

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Vincent Festa called the **Special Meeting** of the **Plymouth Town Council** to order on **Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 7:01 p.m.** in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall. Members in attendance: Mayor Festa, Councilman Sandshaw, Councilwoman Schenkel, Councilman Wunsch, Councilman Zagurski. Also in attendance: David Bernagel, Director of Finance; Robin Gudczauskas, Clerk of the Council. Excused absence: Councilman Sekorski.
2. FIRE EXIT NOTIFICATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
 - a. Patty DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, (a) this is I think the first time I am addressing this Council as a new Council so I want to congratulate everyone who won in November. I took at look at the agenda and I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that as you recall there was Charter Revision and votes on the November election on the ballots regarding the Charter changes and one of those changes had to do with special appropriations. Actually, forgive me for sounding nervous and I haven't written out and I don't normally talk off the cuff. We, the people of the town voted to reduce the amount of money from \$100,000 to \$50,000 before it would need to go to a town meeting; anything that is over and above. Mayor Festa, excuse me, clarification, are you speaking to the items on the agenda this evening or non agenda items. (b) I am speaking on non agenda items for now. I will probably speak on agenda items as they come up. I want to remind you, I am assuming all of you probably have your charters with you and I refer you to page 20 of the charter as it appears from the town's website which has not actually been updated which is unfortunate. It is page 40 chapter 7 section 3c special appropriation, I will read it, it says "Any expenditure recommended for approval by the Board of Finance may be approved at the town meeting by a majority vote of the electors and qualified taxpayers assembled at the aforesaid special town meeting, voting in favor of the expenditures." So, on the special appropriation that you are dealing with tonight I want you to keep in mind what the charter has to say about a special appropriation as we already approved the budget and from what I can gather, the items that are on the agenda are not currently in our budget and if I am wrong please correct me on that. I wanted to bring that to your attention. I think they probably fall under a special appropriation so therefore anything you do tonight will require a special town council meeting to vote on this. I think that is it for right now. Once again congratulations for winning. Thank you. Mayor Festa, just a clarification. It would require a town meeting not a town council meeting. Thank you. Any other speakers for non agenda items. If not we will move to the next agenda item.

5. TO REQUEST THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN THE CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$693,138.00 FUNDED BY ARRA FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECONSTRUCTING HARWINTON AVENUE

MOTION: To request that the Board of Finance establish an appropriation within the Capital and Non-recurring fund in the amount of \$693,138.00 funded by ARRA funds for the purpose of reconstructing Harwinton Avenue by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: Councilman Zagurski, (a) when we had this Vinny is this going to cover the entire cost of the project. Mayor Festa, this will cover the entire cost of the project minus the town's share of the project itself. The town will have a percentage of hopefully it will be incorporated in the expenditures under the construction components under the administration of the construction. Mr. Lorenzetti is not here this evening but this is for the actual project itself. There is a cost for the town depending on how much they save in the long run and what they do. This is the initial component of what we decided moving forward on project and since that point in time we have been awarded additional funding through our Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA) to the board of directors and now we are incorporating the whole kit and caboodle for the Harwinton Avenue from RT 6 up to Armbruster Road are. (c) for clarification, this question covers all, what we are really doing is asking the board of finance to approve these tonight and then they will come back for a town meeting for a proper vote at the proper time. Mayor Festa, absolutely. By virtue of the charter the issue is now that you go to special appropriation based on your previous actions on these items for formal request of the board of finance to establish within the confines of the budget relative to the capital non-recurring issues and ask them to approve the appropriations because they have to set up funds for the monies that will be coming in from the state and federal levels. If the board of finance approves these issues, then it goes to a town meeting for a vote by the townspeople. Any other questions. Councilman Sandshaw, (a) I spoke to Mr. Lorenzetti yesterday and he indicated that some of the preliminary findings on Harwinton Avenue indicate that we probably won't have to do a total reconstruction of the road so we will probably be able to do more than we thought initially but the finding are not complete yet. Mayor Festa, you are talking about the testing of the materials that are already on the surface itself. (b) Yes, the surface and the reconstruction of the underlying of the pavement. Mayor Festa, one of the issues that they were doing is test borings in a particular area from RT 6 to just beyond Holt Street and then the government had extra money that was not picked up by the other towns and other communities and therefore we had to go to a meeting with the Central Regional Planning Agency and at that point in time the federal government came back and said that the money could be allocated to Plymouth as there was a vote forthcoming by the board of directors of the CCRPA which occurred a couple of week back. So they are able to do the rest of Harwinton in that regard. Any other questions on this issue. Patty DeHuff, 10 Lynn Avenue, (a) do we know how much it will cost the town. Mayor Festa, we will know when they actually start the preliminary work in terms of what has to be done relative to the overlay and so on and so forth. There isn't a cost factor yet relative to the bottom line projection.

There is a contingency actually built in to the project in the event that but there is a component to any of these funding that comes forward for a potential for town costs for certain amount relative to total project. (b) There is a percentage. Mayor Festa, there is a percentage. I am not sure on percentage. Dave Bertnagel, Director of contingency built in roughly about 10-15% of the total project cost and based on talk with Mr. Lorenzetti that would cover the town's share of that as it is already built into the \$600,000 special appropriation and anything unexpended would be returned at that point in town. So, the town's piece of it, if there is additional money there would be a change order and need to be approved by Council at this time does not seem feasible. Mayor Festa, as Mr. Sandshaw pointed out that, the tests are already being done and will indicate whether or not there is a need to actually rip up what is there or just do overlay which would save money in the long run. Any other questions or concerns on this particular issue. (c) In light of the current economic conditions of our town I think that the council should vote against this. We do not need any additional spending at this time. Thank you. Mayor Festa, any other comments. Seeing none I will call for a vote on the motion. Vote: unanimous.

6. TO REQUEST THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN THE CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,779.00 FUNDED BY ARRA FUNDS FOR THE MUNICIPAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

MOTION: To request that the Board of Finance establish an appropriation within the Capital Non-Recurring Fund in the amount of \$59,779.00 funded by ARRA funds for the Municipal Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program by Councilman Wunsch; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Mayor Festa, Dave would you address this. Dave Bertnagel, this grant was given to every municipality in the State of CT some of them depending upon your population you got a direct grant from the federal government. In this case, most of the population gets it directly from the Office of Policy and Management and Plymouth was given this amount of an appropriation. Basically what this does is it allows the municipality to use funds to determine energy deficiencies within the different buildings the town owns and maintains as well as provides for upgrades to different lighting structures on the municipal side. I do have board of education as a separate program they operate off of. This covers municipalities. Mayor Festa, if I may call upon Councilman Sandshaw. Marty, will you give us a brief overview of what happened with the board of education and the amount of money that was saved in the process. Councilman Sandshaw, the board of education contracted with a company called Energy Education Incorporated last year and we went through an evaluation of how the buildings are used, what how we changed the way we use energy and in the 10 months reported to the town we saved \$87,000 and that is just in 5 facilities the BOE is responsible for. This here is, it is nothing but goodness. The company selected will do audits and evaluation of equipment and make recommendations and actually I am going to be addressing the board of finance tomorrow on some ways they can look at energy. It is like finding money on the side of the road. Councilwoman Schenkel, Dave, these ARRA funds are grant money and we do not have to pay it back. And if we don't use or don't accept this grant money what happens to it. Dave Bertnagel, yes that is correct. That was money through the federal government; if we do not accept

it it goes back to the State to be distributed to other municipalities. Mayor Festa, any other questions. Patty DeHuff, I am a little bit disturbed by the comments about finding money on the side of the road, these are taxpayers dollars, the government is not some entity out there that has nothing to do with our own pocketbooks, whether it is the federal level, the state level or the municipality level. It is all our tax dollars, we should not take from Glastonbury, Glastonbury should not take from us. In case you were not aware, our budget was only funded by bonding. The state is in deficit, the federal government is in deficit. We need to start saying no. There is no such thing as free money, there is no such thing as finding money on the side of the road. All of it is our money and we need to stop the mentality to take and take and take and not have any consideration of taxes. It comes from our wallet whether it comes from the city level, the state level or the federal level. Councilman Zagurski, Mayor may I responds to that. Patty I think you may have misunderstood Marty's comments. What Marty was trying to say, by doing this energy audit we can save money by using electricity and oil more efficiently and reducing the cost to the taxpayers. We won't have to spend as much of our own money to pay for those resources. Patty, I didn't understand, I did understand what he was saying. I did not misunderstand anything. Councilwoman Schenkel, point of order. Councilman Sandshaw, Mr. Mayor if I may. Patty, I wasn't referring to the grant that the money that. I am saying the savings that we will realize by doing an energy conservation program or evaluation of our equipment in town, it will save us significant money and those savings if we change the way we do business if we change from doing business the way we have always done it to look at it more efficiently, we will save a tremendous amount of money in this town and those savings are like finding money on the side of the road. Not the grant. The grant is, absolutely not and I agree with you how that the grant is coming from my pocketbook and your pocketbook and to get information that we need so we can make these savings for our town we need to have this grant incorporated. Mayor Festa, any other comments. Councilwoman Schenkel, yes the point I was making was, that, yes, it is coming from our tax dollars but we as citizens who have paid in and paid in and have paid in have a right to get some of that back. It is our turn to get a little bit and we should take advantage of it when it does come our way. Mike Schlenka, 42 North Main Street, (a) just one question to all of you. Has this council ever voted against a grant for any reason. Councilwoman Schenkel, not to my knowledge. (b) or any kind of grant you are applying for, you will all vote for it no matter whether citizens want it or not. Councilwoman Schenkel, well, to clarify, which citizens want it. It seems like from our constituents, the majority of the people want money that is grant money. And that is what I have heard from people who have talked to me. (c) That could be two or three people. I am saying this council has never voted against a grant no matter what. Councilman Zagurski, so far, no, I don't think we have. Mayor Festa, just for clarification, when we look at grants and grant money, you are in a situation where it is taxpayers dollars and it is taxpayers money, as Councilwoman Schenkel pointed out, we deserve a share of that money coming back to us in some manner, shape or form. If we do not accept the grant money that is allocated to the Town of Plymouth it goes to another community who has put in for it. Whether you, you have to show a need; for instance, the federal government gave us x amount of dollars for part of Harwinton Avenue. The additional money was left over by other communities not taking it or not needing it, o.k., caused us to get the additional money to do the rest of Harwinton Avenue. In terms of grants when you look

at a community, unless you are very wealthy as a community, you look for grants to help you fund many projects. I will just point out a couple of them such as the landfill closure through grant money, South Main Street project through grant money, the industrial park through grant money and the list goes on and on and on. You cannot survive in this community without having grant money available and yet it does cost us money as taxpayers but the bottom line is if we not accept some of these grants we are further behind the eight ball. I just point out when you look around this community and you look around some of our buildings, some of our grounds, some of our roads in desperate need. We turn down these grants and Harwinton Avenue in 3-4 years will be a requirement out of our own pocket not just a part or percentage of it but the whole nine yards of it; Bemis Street as well is one. We looked at this project with Harwinton Avenue. We met federal standards with Harwinton Avenue and my concern was we had other roads in more serious need of repair and drainage but we could not acquire the look out from the state or federal level to say yes those funds should go to those projects. We are required to follow their standards and the issue at hand here is that if we didn't pick out projects that meet their standards we'd be stuck in the long run. So in terms of grants, grants are usual not turned away from because of the value and worth that they have to them; and more importantly when you do have a grant proposal, it is either brought up to council meeting or a special town meeting for the purpose of final discussion as was the case just recently with some of you with the sidewalk issue, that is grant money as well. Now the bottom line is that this sidewalk issue has been discussed for over 30 years in this community. Thirty years in the making and here we are at this point in time still not understanding what will become of that particular project. But again it is the money and the cost. The issue at hand here is that there are times that grants can be frivolous but any time in my history of being involved in this town that I have seen any council, any board of selectman actually go after a grant that was frivolous in nature. I mean, it is on the ground of what we need financially and what we can afford financially and what kind of help that we can get that will help us through these particular projects. So, in terms of your question that you raised in my 30 some odd years in this community the only thing I do remember is an issue relative to trash pickup relative to turning that particular program down and the argument about the school, whether or not the school was a want or a need in renovations to that and the cost associated with that would be the arguments presented in that particular fashion. But by and large most of the grants that have come through have allowed this community to move forward. This building for instance was a grant, the fire station on Harwinton Avenue was a grant, the list goes on and on and I don't want to belabor it but there is an important component to it on how grants do help the taxpayers in long run and I hope that answers your question relative to the history of grants. (c) Yeah. As far as public opposition goes, certain projects of a grant and does that ever make a difference. The council will vote for a grant whether or not the public is opposed. Mayor Festa, I think in light of what has occurred and I will use obviously the sidewalk that happened most recently. You have seen the council people that are sitting before you tonight take a special interest and walk the site, and come out and talk to each individual, have two meetings on the particular issue. Moving forward the project has been accepted for funding and if it is approved tonight it will go to the board of finance and there will be additional discussion on it relative to inviting you people back for discussion etc. There is no plans that have been finalized so there is an opportunity.

Now whether or not you are persuasive enough is another situation and that goes hand in hand in what is presented in terms of factual information vs. any rumor or innuendo. So there is an opportunity for the opposition to be heard in a number of manners, shapes or forms. (d) Be heard but not make any difference in the outcome. Mayor Festa, but it does make a difference if in fact the arguments that are presented are sound. And I think that is one of the issues that has to be addressed relative to when you are looking at a particular decision to be made. Sometimes council people sitting up here have to make decisions that are not popular but the bottom line is that they also have knowledge above and beyond what many of the local people have relative to because most people come out when there is a special interest and most of the time they do not get involved in their community but coming to monthly meetings or coming to a meeting at a board or commission that they have something they are involved with. So it is very difficult to get the general public out here. I have looked over time and my experiences here. I use to go to town meetings where, council meetings whatever, and there would be 45-50 people sitting in the room; we seldom get 10 or 12 people here and then again when it is a special interest that is when you see turnout. So it is very difficult for any one of us to actually get a handle without talking to people individually as well as in small groups as to what the general populous is really thinking. I will give you an example and advice here. When you take a look at the budget process and lack of turnout, you have no idea whether or not the voters came in to support a budget because they felt it was fair or rejected a budget because they thought it was too little or too high. One of the things I would suggest is that we consider an option on the ballot that when you have a question such as shall the budget be approved at such and such a dollar amount. If you are voting yes that is because you approve it and if you are voting no, there should be an option for you to say too high or too low not enough on the town side too much on the board of ed side, to give those of us sitting on this side of the table a handle on what the general populous is really thinking. And that is the only way to bring communication going back and forth between the general populous, the taxpayers, the citizens and your elected officials. Thank you. Any other discussion on the item. Yes. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street (a) always there is an administrative cost to this. Now I was saddened because you gave it out to the council but you wouldn't give it to the public so now I need to ask you people, where is the administrative cost who gets paid the administrative costs. You know if this stuff was left out in the open people could come forward with a lot more open questions and lately everything is oh well I only got one copy and I am going to give it each council person and it is not given out to the public. Number 2 this meeting was not publicized and if I hadn't happened to come up here for something I wouldn't even have known this meeting was going to happen. I think you need to, when you run these special meetings you need to make it so it is public, not two days or three days before you put up a thing at the town hall in the thing. I think they need to be put in the newspaper and stuff needs to be available. And I have never seen this town being run lately the way it is being run. Everything is a big secret until there is a meeting. Now the council all read this one copy of all this stuff; why isn't it on the table there for the public. Mayor Festa, could you please clarify what one copy you are referring to. (b) At the council meeting you stated that you had a copy of all these grants. You were giving them to the council individually. Mayor Festa, you are talking about the grants this evening. (c) Well I assume they are. You didn't say which grants they were. Mayor

Festa, these particular grants were discussed over a various, particular council meetings over a period of time. These are nothing new and you were at meetings when these were discussed initially. So that is nothing new. Councilman Wunsch, excuse me, are you talking about that notebook. I think that is what you are talking about and that is on the North Street reservoir property I think you are talking about. (d) Okay. We didn't know that. He did not state that. Mayor Festa, I didn't mention any notebook his evening and if you are referring to a comment I made at a previous council meeting relative to a notebook. That is one notebook that has been given to us from CT Water Company for perusal in terms of the particular project that is moving forward. There is only one book and each council member is getting that book in turn so they can address the issues when they come to general meetings and public meetings so they are fully equipped to understand the questions that are being raised. There is nothing that is secretive in that book and I have so indicated publically that when the council is finished with it, it would be put on display for anyone's perusal in town hall. Secondly, any time there is a meeting coming forward we do get a hold of press reporters and ask them to publicize that as well. We have no control over whether or not they do that. Thirdly this meeting was posted last week on the sign post outside. It was special meeting relative to the appropriations and we had to find out whether or not there was a particular day in question where everyone could make it so there would be a quorum present to move on these items as there are deadlines from the State and federal level to move forward. More importantly there is nothing that has been secretive about anything going on and you are fully aware of the fact that if you want information that you are not getting you can come in with an foi and it is given to you. I resent the fact you are talking about secrets that have been going on that you don't address in detail. (e) This is the second meeting that I have not seen in the paper. You are able to put in other articles and I don't see why you can't put that in as press release. Mayor Festa, if we put articles in the paper that want to make sure are defined, than we have to pay for them and you are fully aware of that. When you talk to a reporter and let them know what is going on it is their decision or their editors decision as to whether or not they publicize any particular meeting in question and I have asked them to publicize the meetings as they are important. (f) and I agree. Mayor Festa, and all I can do is ask and unless you want to start paying for publicized notifications. (g) I just feel, I thought it was, and these grants here, and you have discussed them and now I am still asking the same question. With that grant money there is administrative cost and does the town get it or does the state get it and is why we are ending up having to pay 10 or 15% of this project. Thank you. Mayor Festa, you are welcome. To answer your question there is nothing new on administrative costs for grants and projects and has always been a part of any grant or project whether it be the landfill closure, the waterwheel project, the road project, etc. the school project. Your contractor is the administrator of the program and whenever you deal out a particular contract or award a particular contract to an individual they are the administrator of that particular project. So is nothing new and going on since the point in time where a contract is awarded. There is nothing secretive or hidden and any time anyone is looking for information by all means they can come forward and they will get the answer one way or another. Patty DeHuff, (a) I am a little bit concerned about the comment that you made, Mayor, you said this town couldn't survive without grants. Am I correct. Mayor Festa, yes, I believe in that. (b) I do not know how far back we got into this routine of

grant money but I sure know this that our town survived prior to that time. It is only when we develop this mentality of let's redistribute the wealth. So you feel we have to have grant money. It is only been, the taxpayers are taxed and whether that is federal, state or local level so much that they have to work two jobs in order to pay their taxes if they want to have any kind of normal life and so that is why we see a decline in attendance at these town council meetings. So it is like vicious cycle, you say we need the grants, well it starts with taking money, which is our money, we worked for this money, it doesn't belong to the city, it doesn't belong to the state or to the federal government. It is our money. We worked for it; it is ours. And we, the state takes it from us in one form or another, sales tax income tax whatever, and then they redistribute it and they make us dependent upon them and we couldn't survive as a town if we didn't have it. As if the people in this room are not industrious enough and willing enough and have good hearts enough to come out and build a project. Every time the state offers you a grant and you said yourself I believe said something to the effect of we have to follow their rules and regulations. And those rules and regulations cost money. I have \$5 for the rest of the week, it is my money here; and pretend this is \$500 and there was a need for a family to be fed, well if I gave this 500 to that family, that family would receive a total of 500 to buy food but when we give away to the state and the state gives it away to the administrators and the administrators give it back to the town and the town will decide what, that they are going to give it back to us, well, then I know I don't have \$500 if I gave to that person to begin with. It is a fruitless effort and we need to start thinking in terms of breaking that cycle of dependency. The other thing that disturbs me is the tone you just had with Melanie in terms of if she wants information she has to request it through FOI. That is not what I would call an open and honest government. Mayor Festa, the issue at the end is if in fact you are looking for information and you are not pleased with what is given to you, you have an opportunity to go to FOI. The concern I raised with Melanie and yourself as well, if in fact when you come forward and make accusations and innuendos is when you are not quoted properly. You are making accusations and innuendos and you have nothing to support that background information and that is the issue I am talking about a tone here. I have heard it for a number of times and a number of years as I sat here as Mayor, sat as a citizen in the audience of this town and sat as a taxpayer in this town. I have heard it time and again the same story over and over again. In my first term in office I made the statement publically that I would not allow rumor and innuendo to come before this council at public meetings and try to dispel the good intentions of anybody that has come forward. But you cast dispersions upon people and you cause a general census that something is wrong somewhere when nothing is wrong at all. No one is trying to hide anything. The bottom line is that sometimes some of us have to take a deep breath and swallow, after we chew what we don't like that has been put in our mouth because the truth is the truth. The bottom line here is that you can take that \$5 and turn into \$500 and you give it to one family to feed, okay, you have many other families without food. You take that \$500 and you break it up as carefully as possible to make sure that the greatest majority of the populous gets fed and that is same thing done with taxpayer dollars. It is spread over time. You as a former public employee have been paid through public funds. Where did that fund come from to pay your salary when you were an educator. It came from the general fund of the taxpayers. Did you turn around and say gee taxpayers I don't really want this money

because I shouldn't be taking it from you because you are a taxpayer and you deserve to keep your money yourself. The system doesn't operate that way and doesn't work that way. We are looking out for the greater good of all of us and that is where a community comes in to play. It is not an island onto itself it is a community. It is made up of people that are willing to give as best they can, how much they can, when they can. To take when they need to take without being concerned about the fact that someone is looking over their shoulder and saying oh my goodness you are taking food from the food pantry. Can't you go out and find a job or can't you pay for your own food. You are taking fuel assistance from the town from the community that is supporting it. Those are the kinds of things that make a community, they move a community forward. They don't send us backwards and what I am hearing from you this evening is that is your personal issue, your personal understanding of your not liking to pay taxes that is causing disternation here. All I am saying to you or anybody else relative to the issues of rumor or innuendo, that it doesn't do anybody good, it doesn't do an individual good, it doesn't do a community good. And the issue is we have to move forward and do the best we can with what there is out there. And, yes, we don't like paying taxes; yes, we don't like the higher increase in taxes. But as a community we strove to keep our taxes at a zero increase over the last couple of years and do as best we can with the taxpayers out there that were suffering because of the economy we are dealing with. We also saved money in the long run by doing some of the things we did with cost savings and we are attempting to do that more with these grants that come forward. No one came forward to say gee thanks for trying to do a good job on our behalf. It is constant constant constant and negative, negative negative and that is something that will not allow a community to survive. You need to have a positive flow of energy and a positive flow of blood coming through that is willing to replenish and renourish, but hasn't been there for quite a while. And the bottom line is you do the best you can with all those who are willing to come and serve and not those that are willing to nitpick and come forward all the time with negativity. It doesn't hold, it can't hold; we can't keep a community whole when that happens and we don't start accepting the kinds of money that are out there we come further behind everybody else and low and behold we are at the bottom of the totem pole. And I do not think this is where the general populous of the community wants to go. We have too much at stake here, we have our young people that we have to educate and we have to provide the best we can for them and I think this town over the years has done that. Even I myself that has concerns about some of the issues over the years and some of the issues that I have gone up to the podium and spoke against, okay that was my opinion on thing but I went along with the general hold because it made my community better in the long run for it. I think that is the issue we have to look at. We have to take another step backwards and say what do we really want for this community. And once in a while we need to hear a positive note. That accounts as badgering what you think is wrong when you don't come and ask the questions; you make assumptions about it and that is the thing that is wrong and that is the thing that is difficult until day that I no longer serve in any community, any capacity or until the day they put me in my grave I will still fight for the openness and the honesty and the integrity of the process that we as the United States of America live under the democracy that we live under. Thank you.

(c) Mr. Mayor I don't believe I have done any kind of innuendos today and we don't live under a democracy, we live under a republic and constitution guaranteed to shape a

republican form of government. If you need me to prove it, I can go to my pocketbook and pull out my constitution. Councilwoman Schenkel, Mr. Mayor, point of order, first of all in our process we usually have public comment on the item that is before us and we have gotten way off the base with this. I would like to ask that we reserve comments like this for public comment and we can debate or get on our soap boxes then. However, at this time I would like to move the question.

MOTION: To move the question by Councilwoman Schenkel, second Councilman Wunsch. Vote on moving the question: unanimous.

Vote on the main agenda item: unanimous.

7. TO REQUEST THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN THE CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$423,000.00 FUNDED BY A STATE GRANT (SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS GRANT) FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING SIDEWALKS ON NORTH MAIN STREET

MOTION: To request that the Board of Finance establish an appropriation within the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund in the amount of \$423,000 funded by a State Grant (Sage Routes to Schools Grant) for the purpose of installing sidewalks on North Main Street by Councilman Sandshaw; second Councilman Wunsch. Discussion:

Councilwoman Schenkel, I think it is very important to accept the money and then how it is implemented is very important for the public to come and give us their feedback.

There are two differences, two major differences here. One is we are saying yes we want to take this money and improve our town and then we also have to have a process with the public so that we can hear them and hear their concerns and then see how that we can within the grant implement their needs as well as what the public wants. Mayor Festa, any other discussion. Councilman Sandshaw, Mr. Mayor, I totally agree with DiAnna and at this time we are approving the money through the grant that we have been awarded but we don't know what the final design will be. Patty DeHuff, point of order, you moved the question and need to take a vote. Councilwoman Schenkel, we already did. Councilman Sandshaw, we took a vote on the previous one. Mayor Festa, any other discussion. Councilman Zagurski, process for this Mayor, I fully agree with DiAnna also. If we vote on this now we are accepting the grant money and how do we change the design of this. Is it going to come to the council, is it done through Planning and Zoning, is it. Mayor Festa, actually what will happen is if in fact this is approved tonight it is a request to the BOF for the purpose of them establishing an account for the money to be put into. What will happen is we will then go to a town meeting for discussion on the appropriation for expenditure. However, the process, Mr. Lorenzetti will still be involved in the process of moving forward to look at the conceptual designs and also to work with the people in the neighborhood relative to. I will explain to those people from the neighborhood that the people sitting before you have made countless trips up and down North Main Street since the last meeting. There has been discussion along with the caretakers of Hillside Cemetery in terms of looking at the issues there on what can be done on that side of the street, what can be done relative to a sidewalk going through the cemetery vs. having to take the crypt etcetera. There has been a number of issues that been discussed relative to. Going up Hillside Avenue as well which was discussed at a fire meeting so there are a number of things that have been taking place relative to business. I

myself have gone up and down North Main maybe three dozen times; sometimes when there is nobody behind me so I could actually move along slowly to actually take a serious look at the issues relative to the sidewalk space that will be taking up your front lawns and looking at the other side of street relative to what is already there in the sidewalks, also looking at the cross walk to see if whether or not we can put an additional safety crossing guard down the street as opposed to having sidewalks on the side you people are opposed to. So there has been a number of people including these council members who have gone out there from time to time just taking a look and listening to what is in the back of their minds relative to comments you have made at the public hearings and also at your neighborhood meeting when they met there with you as well, and talking to Mr. Lorenzetti as well as looking at alternatives. So there is no final design on the project relative to the sidewalks at this time. It is an appropriation request to the board of finance to establish the account and then there will be countless movements forward to discuss this issue in terms of what this design will finally be and where it will be. So that is the bottom line to that. Councilman Zagurski, will the council have a voice in the final design. Mayor Festa, the Council should have a voice in the final design if that is your desire. It is your responsibility and right to. So Mr. Lorenzetti will be bringing forward a conceptual plan and it has to be all mapped out relative to engineering relative to plans for planning and zoning as well so there are countless meetings that will be coming before this actually becomes a final plan relative to. What is accepted and what will be put down shovel to earth so there is plenty of opportunity Tom for that. You are welcome. Anyone else. Ann Baldwin, 40 North Main Street, Mayor I appreciate your comments and understand what you are saying. I do however want to go on record again with my concerns on the project. First of all I am here tonight to ask you to vote no on this agenda item and motion. This is a special meeting, it is not a regular meeting and your agenda item is specific and if you approve it you are going to be requesting the board of finance to establish an appropriation for the purpose as the agenda says of installing sidewalks on North Main Street and not any alternative route or the repair of the existing sidewalk or even the repair or installation of Maple Street sidewalks. With regard to the grant money it is important on the Safe Routes to School grant to note that it technically is not fully funded. Yes, the construction costs are fully funded as I understand it. However, preliminary engineering costs and any rights of way acquisitions are not reimbursable under this grant and those are at the town's expenses. Very briefly 40 North Main Street as you know is one of the properties affected by this proposed sidewalk and I spoke at length at the April 6th council meeting in opposition to the portion which is in front of our house and lot and I still remain fully opposed to this project in front of our house. Since you are all familiar with the issues and I understand and appreciate the meetings and your review of the street, I simply want to summarize the concerns and also address the financial concerns. There is already a safe sidewalk on North Main Street, it is away from the traffic and it is on the same side of the street as the two schools. I feel it is not a wise use of the money for the second sidewalk when there are other areas without sidewalks. The impact on 40 North Main Street will be very , with sidewalks close to the front of the house. We have virtually no front yard as it is and we will have no privacy with a sidewalk. Snow removal is a problem we have as I indicated at the April meeting approximately 150' of frontage that is the house lot and the lot adjacent thereto. The house is so close to the road we have no place to put the snow

and since the sidewalk is going to be 6" in elevation, you know with the pitch of the driveway and our sidewalk will change. And as I said to you at the meeting, and I am going to be very upfront with you, if we get drainage problems we will look to the town for restitution. We were told the telephone pole just to our property as well as the poles on the street and the wires would have to be moved in on our property and that means those wires will be extremely close to our second floor windows. Moving the poles and the wires would also affect the Norway maple tree which is on our property and if you, if that tree is destroyed, or damaged or possibly removed either by the construction of the sidewalk or by the moving of the poles and wires that would be at the town's expense. As far as the bank which is part of our house lot that is approximately 85' in length and maybe 3-4' high in places as you well know and that will require stabilization and require a retaining wall and that will be a town expense to maintain that wall. Keeping that in mind, the right of way has not been established and again, I am being up front with you, as I said at the April meeting, we have discussed this in our household and there will be no easements granted to the town in any portion of this project that requires the use of property outside of the highway right of way. In any action from the town for acquisition, compensation for any and including any expenses will be at town expense. And as I indicated as I knew you were all aware the preliminary engineering costs and rights of way are not reimbursable under the grant so there are town expenses associated with this. Finally at the April meeting there was discussions on the alternate route and the resolution was adopted with the idea that the matter would come back to the council. I expect and now is the time that a decision has to be made as to where these sidewalks will take. Your agenda is specific as it states the installation of sidewalks on North Main Street and that is what you are asking the board of finance to appropriate the money for. The existing sidewalk and the neighborhood supports it needs repair now. So normally the and the town will have to address that sidewalk. I submit to you that the repair of that sidewalk and the wall and to build an alternate route where there are no sidewalks is a much more fiscally sound use of that money. Please vote no on this issue and I thank you for your time. Councilwoman Schenkel (a) Mr. Mayor I have question. My question is this. I know there was discussion about that the sidewalk would be on the opposite side of the road as a possible alternate solution, is that correct. Mayor Festa, yes. (b) Okay and the second question is, if we do not come to a resolution with the public that they find acceptable would one of the solutions be to simply just give the grant money back. Mayor, right. Anyone else. Yes. Lucy Baldwin, 40 North Main Street, as I said before I taught school in Terryville for 29 years and so do I approve of sidewalk and crosswalks and signs to ensure safety for children walking to school, absolutely, I am all for it. The safety of any child comes first. Now I can't believe the plans are to install a sidewalk level with the street on my side when directly across the street there is a sidewalk, there is a sidewalk and further, this sidewalk across the street is raised above and away from the street. That to me is very important for safety. There is a wall that protects this existing sidewalk; now how much farther, how much safer could that be for a child walking. On my side of the road you are right on the road and a car could veer right in them and then you have an accident there. Then to further that sidewalk across the street with the wall projecting it, is even on the same side of the street of both schools and they do not have to cross the street at all, just go directly down. A better use of the money would be to install sidewalks where there are one on either side. It was my daughter who just spoke before

me and I agree with her. Please do not put a sidewalk that will not be as safe as the one across the street. All those cars coming up North Main Street, they really come up and someone just has to get a push in the road and you've got a good accident there. Across the street the wall projects, a car could go right into the wall and it will protect anybody walking there. Thank you for your time. Mayor Festa, thank you. Any other comments. Laurie Sklenka, 42 North Main Street (a) in the past no one has said anything to us about the sidewalks. You have been going out there but nobody has contacted us to let us know that. Are you really going to let us be involved because you haven't in the past. Mayor Festa, when you say be involved because you haven't in the past. Since this recent project has come forward has there not been any involvement from the part of Mr. Lorenzetti's office. (b) Nope. He has not contacted any of us. Nobody has contacted us since the grant went through. Mayor Festa, I thought council people when out on a tour. Councilman Wunsch, we did. I think you mean since the last meeting. (c) I think since the last time we talked to Mr. Lorenzetti about the meeting we had; No I am saying after it was all, after we got the grant no one contacted us. Councilwoman Schenkel, we haven't gotten the grant yet; we got accepted. Mayor Festa, we got notification that we were chosen for the grant and that is why we are here this evening. (d) Nobody told us we were accepted, because we are concerned, it would have been nice for one of you to call one of us to say the grant, they accepted us. Mayor Festa, the question here is that there is no formal action yet until such time as there is an appropriation. At that point in time is when there would be action coming forward to have a meeting relative to discussing the issue of what is proposed what needs to be discussed again relative to your concerns and your issues. As I said early on in my conversation that I myself as well as many of these council people have been up and down North Main Street taking into consideration everything that has been discussed from those previous meetings. I think there was some discussion relative to Mr. Lorenzetti going out with the caretakers from Hillside Cemetery and talking about whether or not they can take the property along that side of the road which there is a crypt I believe in, something there that would have to be removed if necessary or actually putting the sidewalk on the inside of the cemetery. So there has been discussion and I have not been fully involved in that but I do know that has been taking place over a period of time. So when they finally come to this fruition of deciding what to do, that is the next movement forward to sit again and call together the people involved and have a discussion on what is and what is not appropriate. (e) and we will be called. Mayor Festa, there will be notification. I mean you people have shown a tremendous involvement and concern and you do have a serious concern relative to your individual rights relative to property owners and what is taking place there and I do know that amongst discussion with these council people before you there is concern with Councilmen Zagurski and Wunsch on the fact that moving these telephone poles and wires closer to you homes. In fact there would almost be one outside one of your windows, so they have constantly been involved and concerned for the projects itself and what is the better effect and the net effect on the positive side vs. the negative side. So they have been taking your interests and your concerns you raised very seriously. Councilman Wunsch, if you mean, if you are asking that we should have called you and said that we are going to put this on the agenda, is that what you are talking about and I apologize. Because I, it's just like the one for Harwinton Avenue, and I wouldn't call everyone on Harwinton Avenue and tell them, because I am sure there are people on

Harwinton Avenue who believe it is a waste. I am not getting into a fight with you or discussion and like I said it never really occurred to me personally to call anybody who is going to be affected because they are posted items and I apologize. (f) It is different in Harwinton Avenue is that they are not coming here or opposing it. Councilman Wunsch, we had a public hearing and we all know where you stand and will not get to back and forth. I apologize and if I know from now on there is something going on I will contact you people. (g) that is all I ask for is the courtesy and you know we are all against it and we are all still against it. Just one of you please call us. Mayor Festa, when the time is appropriate there will be call put out and if you are asking that every time there is a discussion on the issue and there have been many discussions in town hall about the issue because I have talking with Mr. Lorenzetti about this for some time after I take the rides up and down North Main Street. Do you want us to call you every time those things occur to let you know that we are discussing so on and so forth. I think what we have done is we take your concerns into consideration, serious consideration; I mean we wouldn't be constantly discussing or moving up and down the street or talking about telephone poles that will be up against your bedroom window, etc or that the sidewalk will be right against your front porch type thing if we didn't consider and listen to you guys seriously about your concerns that you raised. (h) I know that you are but if someone once in a while would say we are working on this. Mayor Festa, it is difficult when you are waiting and it is a person that can be affected one way or another, we understand that but believe me nothing will take place until you are formally approached and told that there is now a particular situation developing here and plans are going to start being developed so on and so forth. You will need to come to this meeting to be part of. (i) I just want to say I am still opposed and do not want it. And thank you and thank you for going up and down the street. I would have thanked earlier if I knew. Mayor Festa, you are quite welcome, thank you. It is one of the issues when you sit and listen to the concerns that are raised and try to get a visual picture of what is taking place and I have even gone when school is being let out to try and see how many students are actually walking, you know up North Main Street. Last week I counted 4, one was walking over toward Harry Fisher Elementary for the purpose of a particular program that might be second graders but coming out of there during dismissal for the middle school I saw 4 kids walking the upper end of North Main and that was only the four I saw. There are those kinds of things you people pointed out as well on what you have seen on a daily basis in your neighborhood, etc. so nothing that you have said has been taken lightly. (j) I understand, I see that now and it would be nice to know that you are not forgetting us. Mayor Festa, any other discussion any other comment. Andrew Kowalec, 46 North Main Street (a) the initial perse blueprint of this project when will that get into gear. Mayor Festa, I honestly cannot tell you what Mr. Lorenzetti has done so far. I do know that there has been nothing that has really been put down on paper that is a particular design at this point in time. There is just so many alternatives to look at in terms of the best fit. I myself when I raised the question about moving the sidewalk through the cemetery I used an example about the city of Dallas where they built a new convention center. There was an adjacent cemetery going back to the 1700's and the only way planning and zoning for the city of Dallas would allow the convention center to be built is that they had to take into consideration the cemetery adjacent to the property. And what they did is they opened it up as a park where they put walkways and park

benches it was amazing to see the number of people who worked in downtown Dallas during the business dealings go out for lunch and sit on these park benches or stroll through the cemetery as a park and they had an impression in my mind relative to what can be done when somebody puts their mind to some fore thinking. So there is no reason why we cannot think of some alternatives on the issues of what is out there and support you and your concerns. (b) my wife and I both appreciate the time that you have taken, the council and everything, and we didn't even know about that you went out there to take a look at the issue and take a look at our property, our little small front yards and everything were you working on it and you are working on a workable solution. Mayor Festa, trying to look at alternatives and each and every one of us have a different view from what we see, kind of looking at a painting each of us has a different view of what is on that canvas and a different impression from that stroke of that brush that is put to that canvas. The same thing with sidewalks in a neighborhood. Collectively we come to our minds about the need to take a serious look at the issue you presented. But we all have a different angle in terms of what we have all seen out there and what we consider our visionary for this particular neighborhood and collectively we will put our minds together when Mr. Lorenzetti has something to present to all of us including yourselves. So we can actually make a sound decision in terms of judgment and what is to take place there and if doesn't fit the bill then as Councilwoman Schenkel has said, our option is to return the money. Councilwoman Schenkel, Mr. Mayor, usually when we have a public hearing there is usually some kind of pictorial representation so that the public can see what it is going to look like so you will have a better understanding if it is going to be through the cemetery or on the other side of the street or whatever. I mean, contrary to whatever the impressions is out there we live here to and we care about this town and we want very much to hear what people feel and if people don't tell us than we don't know We are trying to do the right thing here to by you as well as everyone else. (c) Thank you very much. Mayor Festa, you are welcome. Thank you. Any other comments or questions. If not I will call for a vote.

Vote: unanimous.

8. TO REQUEST THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATION WITHIN THE CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000.00 FUNDED BY A STEAP (SMALL TOWN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) GRANT FOR THE WATERWHEEL PROJECT – Mayor Festa, keep in mind that when we discussed this in the past this came through the STEAP grant that had an allocation of \$450,000. \$300,000 was for the streetscape and \$150,000 was for the waterwheel for the specific purpose of securing property if necessary.

MOTION: To request that the Board of Finance establish an appropriation within the Capital and Non-recurring fund in the amount of \$150,000 funded by a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant for the waterwheel by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Sandshaw. Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel, I would like to hear from our comptroller on what we will use this money for. Dave Bertnagel, this money was earmarked through the application process and every year it goes to the Governor's office which has a \$20 million allocation per year and we fall under grant on where award grant to municipalities. This grant is additional funds for waterwheel with

no strings attached for specific purchase of property acquisition. Again, the way resolution was approved through the State Bond Commission is for the waterwheel. Mayor Festa, any other discussion or comments. Seeing none I call for a vote.
Vote: unanimous.

9. TO ESTABLISH A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APPLICATION APPROVAL SUBMITTED THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM; JAMES GRIFFIN, APPLICANT – Mayor Festa, Mr. Griffin is here this evening and will make presentation and this is a neighborhood assistance program that comes out yearly through the tax department, Revenue Services through the State of Connecticut. Specifically the last time we had any grant application was 2 years ago back in 2008 and this is a new one for 2010 and Mr. Griffin's application and I ask him to come forward to make a presentation. Mr. James Griffin, it is gratifying to see the democratic process unfolding and I would bet between the intelligence conveyed from the citizen's part and the good intention and wisdom of the town council I would say the sidewalk issue will end up as win win. The process doesn't work unless good people like you step forward. I have had the pleasure recently to stop in to see my old friend Mayor Festa to ask his help on something here. I put a nonprofit together called The Sam & Elizabeth Colt American Cultural Heritage Foundation and establish museum dedicated to CT's industrial history and Sam and Elizabeth Colt's role in that from the gold dome in East Hartford and Hartford where 84 and 91 come together. We would build around two particular themes and one is the birthplace of the industrial revolution, and that really ties in very nicely with the gentleman who is very famous here in Terryville, Eli Terry as Sam Colt learned an awful lot about interchangeability when Eli Terry did his locks. The other part of the theme of the museum will be to showcase the American cultural experience this whole of the guy who won the west being a peacemaker and we will also tell the story of the Winchester rifle as well although the factory was torn down and we will try to tell the whole story of the industrial revolution as it took place in here in the CT river valley, not just Hartford and not just CT but the whole valley from Rhode Island up to Canada and all the industrialized force including Eli Terry, Seth Thomas and the roles and things that they did. I used to run the government relations department at Colt Manufacturing Company and I did work in Washington and when I came home and looked at the dome in Hartford I said what a piece of American history sitting here and wouldn't be a shame for this to go to disarray. I am working with the current owners and the bank to buy out their position on the bank and take over the site and to put the museum, occupy the existing armory and two buildings behind it and be connected and use that for reception and buses getting on and off. I have been out to see Ken Burns in Walpole NH who has documentary of life and times for Sam and Elizabeth Colt, have been in touch with collectors and in touch with others to do CT story of industrial of Sam and Elizabeth Colt's role in that. The site in short was the first automated assembly line in the world and a great story there. All of that as background, the state runs the program as Mayor Festa mentioned called the CT Neighborhood Assistance Act and every year the state puts up \$5

million and only about \$2.5 million is used because the non profits have a very difficult time to get through corporate CEO or comptroller or the treasurer and get answers and too much leg work. We are hoping for our project to get some face time with people who make decisions but it requires us to be on a communities list of applications for the program for the State to consider it. I was aware of deadline to get form in and sub to get application to community, Hartford and home town of Bristol and in both cases the deadline was about two months ago so I missed it and the State said that as long as in any community and does not matter if the project is in that community and so then I came to see my good friends here in Plymouth. I came to see Vinny and he graciously conceded to let me ask you folks to put our nonprofit application for the program on Plymouth's list. It does not cost you anything. As I mentioned to the Mayor when we get the project rolling and start making some good monies we will try to share those monies with the communities around CT who have a historical story to tell and Terryville is right in there and I would love to see that waterwheel be preserved and the Eli Terry story told in more dramatic form. I thank you for your consideration Mr. Mayor and council to have our nonprofit added to your list for the state. Mayor Festa, just as a clarification to make certain of the issue here, this comes out of the Commissioner Law's office, Department of Revenue. I have talked to them to make sure that any municipality can present an application on behalf of the individual and it is in fact accurate. So the issue at hand here is that Jim came in this past week relative to concern he has about putting a museum up in Hartford and as he pointed out and part of that museum will eventually include the history of the Town of Plymouth relative to Eli Terry, Mr. Hoadley and a few other people such as Seth Thomas, etc that have had a profound influence not only here in the community but through Mr. Colt as well as the story you presented to me last week and even gone as far as to have the impact on Mr. Ford as well. And what has taken place relative to what has taken place with these inventors have learned through forefathers in terms of the industrial revolution. So I did talk to Commissioner Law to make certain that we were on target with this and bottom line is there is no cost to the town it is just the opportunity to allow a nonprofit to be put on the agenda for consideration at the state level and it has to go through a municipality, that would be a municipality that has the time before the time expires. Any questions for Jim. Jim Griffin, thank you very much for your consideration. Mayor Festa, is there a motion to allow Mr. Griffin to submit his application to the State through the municipality of Plymouth.

MOTION: To allow Mr. Griffin to submit an application to the State through the municipality of Plymouth by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Sandshaw.
Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel, one of the things I think this is interesting about this opportunity is because it dovetails very nicely with what the Historic Commission is trying to do with the waterwheel project and one of our goals is to educate people on the history of our town and use the waterwheel as focal point and to encourage tourism. If we can be up in Hartford and have more people exposed to that there may be more people willing to come and take the ride through and go to the Litchfield hills and we are the gateway to Litchfield County it would be really nice if we became the welcoming center for that journey. I thought that was a very interesting proposal. Mayor Festa, any other

discussion or comment. Councilman Zagurski (a) I don't have a problem with this but if the agenda item says we set a public hearing date for it. Mayor Festa, what will happen is that this has to go to a public hearing and another part of the application process through the State of CT. Also in light of that there has to be public hearing depending on the action taken by the board of finance tomorrow evening because there will have to be a public hearing as well relative to the appropriation issue. So keep in mind that there will be a call to council people depending on what happens tomorrow with the board of finance to discuss who is available on what particular dates for a quorum present to hold a public forum and that would be done through legal notification as well as in the newspaper relative to the appropriation component and this item would be on agenda as well. There has to be a public hearing on it. (b) Mr. Griffin said he missed the dates for Hartford and Bristol. Jim Griffin, my understanding on watching the others placed. I don't believe there is another requirement for level of review. I think the way the other non profits described, they submit application, votes taken and I think that suffices I believe, I don't know. Mayor Festa, what will happen based on our history, if you have an application that is received and approved for consideration you then set a public hearing for the purpose of having public input on the application as well. There are deadlines and the two communities had already gone through their process and submitted applications so their deadline had been met. The bottom line deadline would be July 1st so the final date of doing anything would July 1st for the final date for which they can take application for submission. What happens is at the State level they begin the process of going through the applications submitted and they make the decision as to who is receiving what and that takes place somewhere between September and October. So there is a cut off for every municipality in the state and apparently in Hartford they already had their meetings and applications submitted and had their town meeting on it and forwarded the applications to the State. The thing we are doing tonight as we did in the past. Back in 2008 we had the playground over at Fisher Elementary and the youth soccer club that put in for assistance program, there was a public hearing, public meeting on it and no one showed for that. The applicants decided to remove their applications as well so everything was dead. Had we gone through and applicants wanted their applications submitted we would have done that simply because there was no opposition. It is a requirement Jim. Any other discussion on it. Seeing none I will call for a vote.
Vote: unanimous.

10. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY TAX REFUNDS:

CAB EAST LLC, \$210.07; SILVIO CAVICCHIO, \$98.43

MOTION: To approve the property tax refunds for Cab East LLS, \$210.07; Silvio Cavicchio, \$98.43 by Councilman Zagurski; second Councilman Wunsch and the vote unanimous.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

- a. Councilman Wunsch, would like to address what you had asked earlier and since I got on council in November I have not voted against any grants but what I want

- you to understand is every single person who says I take seriously the way I do things is I am around town a lot. I don't just talk to people who come here to talk; people call my house and I am sure they all everyone's house, I run into them when I get my coffee, when I go to hardware store and when I get pizza. In this particular issue there is an intense group against and there are people I talk to for it. I want you to understand as people your group is here and you are against it, on any grant, it doesn't mean the whole town. We all get stuck having to take and weigh both sides. You are here and all you see are the people against it but there are people for it. I want you to understand it is not just people here that affect my decision on anything. One of the first people who said lets go look at it was me. I understand and want you to understand. It is not just people who show up here and we represent north side of Main and people on south side we take into account. You are more directly affected and what you feel is more of what I will listen to. Want to make sure you understand.
- b. Councilman Sandshaw, thank everyone for coming out, voicing opinion and part of our process; thank you. It is very important we have the general public help us along in making decisions. I am not, the question when talking about grants and I am not thoroughly convinced that we should take grant money and give it back when we can improve the infrastructure of our town. I agree it is all of our money and to give a half million back and not do anything to help our town I am not convinced that is the right thing to do.
 - c. Councilwoman Schenkel, I want to say one issues is the grant is limited by what we can do with it. We can't just start building sidewalks anywhere we want. The grant is contingent on a certain area. Same thing with Harwinton Avenue, if there are certain criteria that had to be met in order to get that money. It is not our choice and some of it is the choice of the people giving us that money. For those not familiar with it and believe me I have been in this three years and I am learning myself and sometimes bitter pill to swallow, and say Harwinton not that bad of a road and others out there would benefit but when the state says we have this criteria and you have to do this and this and they inspect and say we like this road and what we are giving money for.
 - d. Andrew Kowalec, 46 North Main, one more couple that was at the April meeting could not make tonight, Robin and Ed Frechette, she is in hospital for heart work, open heart or something.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas,
Clerk of the Council