for energy efficiency stuff in state. Need to reduce electricity in state and that is through lighting. Everywhere he has been most of lighting has been done. What they have found is there is a divide between lighting and a new building or renovate as new building. The State of CT is getting involved in helping to build and between those is furnace, hvac and things that are old and getting older and no source of money for it. They work with utility companies for funding and want to increase amount of money the town gets. They design custom programs with the utility company. (2) in the library a few years ago they needed to replace compressor in air conditioning and air handlers, controllers are not supported and now need to custom rebuild each one; and on the other side, the new high school has a grant from the State because efficient lighting went into it and all on zone and need to train people on how to program and use. Discussion held on need for training of people in system on how new program works. Andy noted energy management system will be standardized to either what have/like or to a system better and user friendly. They provide a lot of training; have web based system and can see what is going on in building from home. With their system you are not surprised and helps turn off what needs to be turned off. (3) excellent thing we should look into because for years the school system in consoruitium for heating oil and if you get 15-20 school districts that is clout. Councilwoman Denski asked (1) how soon after the town starts this program do you see savings. Andy stated as soon as installation begins; lease payment does not start until after installation complete. (2) With lease payment what type of savings seeing. Andy stated the guarantee from them is lease payment that is completely covered by energy savings. (3) See above and beyond or equal out. Andy stated above and beyond and closest by is Cromwell. Councilman Gianesini noted in a town this size would not see impact from demand factor. Andy replied it might but honestly biggest impact in terms of demand. Cool building in a.m. and shut off air conditioning in afternoon will have super financial benefit from strategy. Councilman Sekorski (1) you need to make money somehow, so is it built into fee structure to join CCM. Andy responded the fee for purchasing program is .00133 per kw and CCM works the same way and go through competitive bid process and Bay State consultant and collect fee for them from participants and that fee is 1 and 1/3 mil for kwh and in terms of savings, if saving fee structure built into usage. Fix it from usage for rfp. (2) how about energy savings; the same? Andy stated efficiency is more like general contractor, put package together that pays for itself and paid for design, no out of pocket, have sub contract and union agreements and worked through contractors and fees as consultant as part of dues to CCM. On purchasing side they serve purpose of broker; Siemens building tech work with municipalities and they work with them. Mayor Festa thanked CCM for

attendance this evening in telling about program. Andy noted if the Council decides to move forward the Mayor has documents and not an obligation and something to think about.

12. To Discuss Fuel Cell Technology Program/Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology Mayor Festa stated on agenda tonight for purpose of if Council is interested in hearing this. A workshop was held in December relative to invitation and Jacqui could not be there. They are interested in making a presentation on what they can do for us and provide assistance through U.S. Department of Energy. There have been a number of discussions on fuel cells and question is if Council would like to hear presentation and if so, the Mayor will invite them to the next meeting.

MOTION: To have a fuel cell technology presentation brought to the next Council meeting, by Councilwoman Denski; second Councilwoman Jandreau. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

13. To Enter Into Executive Session For Contract Negotiation/Real Estate Acquisition

MOTION: To go into executive session at 8:05 p.m. for contract negotiation/real estate acquisition inviting the Mayor, Comptroller and Town Attorney, by Councilwoman Jandreau; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

Mayor Festa called the meeting back to order at 9:21 p.m.

14. To Take Action, if Necessary, From Executive Session

15. Public Comments

16. Liaison Reports

a. Councilwoman Denski – gave overview on BOE, fire marshal and human services in offices, schools will start prior to labor day, increasing school day 20 minutes per day in high and elementary and 15 in middle school. Library board – reviewed proposed budget. Parks & Rec reviewed budget, clean up toward Lake Winfield and June 5th movie night with big screen with rain date June 12th.

b. Councilman Giancesini –gave overview on I/W, P/Z, School Building, WPCA meetings attended. WPCA treatment plant has outdated system for controlling nitrate discharge into Pequabuck River and we have to buy nitrate credits; discussion held on infrastructure monies coming available in future. School Building thought were ahead to get projects done, i.e. track and sidewalk and now may have other issues.

c. Councilwoman Jandreau – Human Services had lack of quorum, Housing Authority did not meet in January and in February discussed empty units (14); Planning & Zoning, budget discussion; ZBA did not attend; Charter Revision presented draft of Charter with town manager and discussed time line for public hearing and presenting Charter revision to Council; targeting same date as budget referendum to have vote on revisions; I/W; Highway Superintendent report read into record; Public Works Director report for January read into record.

d. Councilwoman Schenkel – missed Police Commission and BOF; EDC discussed water booster pump station, Genovese Manufacturing breaking ground in spring, STEAP grant, looking at Main Street Development organization.

e. Councilman Sekorski – no report.

17. Council Comments

- a. Councilwoman Jandreau attended Chamber of Commerce awards night which was very nice; notify Charter Revision will be meeting 3 times per month on the 1st, 2nd, 4th Wednesday, 7 p.m. in Senior Lounge.
- b. Councilwomen Schenkel and Denski attended Bill Hamzy forum on budget for CT and relayed information from meeting; CT losing \$1.4 million in revenue; made argument with Rep. Hamzy that they need to put moratorium on unfunded state mandates i.e. in school suspension and web site posting of minutes, etc. stating it will not hurt if mandates delayed or dissolved as towns cannot pay for things not willing to help fund. Very good feedback and commend Representative Hamzy for his efforts.
- c. Councilman Giancesini – saw Safety Committee meeting chaired by Mr. Bellotti. People are saying government should be treated like private industry and not always the same; employee manual and recall looking at draft copy and status. Mayor Festa stated it is in the hands of the union president for review and have not come back with any answers to Mr. Bellotti who is doing follow up and then for official documentation and certification. Councilman Giancesini stated it is really good we have started getting one in effect. Mayor Festa stated we will hear more from Mr. Bellotti on employee reviews.
- d. Councilwoman Jandreau stated the Food Pantry and Chamber of Commerce Sweetheart dance on Valentine’s Day this Saturday and tickets are available. Please contact Erin Kennedy and get tickets as this event supports the food pantry.
- e. Councilwoman Denski –attended Hamzy budget meeting and seems to be a lot of politics in way of problem solving; in hand out was brochure on healthcare reform. Congratulation to LeeAnn and Keith for activity in our community.

18. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Gudeczauskas, Clerk of the Town Council