

**Town of Plymouth**  
**80 Main Street**  
**Terryville, CT 06786**  
**www.plymouthct.us**

**Plymouth Town Council**  
**Telephone: (860) 585-4001**  
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## **Minutes**

**June 6, 2017**

**Call to Order:** Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled June 6, 2017, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

**Roll Call:** Present were Town Councilman Daniel Gentile, Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Town Attorney William Hamzy, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault and Director of Public Works Charles Wiegert.

## **Adoption of the Agenda**

Mayor Merchant stated he wanted to add the following to the June 6, 2017 Agenda: As Item 15a. Discussion on 150 Main Street and as Item 15b. Discuss and take action on the Easement request from the Terryville Lions Club for property located at 309 Town Hill Road.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to add Item 15a. Discussion on 150 Main Street, to the June 6, 2017, Plymouth Town Council meeting agenda. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to add Item 15b. Discuss and take action on the Easement request from the Terryville Lions Club for property located at 309 Town Hill Road. Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes; Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/abstained. Motion passed.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to accept the June 6, 2017, Plymouth Town Council meeting agenda as amended. This motion was approved unanimously.

## **Fire Exits Notification**

Mayor Merchant noted the Fire Exits for the record.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Merchant led the Plymouth Town Council and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Invocation**

Mayor Merchant stated, "May God Bless the U.S.A. and the Town of Plymouth and all of our troops serving around the country and the world protecting our freedoms" for the record.

**Acceptance of Minutes: Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting May 2, 2017, Plymouth Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education Joint Meeting May 18, 2017**

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to accept the May 2, 2017, Plymouth Town Council Regular meeting minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to accept the May 18, 2017, Plymouth Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education joint meeting minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, read from the Charter stating Public Comment is open to the public throughout the meeting and briefly elaborated.

Dr. Martin Semmel, Superintendent of Schools, stated he wanted to implore the Town Council to keep the entire \$300,000 that was in the second referendum for the Board of Education and briefly elaborated.

Chet Scoville, Plymouth Police Commission Chairman, stated he hoped the School Resource Officer (SRO) was not taken out of the budget, noting it would be a disservice to the children and Community and briefly elaborated.

Melissa Johnson, Board of Education Chairman, stated families and businesses would not be attracted to the Town and enrollment would go down if there were any cuts made to the Board of Education's budget and briefly elaborated.

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Plymouth, stated budget cuts were realistically necessary for the homeowners and briefly elaborated.

Gary Belanger, 256 Main Street, Terryville, requested the Town Council not lower the Board of Education's budget any further or at the very least keep it the same, noting the past referendum comments were in favor of the current budget and briefly elaborated.

Jackie Lundy, 48 Ridge Road, Terryville, stated she was present this evening to advocate for the Board of Education and requested the Town Council keep the Board of Education's budget intact for her children so they could have a quality education and briefly elaborated.

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**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.**

Diane Iemon, 9 Megan Boulevard, Terryville, stated all the students who were present this evening need their education and that this was very important to them; requested the Town Council not cut the Board of Education budget and briefly elaborated.

Chris Simo-Kinzer, 52 Old Farm Road, Terryville, stated from the past two Town meetings and past Referendum it was obvious the Board of Education had the support for the budget; noting at the least to cover their contractual obligations and briefly elaborated.

Karen Krasicky, Plymouth Police Chief, requested the Town Council not cut the SRO noting the position was in place for the students. She further stated the SRO was a need not a want and briefly elaborated.

Gerry Bourbonnaire, Board of Education Member, questioned the Mill Rate and briefly elaborated, noting his taxes would go up approximately \$2.00 a month; felt the students were worth the increase and briefly elaborated.

Bradley Kozikowski, 4 Park Street, Terryville, stated he wanted to thank everyone for their time and effort, noting without a great education and great teachers he would not be present this evening. He further requested the Town Council not make any cuts to the Board of Education's budget and briefly elaborated.

Holley Guarriello, 17 Old Farm Road, Terryville, stated teachers cut in the past have a negative impact on a good education, noting cutting the Board of Education's budget was not good, and that important activities, such as sports, make the Town a better place to live and briefly elaborated.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Ralph Zovich, Board of Finance Chairman, stated agenda item 15 was crucial, noting it was ten times worse than what the Federal government was facing and that the Town pays out more than it takes in. Ralph Zovich stated the Town has an inverted pyramid and briefly elaborated. Ralph Zovich stated the Town Council could increase or decrease the current total budget by 3%, but could not add to it due to changes in the Charter and briefly elaborated.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated she realized there were students present this evening to support the budget, but the people said to cut the budget twice and briefly elaborated.

Madison Maske, 219 Scott Road, Terryville, stated there were many parents teachers, and students who support the Board of Education's budget, noting it was hard on the students and they needed the Council to support them and briefly elaborated.

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**Public Comment on Agenda Items Cont'd.**

Peter Cook, 11 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated he thought the vote was clear and people wanted the Board of Education to get what they got and the Town side needed cutting and briefly elaborated.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Merchant reported and provided updates on the following: Mayor Merchant stated he wanted to once again thank the Terryville Volunteer Fire Department for their heroism and their outstanding professionalism in the handling of the fire in the house next to Town Hall, noting their response time enabled them to save a life and briefly elaborated. Mayor Merchant stated the North Main Street Bridge bid had been awarded and construction would start soon and briefly elaborated. Mayor Merchant stated the Allentown Road project was under construction. Mayor Merchant stated the Eli Terry rear access project was waiting for fencing and gate installation and briefly elaborated. Mayor Merchant stated the Town Hall upgrades were on schedule and briefly elaborated. Mayor Merchant stated everyone involved had done a job with the Town's Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Day Services and briefly elaborated. Mayor Merchant stated the Water Main project on Main Street would be starting soon and briefly elaborated.

**Finance Director's Report**

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated they were still working on the 2016 Audit; one Auditor was coming out next week and briefly elaborated. She further stated the goal was to have the 2017 Audit done by December 31<sup>st</sup>. When questioned by Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated she has been looking at combining some of the dormant and like accounts.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated that right now we were at 3% and keeping in mind that we need to stay within the budget, Town Councilman Dan Gentile questioned if Ann Marie Rheault felt comfortable.

Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated there were a few retirements; more than was budgeted, along with a couple of Departments that have gone over and were being addressed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated BlumShapiro was shifting their schedule to come out to the Town and her department was working to have everything ready and briefly elaborated, noting she could not give a date when the 2015/2016 Audit would be ready.

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**Discuss and take action to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Ally Financial \$431.48, \$284.13, \$114.36, \$341.29, \$233.30, \$582.44, \$345.83, \$257.40, \$152.26; Thomas Telesco \$310.85; Marilyn Plourde \$108.06; Gregory Cody \$1,000.00; Elizabeth Blanchette \$214.37**

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Ally Financial \$431.48, \$284.13, \$114.36, \$341.29, \$233.30, \$582.44, \$345.83, \$257.40, \$152.26; Thomas Telesco \$310.85; Marilyn Plourde \$108.06; Gregory Cody \$1,000.00; and Elizabeth Blanchette \$214.37. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations: To re-appoint William Hall, Jr., to the Zoning Board of Appeals**

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to re-appoint William Hall, Jr., to the Zoning Board of Appeals. This motion was approved unanimously.

**To appoint Christie Rullan as the Interim Assessor**

Mayor David Merchant stated Rae Ann Walcott had retired and he was looking to promote from within; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he wanted it noted for the record that he didn't understand the Non-Supervisory Union information.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman John Pajeski, to appoint Christie Rullan as the Interim Assessor. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action on the Ordinance to create a Retirement and Pension Oversight Board**

Mayor David Merchant stated a few years back there was a Retirement and Pension Oversight Board, however there was never an Ordinance to create it; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to take action and create a Retirement and Pension Oversight Board. This motion was approved unanimously.

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**Town of Plymouth Retirement and Pension Oversight Board: To appoint Becky Zappone to the position of Elector of the Town on the Retirement and Pension Oversight Board/5 years; to appoint Jay Dorso/Board of Finance member on the Retirement and Pension Oversight Board/3 years; to appoint Sue Murawski, Town Council member on the Retirement and Pension Oversight Board/2 years**

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to appoint Becky Zappone to the position of Elector of the Town on the Retirement and Pension Oversight Board/5 years; to appoint Jay Dorso/Board of Finance member on the Retirement and Pension Oversight Board/3 years; to appoint Sue Murawski, Town Council member on the Retirement and Pension Oversight Board/2 years. This motion was approved unanimously.

**150 Main Street**

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman John Pajeski, to accept the bid from C & D Services, LLC, in the amount of \$49,998.00 to take the house down at 150 Main Street, Terryville.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, Director of Public Works Charles Wiegert stated both bids were qualified bidders.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, Mayor David Merchant stated the party that was previously interested in the building was off the table.

Vote:

Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes. Motion passed.

**Discuss and take action on Easement Request from the Terryville Lions Club for property located at 309 Town Hill Road**

Mayor Merchant stated the Town owned the property at 309 Town Hill Road, however it could not be sold because of a lien on the property.

Mayor David Merchant stated the easement would allow the Terryville Lions Club to have another entranceway into the fairgrounds, as well as give them the possibility for another parking lot.

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**Discuss and take action on Easement Request from the Terryville Lions Club for property located at 309 Town Hill Road Cont'd.**

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he had a conflict of interest and would recuse himself from voting on this agenda item.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman John Pajeski, to grant the Easement request for the 309 Town Hill Road property.

**Discussion:**

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey regarding what kind of lien was on the property, Attorney William Hamzy stated a waterline had been installed in this area because of pollutants in the ground; explained the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) involvement and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski presented a map of the easement in question.

**Vote:**

Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/abstained; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes. Motion passed.

**Discuss and take action to adopt a Budget for the FY 2017-2018**

Mayor David Merchant stated with the new Charter change the Town Council no longer had to work by the 3% by Department; only by the overall budget.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the question on the ballot provided good information for the Council and he appreciated the comments from everyone. He further stated the Board of Finance had spent a lot of time and work that would give us a true budget.

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated looking at the vote the majority said it was too high, but questioned if it was the true picture, noting he hated to see any cuts to the Town or the Board of Education and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he thought only minor cuts needed to be made and the Public had spoken that it needed cuts.

Mayor David Merchant stated the big issue this year was the reval and briefly elaborated.

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**Discuss and take action to adopt a Budget for the FY 2017-2018 Cont'd.**

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the voters who had come out wanted the budget cut after the last Referendum and the Board of Finance raised it. She further stated the cuts would have to come from both sides if the Council was being to be representative for the people who elected us.

Ana LeGassey stated she supported education and that she was torn between cutting the Town and the Board of Education side, noting it had to come down somewhere and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she wanted to start with the figure from the last Referendum and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski regarding compensated absences, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated it should be raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000; a lengthy discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Board of Finance Chairman Ralph Zovich stated he preferred the Council recommend where they would like to see the money come from. He further stated the Council would be establishing the original budget and everything after that would be an amendment and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated the reduction in the mill rate would be covered by money from the State and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she would cut \$68,000 from the new Police Officer position; cut the Board of Education by \$125,000 and cut \$5,000 from the Extra Duty Fund for the License Plate Reader; a brief discussion followed.

Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated these changes would move the mill rate to 39.38, with a total percentage increase of 2.51 and we would be at \$40,832.321 without adding in the \$50,000.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he respects what the Board of Finance has done, as well as what the Board of Education has brought forward, noting we were just splitting hairs and briefly elaborated. He further stated he would recommend leaving it at the 3%; let the Board of Finance set the mill rate and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated the people voted and they're looking for a savings; he thought Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski's \$200,000 was reasonable, noting we need to make some type of cut; a brief discussion followed.

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**Discuss and take action to adopt a Budget for the FY 2017-2018 Cont'd.**

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion to cut \$198,000 as recommended from the last Referendum (\$125,000 Board of Education, \$5,000 Police Extra Duty Fund, \$68,000 new Police Officer position).

Discussion:

Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated this would give the Board of Education a \$175,000 increase; and the new total would be \$40,832,321 with a 2.51 increase.

Vote:

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman John Pajeski, to leave the budget at \$41,025,552, which is 3% over last year.

Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/no; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/no; Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey/yes; motion passed.

**Old Business**

No report.

**Town Council Liaison Reports**

Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated she was still working on the Employee Evaluation Ordinance with Town Attorney William Hamzy.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Parks and Recreation Department, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Friends of Lake Winfield held their second Annual Twilight Walk last week at Lake Winfield. He further stated it was made possible because of the effort and planning of many volunteers, generous donations and briefly elaborated and thanked everyone for their support.

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated the Human Resources Agency (HRA) was working out very well for the Plymouth Human Services Department, noting people were very happy, everyone was smiling, calls were being answered and everything was working out excellent.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he had no report at this time.

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**Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.**

Mayor David Merchant stated he was the Liaison for the Plymouth Fire House Building Committee, noting they had been meeting for the past three months with the Architect. He further stated they hope to send the project out to bid this month to keep the project moving forward and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated applications were being accepted by the Human Services Department for the Small Wonders Backpack Program; and the Commission would be looking for volunteers for the program, as well as the Christmas Program. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Plymouth Police Commission was crafting an Ordinance regarding Commercial Parking. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Police Commission had sent a letter to Immaculate Conception Church reminding parishioners they cannot park within 25 feet of the assigned crosswalk. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Police Commission was still working with the Police Officers on the job description and promotional procedure for the Assistant Chief position.

Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) were working on their budget and setting their sewer bill for the fall, noting it would be going up. She further stated the WPCA had discussed a Planner who would be speaking to them regarding their Pension Plan and briefly elaborated. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the Economic Development Commission had a good meeting discussing ways to develop Main Street/Route 6. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the Economic Development Commission had discussed the OZ Gedney building. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the Economic Development Commission had discussed interested businesses for the Industrial Park. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated she was all for education, however we need to keep moving the Town forward with businesses in order to take the tax burden off the homeowner. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the Mayor had covered much of the Public Works information. She further stated the speed sign on North Main Street was awesome. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated Town Hall work was continuing. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated Public Works would be working on curbing and sweeping. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the Public Works Director Charles Wiegert was doing an awesome job and that everyone should "high five" him on their way out this evening.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Public Works Director Charles Wiegert stated the wires to the lighting in the Town Hall back parking lot had not been cut, noting something had failed and they working to get them back on as soon as possible and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated he had no Council Comments at this time.

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**Town Council Comments Cont'd.**

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he had no Council Comments at this time.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she had no Council Comments at this time.

Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated she had no Council Comments at this time.

**Executive Session to discuss Personnel issue**

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey to move into Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. to discuss Personnel issue. This motion was approved unanimously.

Present for the Executive Session were Town Councilman Gentile, Town Attorney William Hamzy, Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Mayor Merchant, Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Councilman Pajeski and Town Councilman Zagurski. Mayor Merchant called the Town Council back into Regular Session at 9:05 p.m.

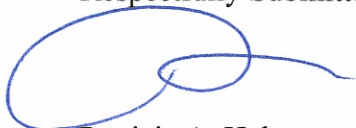
**Take action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session**

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to approve the expenditure of \$243.48 for Dan Gentile to attend a Conference sponsored by CCM and to recommend to the Board of Finance to transfer \$870.00 from Council Compensation line item to the Cleveland Trust fund. Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile/abstained; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/no; Town Councilwoman LeGassey/yes; motion passed.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia A. Hale  
Recording Secretary