

1. The Special Meeting of the **Plymouth Town Council** was called to order on **Monday, February 8, 2010** at 7:00 p.m. in the Plymouth Town Hall Community Room by Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr. Members in attendance: Councilman Martin Sandshaw, Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, Councilman David Sekorski, Councilman Tom Zagurski, Councilman John Wunsch and Mayor Festa. Also present: David Bertnagel, Director of Finance; Robin Gudeczauskas, Clerk of the Council; Tony Lorenzetti, Public Works Director; Sal Vitrano, Town Attorney.

2. Fire Exit Notification

3. Pledge of Allegiance

**MOTION:** To table item 4 from the agenda as we cannot approve or change Minutes at a Special Meeting by Councilman Wunsch; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

4. Council Rules and Procedures

5. Mayor's Report

a. Budget preparation for FY 2010-2011 continues and we are meeting with boards and commissions relative to himself and the Comptroller, now know Director of Finance, for the purpose of discussing issues effecting the town and state and federal monies and the impact and effect it can have on local issues here. We are looking at the hiring and spending freeze that has been activated for some time.

b. Board of Finance Recommendations received for consideration. We are now to the middle of the stream where we are looking at the potential for furloughs/lay-offs and will be addressing these under the State budget issues with the particular unions. There is some serious concerns relative to what we need to do and how we need to approach this upcoming budget year. At this point in time it looks like we may be moving toward furlough and/or layoffs.

c. During this presentation of negotiations with the unions we are going to look at reorganization as well to see if there is something we can do to consolidate with our golden handshakes and to do reorganization of the particular front offices here at town hall.

d. Bonding Proposal Presentation Update – Have started and we will be moving forward relative to presenting that to various groups and civic groups around town, different boards and commissions as well.

e. Auditor's will be coming in February 18<sup>th</sup> to give a final report to be presented to the Board of Finance due to a cancellation of the January meeting and will be at February 18<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in attending.

f. State Budget issues of major concern again. The COST organization has been keeping us up to date on things that are going on at the state level. There have been some committees that have been formed with the request from different CEO's of various small towns in the area to get involved and get on different panels on discussion with state legislatures. We received a notification relative to the potential of looking at regionalization much like the counties that are in New York. Michigan has been looking at this issue and I do have a report that was sent from COST via the State of Michigan. If

anybody is interested I will make a copy and get it to you but it does which highlight some very serious concerns about locals and the area of losing their autonomy if the state does move forward with these kinds of issues.

g. Back Tax Collections efforts moving forward. We did have a tax sale earlier this week. It didn't prove to be a benefit with the two pieces of property that we had up for auction. We are moving to an absolute auction a few weeks down the road which will put additional properties on market which will be a bidding process and as soon as we get that information I will make sure you receive copies of that. Current tax collection is being watched very carefully due to the fact that February has been a new round of tax collections. Things seem to be going very well. Our tax collector is on vacation and Ted Scheidel is at a Board of Ed meeting so at the next Council meeting we should have an update for you on that issue.

h. There was a Special Town meeting on appropriations for the \$228,000 for the high school sidewalk project that was approved.

i. 2006 IRS Tax Return/Penalty is in the final stages and I believe now we are closing out the 2006 with a reduction and I believe we will probably end up with nothing more than a notification that we have to be very careful in the next round as we are going forward because I mentioned early on we do have some issues with the 2007/2008 and what it seems to be as the errors were noted relative to the 941's which is a final compilation of the four quarters and those four quarters should match up with what is taken out for the early tax responsibility that goes to the IRS for the Town of Plymouth employees. So I will have a definite within the later part of this week as discussed today by the tax advocate who is working with us and things seems to be moving fairly well in that regard because we are paying close attention to the correspondence received from the IRS and they are more than happy in what we are doing to try to resolve our issues throughout the several years of noncompliance.

j. Blight Abatement Ordinance presentation – will be coming up the 17<sup>th</sup> of February. That will be a discussion for the purpose of the Council meeting with the Blight Committee to discuss the final report which was a report that was drafted, getting input on the part of the townspeople that were here at the open forum. The town meeting on the issue as well as Council members comments. We will get an opportunity for the new Council people to have some input as well. Once that has moved forward it will then go to a final draft if it is presented and approved by the Council.

k. Sidewalk subdivision regulation meeting – That was done earlier this week relative to Planning & Zoning looking at some input. They are going to a public hearing on the matter discussing the whole issue of sidewalks in the subdivisions that are being developed as the sidewalk issues. That will be forthcoming and we will send out notification as to when that will take place. We will do a notification regarding that issue as well as the streetscape because there is notification that will be coming down the road relative to Malone and McBroom coming in to do a presentation. We do have a map upstairs that shows the highlighted areas throughout Main Street from Benedict right down to Allen Street. Notices are going out relative to the property owners and the business people associated with those particular spots to invite them to come in to a meeting to get input as well. This is done by the Economic Development Commission and I think they are doing a marvelous job of getting input from the local people affected through businesses and/or the homeowners in that area.

l. Update on truck/car starters – There was a question raised as to whether or not the new trucks purchased by the highway department actually had starters in them. There are no starters in any of the new trucks that has been purchased for road. The one truck is a pick up used by highway superintendent does have a starter in it. We are well aware of that. There was one invoice that was paid in 2009 for that starter and something that has been used since 2000 in that particular truck, which again is the pick up truck. There are no cars whatsoever that have electric starters in them and I did check with the local agency who provided the one starter and with their assurances and with checking with their invoices that is the only starter that has been purchased to date on trucks/cars, etc. So I just want that to be noted for the record. I did check with the business at hand as well and they did verify the fact that there is only one starter.

m. Award notification, Chief Krasicky has been notified that she has been nominated to receive an award from the police organization, woman's police organization in the State of Connecticut. She is receiving the award that is for the most outstanding police officer in the State which is a plus for the Town of Plymouth.

n. Town Planner, Khara Dodds, Connecticut Land Use Leadership Award – Received notification that she has received an award. It is an invite to attend a planning workshop in April. She is one of 35 people who have been honored in such to be awarded this opportunity to attend this particular workshop. It is over \$1000 in cost and due to the fact of her nomination and her award it is costing the town absolutely nothing but her time to go and attend and pick up some wonderful ideas and some wonderful projects that the Town can benefit from.

o. American Red Cross Military Award, Henry J. Raymond

Aside from that I am done with my particular agenda so we will move forward.

## 6. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

### 7. Appointment and Resignations

- a. To approve the re-appointment of Carl Johnson to the Planning and Zoning Commission; term to expire 2/19/2013

**MOTION:** To approve the re-appointment of Carl Johnson to the Planning and Zoning Commission; term to expire 2/19/2013 by Councilman Zagurski; second Councilman Sekorski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

- b. To approve the re-appointment of Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Drew to the Human Services Commission; term to expire 10/1/2012

**MOTION:** To approve the re-appointment of Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Drew to the Human Services Commission; term to expire 10/1/2012 by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: None. Vote: unanimous.

- c. To approve the re-appointment of Susan Boilard to the Human Services Commission; term to expire 10/1/2012

**MOTION:** To approve the re-appointment of Susan Boilard to the Human Services Commission; term to expire 10/1/2012 by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel stated she knows Sue has been on this

commission for a while and she is extremely respected and welcome back as member of the commission and I just want her keep up the good work. Vote unanimous.

- d. To approve the re-appointment of Ann T. Tuleja to the Police Commission; term to expire 1/14/2013

**MOTION:** To approve the re-appointment of Ann T. Tuleja to the Police Commission; term to expire 1/14/2013 by Councilman Sandshaw; second Councilman Zagurski.

Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

- e. To approve the re-appointment of Connie Kapralos to the Police Commission; term to expire 1/14/2013

**MOTION:** To approve the re-appointment of Connie Kapralos to the Police Commission; term to expire 1/14/2013 by Councilman Sandshaw; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

- f. To approve the re-appointment of Gerard Bourbonniere to the Parks/Recreation Commission; term to expire 11/5/2012

**MOTION:** To approve the re-appointment of Gerard Bourbonniere to the Parks/Recreation Commission; term to expire 11/5/2012 by Councilman Sandshaw; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

- g. To approve the re-appointment of Louise (Lani) Johnson to the Cap. Improvements Commission; term to expire 2/7/2013

**MOTION:** To approve the re-appointment of Louse (Lani) Johnson to the Capital Improvements Commission; term to expire 2/7/2013 by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Sandshaw. Discussion: none. Vote: Unanimous.

- h. To approve the re-appointment of Joseph Green to the Cap. Improvements Commission; term to expire 2/7/2013

**MOTION:** To approve the re-appointment of Joseph Green to the Capital Improvements Commission; term to expire 2/7/2013 by Councilman Wunsch; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

- i. To approve the appointment of Nicole McWilliams to fill a vacancy on the Library Board of Directors; term to expire 11/12/2012

**MOTION:** To approve the appointment of Nicole McWilliams to fill a vacancy on the Library Board of Directors; term to expire 11/12/2012 by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: Mayor Festa stated due to the vacancy on the Library Board due to Michael Drodzik's election to the Board of Finance. The next highest vote getter was Fran Baraniecki, she did not want the position so it goes to the next person who is Nicole McWilliams and she has offered to accept the position.

Vote: unanimous.

- j. To accept the resignation of Jeanine Audette as a member of the Historic Properties Commission

**MOTION:** To accept the resignation of Jeanine Audette as a member of the Historic Properties Commission by Councilwoman Schenkel with regret; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

8. To Refund The Following Property Taxes: CAB East LLC, Ford Credit Property Tax, \$776.65; GMAC Semperian Property Tax, \$236.19 and \$232.88; Grant or Lisbeth Leonhardt, \$3.55; Grant G. Leonhardt, \$4.24; Eric Moreland, \$77.96

**MOTION:** To refund property taxes to CAB East LLC, Ford Credit Property Tax, \$776.65 by Councilman Wunsch; second Councilman Sekorski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** To refund property taxes to GMAC Semperian Property Tax, \$236.19 and \$232.88 by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Sandshaw. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** To refund property taxes to Grant or Lisbeth Leonhardt, \$3.55 by Councilman Sekorski; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** To refund property taxes to Grant G. Leonhardt, \$4.24 by Councilman Wunsch; second Councilman Zagurski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** To refund property taxes to Eric Moreland, \$77.96 by Councilman Wunsch; second Councilman Sekorski. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

9. To Remove from Table to Discuss Liaison Role and/or Responsibility for coverage for day meetings/new requests – This would need a motion to take off the table unless this Council is not ready to discuss it than it can remain. It is your pleasure. There are not things that are open; these are new requests coming from different organizations in town.

**MOTION:** To take off the table by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Sandshaw and the vote unanimous. Mayor Festa stated the item relative to is the fact that there has been for some time, discussion on the liaison role regarding boards and Commissions and the fact some council people are out 3-4 nights a week and sometimes 4-5 nights in a given month. We also have the request for particular entities within town that do come under certain awards such as Early Childhood Development program etc. who are looking for liaisons to come to meetings during the day. For most of you, you are working during the day and it is a very difficult process. The issue at hand here is if in fact we want to consider changing the role of the liaison in terms of the times of meetings and the amount of meetings that is something we need to discuss with you in terms of you putting input as to what you feel your role and function would be and the time spent, whether it would be talking to a chairperson before their meeting or talking to the chairperson after their meeting to get ready for the next meeting to bring them back some information, etc. as opposed to being there in person at every single meeting. Also the fact that if these particular organizations that come into some grant monies and do have a start up of a particular board or commission and wants your presence during the day, we have to find a way of getting around that. I don't know if it would be someone who is sending out minutes of their particular meetings and/or some informational items that are to be presented to a council person for review and then some feedback to them in absence of your presence at that meeting. So it is up to this Council to decide.

Councilwoman Schenkel, if we had a polycom I would be happy to attend by telephone and something maybe we can consider looking into the cost of the polycom for the conference room and that way if they have net meetings, you can bring it up on the computer and do it that way. Mayor Festa asked for any other suggestions or ideas or anyone have feelings about the meetings during the evenings that you attend at nights, are you happy with what is going on so far. Councilman Sandshaw, I do not have any problems with the meetings I am attending which seems to be working out quite well. I think maybe these commissions that are meeting during the day if one of us were appointed and they just notify us that we could give them feedback or come back to the Council and then give them feedback. Mayor Festa, one of the suggestions that I raised with a couple of these individuals, that if they can gather a packet of materials and ship it down to my office than I can then relay it to each of you for input from you and get a consensus back to them in terms of what their workload is and what their requirements are and what suggestions they are looking for from the governing body of the town. Right now I think that may be the best way relative to the fact that everyone is working during day. Councilman Wunsch, my wife is very happy with the amount of time I spend out at night. As I have offered to you before, my schedule allows during the day I can be flexible and am around during the day and if something does come up and somebody does need somebody from Council to be there I can probably 80% of the time rearrange my schedule to be available. Councilman Sekorski, has there been any specific requests from any commissions that are concerned that they haven't had representation. Mayor Festa, no, there hasn't been but this is just something that has been bandied around for a while relative to and more recently the fact that the day meetings are what has been cropping up and everybody wants Council liaison to get some input so that they can plead for their case. More specifically for the financial woes that they seem to be in relative to the amount of grant money that has been reduced and they still have a project to move forward on so I think that is probably one of the issues to try to get some input and support from the Town Council relative to what they are doing at this point in time or may do within the next year and a half or so. Councilwoman Schenkel, I just want to say that I have had some concerns only because with our reduction of staff at work and my hours have lengthened. I am very fortunate that I have commissioners who are very flexible and if I let them know ahead of time that I am unable to make it or I am going to be late, they are always great about giving me the material and I always try to follow up with them but I do feel like in a way based on the economy and workload that I have at work, sometimes it is difficult but we do try to make it to whatever we can. Mayor Festa, any other ideas or suggestions. Well then thank you John and I will take you up on that offer. I will collect from these various groups that meeting during the day that happen to do some presentations via packets and disseminate and if you are available, John, we will have you step over into the meeting. Councilman Sandshaw, at least 3 days a week I am available during the day. Monday's and Friday's not but Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I am usually around.

**MOTION:** To move to item 10 by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Sandshaw and the vote unanimous.

10. Executive Session For The Purpose Of Contract Negotiations Regarding Real Estate Transactions; Negotiations Regarding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) AFSCME/Police –

**MOTION:** To go into Executive Session at 7:24 p.m. for the purpose of contract negotiations regarding real estate transactions and negotiations regarding Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME on Police issue, inviting the Mayor, Town Attorney Vitrano and Director of Finance, Dave Bertnagel by Councilman Sandshaw; second Councilwoman Schenkel and the vote unanimous.

Mayor Festa called the meeting back to order and into public session at 9:14 p.m.

11. To Take Action, if any, From Executive Session

**MOTION:** That the Mayor sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the position of Detective Sergeant as of February 2010 by Councilman Sekorski; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** We authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding to create a Split Shift Sergeant position for the Police Department effective February 2010 by Councilman Sekorski; second Councilman Wunsch. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

**MOTION:** We authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding that the Town shall create a full time Animal Control/Police Officer position for the Town of Plymouth by Councilman Sekorski; second Councilman Sandshaw. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous with Councilman Zagurski abstaining.

**MOTION:** To allow the Mayor to begin the process of submitting the application to the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of acquiring open space by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Wunsch. Discussion: none. Vote unanimous

12. To Accept For The Record The Drainage Maintenance Easement Agreement With Vail Contractors, LLC – Mayor Festa this is an issue relative to Country Garden Estates subdivision. This is a matter of signing off on the final aspect of the drainage easement. So I ask for a motion for the record only for the purpose of making sure that this drainage maintenance easement is on the record.

**MOTION:** To accept the drainage easement by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Sandshaw. Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel, question for our Comptroller, do we have enough money in the budget for this easement; “for the consideration of one dollar”. Dave Bertnagel, yes, we have the dollar. Councilwoman Schenkel, these people waited so long we have to have a little bit of a laugh. Councilman Zagurski, I have a question on the same thing and I probably haven’t seen these contracts before and it says “in other valuable consideration received”, exactly what does it mean after the one dollar. Tony Lorenzetti, I believe it refers to work that still needs to be done on the project. Mayor Festa, to clarify this, you have other areas that this particular contractor has to do come springtime but in terms of the drainage easement that has been taken care of and what this does is reduce their bond by “x” amount of dollars. Tony Lorenzetti, it will allow us to reduce the bond. Mayor Festa, and still keeping money from that bond for the purpose of finishing up what needs to be done come spring time.

Tony Lorenzetti, correct. Mayor Festa, any other questions or discussion on the item.  
Vote: unanimous.

13. To Approve One Year Lease Agreement With Terryville Congregational Church Mayor Festa, basically this agreement is for the lease of a room in the 244 Main Street. As you well know the Terryville Congregational Church is hosting the clothes closet for members of this community. They have outgrown space and since there is no more space at the church and two of the parishioners that actually had space in their homes no longer have that space available. They have approached the Town and asked the Town consideration to allow them to at least just store clothing over in one of the rooms at the Main Street building. We used to lease the garage for a dollar to the Food Pantry before they moved out. Basically this lease has been looked at and approved conditional upon the Congregational Church providing a Certificate of Liability to the Town from its' insurance company. With that the lease itself spells out the considerations. So with this issue I open it up for discussion by virtue of presenting a motion.

**MOTION:** To approve a one year lease agreement with Terryville Congregational Church by Councilman Wunsch; second Councilwoman Schenkel. Discussion: Councilwoman Schenkel, I have no problem with it. Councilman Zagurski, I have a couple of questions. We are asking for a Certificate of Insurance liability but there is no amount and is there something we should think about or no. Mayor Festa, it is a standard coverage showing the Town that they have coverage for their individuals and there is one person that will be going over there are necessary. We as well have coverage on our side in terms if someone gets injured on our property we will cover our side but we won't cover the churches if that person is a member of the church and decides to sue the church and why we are requiring a certificate to be on record as well. Councilman Zagurski, next question only, I don't think it is a concern but I want to make sure. I believe the library uses the garage already for book storage. Mayor Festa, the library is a town entity and there is no problem there with that and no disruption with that. Any other questions or any other discussion. Seeing none I will call for a vote. Vote: unanimous.

14. To Approve Resolution For Federal Stimulus Program Re: Harwinton Avenue Road Project

**MOTION:** To put on the table by Councilwoman Schenkel; second Councilman Sandshaw and the vote unanimous.

Tony Lorenzetti distributed drawings of the project. First things first. The project itself is for Harwinton Avenue essentially begins at Route 6 Main Street and heads northerly up towards the high school. Back in August 2009 DOT basically approved this project as a potential project to apply for ARRA funds (that is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). One of the things that was going on with the ARRA funding is the work really had to be done, sorry let me rephrase that. ARRA got funding in March 3, 2009 and under ARRA funding for this project must be obligated within one year of the federal\_\_\_\_\_ of funds. So we had a pretty tight deadline to get something together. Some of the things you look at when you are trying to get funds approved through DOT is what exactly is going into this project such as drainage submittals, property acquisitions, those can add quite a bit of time to

the process and if we had a project that had those types of things we would not have been able to be in line for timeframe to be eligible for the project. This particular project has reasonably good geometry and met the standards for road type and we did not need drainage upgrades and we did not need property acquisition or right of way acquisition. Essentially being repaired in the same spot as it was. The project was developed in two pieces, one being a base portion from Rt 6 essentially just beyond Holt Street and the remaining portion, if funding's available, could be completed to Armbruster Road. We had a lot of discussion with DOT about how exactly the road would be fixed and initially requested it simply be milled and overlaid which goes through a machine. They asked to go out there and did test holes and determined that it was within base bid portion of the project and there was a portion that should have full depth reconstruction. They also requested that the remainder of the project which is a bid alternate, also have that. After quite a bit of discussion we came up with actually 3 other options for final the portion of the road. One being simply mill and overlay; another being full depth reconstruction and another option being break up and regrade. What we end up having to do in the base bid, developed a test area to determine what the ability was of the existing roads to be just overlaid and we actually established that so we wouldn't reconstruct something that didn't have to be. That is more or less the long and short of it. The plans and specifications are just about ready and the plan is to go out to bid April 14<sup>th</sup> and we would have to make a decision on the bids within 90 days which would actually bring us to July 1 and that is basically the summary. Mayor Festa, if I can ask a question here Dave relative to the financing component. Both of you need to discuss it, Dave and Tony. It is at a point that this Council know exactly what the financial component is to this particular project even though it is with stimulus money and the impact to the community. Dave Bertnagel, I will explain basically what the allocation process is. This federal bureau money that was allocated to each state in the United States unless you are a major city than you got certain dollar amounts. Basically what ended up happening is the Town of Plymouth got its allocation for the region and from there the region then identified projects eligible for funding as Tony already explained that. In the Town of Plymouth's case, we were allocated for federal bureau funds \$307,378. There is another component to it. The State of CT now has their hands on that money as well so therefore they are going to get a piece of that for administering this grant. So of that \$307,378, the town will actually receive only reimbursement for \$248,378; so therefore roughly \$59,000 will go to the State of CT for administrative costs. \$20,000 is for incidentals and state materials testing; \$35,000 for incidental to construction administrative oversight and incidentals and construction audits and records examine is \$4,000. That is their fee which they are charging us out of our allocation if you want to call it that. The issue comes into play now where basically the base bid to do the construction is the \$355,000 and that is with the 10% contingency. Take that away from the 248, we are going to have a town match. We are going to need a town match in regards to approximately \$107,000 in that ballpark; we need that match for this project. How do we finance that? Well, there are a couple of different options we can do. We could appropriate that using fund balance through the Board of Finance obviously which would require a town meeting for approval. You can sell bonds or notes which require a referendum. Or we could find

other sources of revenue which would also require a town meeting because of the threshold to appropriate for this. To do this project, I think Tony has a little bit more detail but that is to do the base project, \$355 for this whole thing and I believe there are some alternates. Tony Lorenzetti, the base bid would be about 2000 feet. The alternate if we decide to complete that too would be an additional 1600' to get you all the way to Armbruster Road. Depending on the level of work done the alternate would range anywhere from \$201,000 to, believe it or not, \$456,000 if it had to totally be reconstructed. Dave Bertnagel, so at this point I think we are at the juncture of basically accepting the agreement because this is an approved project that they consider shovel ready and the plans and specifications already have been done. So basically if you are going to move ahead with it you would be approving us to I guess finalize the application process and then and we would have to now start searching for the town match for the base bid at this point in time. Mayor Festa, that is one of the most important components and that is why I have asked these gentlemen to make a presentation to Council people tonight because this is serious consideration that you are going to have to raise in terms of deliberations on this particular project. Do we or do we not fund this project for our share of the cost. Do we let it go by the wayside and worry about putting that money to other use and then come three or four years down the road and we all realize that Harwinton Avenue is going to have to be all redone and have to worry about finding the \$400,000 ourselves. So it is a dilemma you are faced with relative to and I wanted you to be aware of the fact that the financial implications even though it is a stimulus package that there is a pocketbook expense to the Town. Does anybody have any questions? Councilwoman Schenkel, to clarify, when we get this money, we don't have a choice where the money goes, they designate where the money's going to go. Tony Lorenzetti, it is specifically for this project and actually this sort of explains what we had to go through to get the point to make an eligible project, the State Department of Transportation project concept unit had to come out and look at the project and agree that it was an acceptable project. We got a letter dated 8/14/09 where they basically said it was an allowable project. What they do is they go through and analyze the existing conditions, look at the proposed improvements are, the roadway standards and they look at it to see if it is appropriate project and at that point they make a determination to go forward. At that point for base bid, based on estimate of about \$307,600. Subsequent to that some additional things got added in to the project, we ended up having to do some work on the traffic signals, not a large cost. We went out and looked at the project and really looked at all the existing curbing out there which is basically cracked. We had a choice to simply mill the road bed and leave the curbing in there or try and do it the right way and actually fix the curbing while its' out there. We decided to \_\_\_\_\_ do the curbing itself to. Other things that were included in here, things like all the detour signing, the traffic control, resetting catch basins and man holes, putting tops on. Councilman Sandshaw, so all the drainage issues in that area are going to be taken care of. Tony Lorenzetti, well in terms of the drainage issue on Harwinton Avenue, the surface drainage seems to work pretty well and it is a matter of sometimes getting into the gutters and a lot of that is a result of some of the pavement that falls apart. A lot of that issue is in the bid alternate section which is up by Jensen's where water sits in the gutter there. So if we

end of up doing that, the new crown would allow for water to pass to the stream. Cross slope over years has fallen apart. Councilman Sandshaw, there is a big ponding issue in that area. Councilwoman Schenkel, point for clarification of the public is that it not like the federal government gives you money and you can be good steward and use it where you need it. There are people out there that have horrendous roads in this town and I want them to understand that we do not have choice in how this money was allocated. That's the first part. Councilman Wunsch, this free money is going to cost us money. If we don't do it now, what would you project when we are going to have to do it? Tony Lorenzetti, that is always a good question but right now part of the road is already deemed as needing reconstruction and part of it is not. It's only a matter of time before it deteriorates. The last time we overlaid was I think in the early 90's and we are talking at least 15 years, probably closer to 17 or 18 years since the road has been done and maybe another 5-6 years before address. Councilman Wunsch, it has become more of a major road to the industrial park and high school. Tony Lorenzetti, once again, all we did was simply overlay the road so any of the base was not corrected, the drainage never really corrected. It is a huge issue to deal with a road like Harwinton Avenue, there is a lot of traffic, it is one of our busier roads in town, and you have to make sure you have all the traffic controls, signing and if needed the police officer is out there. You have to deal with all that. We certainly still have to have traffic pass and there is not a good alternate route and it all goes into cost of construction. Something needs to be done within the next few years anyway. Councilman Sekorski, what is left of the \$307,000; that is the base project and that is what is in front of us here now to go just above Holt Street. I am not understanding the difference between the base project that you were referring to and then the extended project. Tony Lorenzetti, on the front of document, the best thing to look at on the very front of the document, there is a segment of space of Rt 6 northerly and then there is a segment beyond Holt Street to Armbruster Road that is the bid alternate. So the base bid would be this portion and the alternate is here (pointed out on map). Our obvious hope is that there might be more money available through this. One of the things they look at is reallocation of the funds. We have to have a project in the pipeline to be able to get any funding. While there was an internal departmental policy that talked about reallocation of funding and it says "should the total project cost, low bid ....the remainder of the funds must be reallocated. The reallocation of existing remainder funds may be allocated toward ....." (read into record from document, not clear on tape). There may be the ability to try to supplement. Councilman Wunsch, I couldn't make even understand what you were saying. Tony Lorenzetti, I am sorry, let me go back. What's happening is there is a whole pool of money from the State of CT and if the projects themselves come in below the estimated price, there is ability that some of the other funding can be reallocated and it can go to an existing unobligated ARRA project that was not fully funded so I am hoping that we can actually fall into that. Supplement the state program not yet obligated, which we do not fall under. Supplement a project in the State system within region, or need, deadlock and is otherwise fully funded, so we might be able to fall under that; or a new project which is not us. There is an ability. Councilman Wunsch, you mean all the money that the State got to give out and if there is money left, we might get more that they are going to take a portion away

from us. Tony Lorenzetti, it might be the ability and that is why they allowed us to put in a bid alternate and once again, depends on how the projects come out. Councilwoman Schenkel, you can't win if you don't play. I think you brought up a good point Tony, and it is the frustrating thing that a lot of people don't understand is the amount of time and effort it takes to fill out just the application, to meet the application requirements, to fall into the hole that makes your town qualified is so time consuming. And then when you are granted some money the State is going to take a little bit for its' administrative cost. My understanding is those projects that don't fulfill the amount of money allotted, that money doesn't automatically stay with those communities, some of its got to go back. All the surplus money from these projects will go back into fund and they will say o.k., any other projects out there that might need a little extra money we might be able to supplement that. Tony Lorenzetti, including the State's project, yes. The plans in front of you we put tougher in our department with some help from Robert Green for survey. There is an awful lot of requirements and we had to follow the bid estimate and used standards the State required. Our hope is to come in with our bids we can come under bid. Councilman Zagurski, my understanding is this project isn't falling under what asking for but for 15 years we talked about redoing intersection of Rt 6 and Harwinton Avenue, and do you see that happening any time. From what I remember the State considered that to be a prime location or a prime improvement to the Rt 6 corridor. Tony Lorenzetti, there was a time when I thought those projects might actually get some action taken on them. What I am hearing at the State level right now is that none of these desired projects are probably going to get done. So I guess the answer is I don't see that happening in the short term. I'll give you an example on a group that did get done. Scott and Seymour Road, that was initially scoped in 1991 and you know when they finally got done. Councilman Sandshaw, so the traffic signal at Harwinton and Rt. 6 is not included in the upgrades with this project. Tony Lorenzetti, just some minor upgrades with the detectors that are in the road. Because what will happen is we will be milling the road and loop detector which are inducted coils would be ripped and replaced and we will add extra one to help with operation of signal. Signal operation is another discussion.

**MOTION:** Councilwoman Schenkel motioned to approve the Resolution "Resolved, that, Vincent Festa, Jr., Mayor, be, and hereby authorized to sign the agreement entitled: "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Plymouth for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance of Harwinton Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Public Law 111-5 (hereinafter "Act"). Second by Councilman Wunsch. Discussion: Councilman Sekorski, logistical question, at this point with our authorization we would just go out to bid and at that point when as long as the bids are within the parameters that you described to us, it would then automatically go forward depending on how we resolve the balance of the budgeting. Tony, yes, that was perfect. Roll Call Vote: Councilman Sandshaw, yes; Councilman Wunsch, yes; Councilwoman Schenkel, yes; Councilman Sekorski, yes; Councilman Zagurski, yes. Mayor Festa stated Motion passes 5-0.

## 15. Liaison Reports

- a. Councilman Zagurski – Library Board – Feb. 16 doing snapshot day being done statewide to see how libraries progressing. They requested when their budget is before the BOF they would like to be notified as the Director’s would like to be there to support the budget. BOE – Fisher Elementary held family math night and had 141 families attend and fantastic. Presentation given on energy conservation program and seeing benefits. Planning/Zoning, last meeting cancelled, extended moratorium on sidewalks and subdivision plans. The Mayor, he and Tony attended sidewalk meeting and looking for guidelines on where we think sidewalks should be in the community and they will talk about at next meeting.
- b. Councilman Sekorski – no report
- c. Councilwoman Schenkel – Human Services new liaison, a nice group, and new director Abby Eagan who is full of energy and ideas; looking for volunteer nurse to fill in afternoons to help senior citizens. Police Commission had some very good discussion and ideas about initiative on kennel brought here in town vs. renting in Bristol and working on that with the Mayor. BOF in full swing in budget season and if interested in how process works, come on Monday or Thursday night with regular meetings on the third Thursday; good to get involved to understand how working. EDC did not attend.
- d. Councilman Wunsch – Fire Department met and made a motion to do internal investigation on issues for fire marshal and whole town insurance review; 14 new members and issues are they are running out of money for physicals and training budget and have spoken with the comptroller. SBC – issues with boilers at Eli Terry and other issues at high school. Housing Board missed. Public Works, met and learned from snow squall last Thursday or two ago with 3 issues went through 300 tons of salt and amazing number. They are working on Safe Routes to School on sidewalks up Maple Street, along North Main. Harwinton Avenue reviewed; two new hires, one retiree and Donna, engineering tech is on maternity leave.
- e. Councilman Sandshaw – not able to attend EDC on 13th. Inland Wetlands meeting on Feb. 20 and commission adopted bylaws and elected officers, reviewed budget; show cause advertising on applicants not attending for show cause forces commission to re-advertise show cause for next meeting and having adverse effect on budget and discussing. Commission is working to catalog trees in Baldwin Park so people who visit will know species and we have a large variety. Did not attend meeting last week. Parks and Recreation attended on 14<sup>th</sup> with review and discussion on Lake Winfield dredging and feasibility study, reviewed budget, discussed recreation opportunities available in town. ZBA had one application and approved for accessory apartment.

## 16. Public Comments

- a. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street – (a) I’ve got question, sorry I had to leave for a little while, but when I came back you were talking about, to me, two projects on Harwinton Avenue; am I right or wrong in that assumption.

Mayor Festa, it is one project. (b) You are looking at just one stimulus is for, not extra money. The way I was hearing is there were two parts, one is the stimulus money and if they wanted to do more it would come out of taxpayer money, is that correct. Mayor Festa, you are talking about addition. Mr. Lorenzetti pointed out Harwinton Avenue to a certain point in time and then there is potential for moving from that point forward to a next point in time. Tony Lorenzetti, there is one project but there is a base bid and an alternate bid if funding allows. The way agreement with DOT is set up upon base bid, the beginning portion of it. (c) That is what you are looking to do. Tony Lorenzetti, we would like to go as far as money allow us to go. Stimulus money is for a portion of the project and does not fund the entire portion of even the small project. (d) Who chose this project? Tony Lorenzetti, I did. What needs to be done to be eligible for this funding, the project had to be shovel ready. We had to find a project that didn't have to go through all the normal DOT approvals and Harwinton Avenue fit the bill and it fit the bill being a road that is eligible for funds. Critical road as it feeds the industrial park and it feeds the new high school and why chose it. I went through time line to get something together. There is \$307,000 and change in stimulus. The estimate for the project was higher; hope is it will not come in that high but will not know until bid it.

#### 17. Council Comments

- a. Councilman Sandshaw- thank the people who are volunteering for various boards and commissions.
- b. Councilman Zagurski – congratulate and thank Peter Reid and Doris Isbrecht who retired after many years of dedicated service. Wish well in future endeavors. Thank Police Chief Karen Krasicky and congratulations for Officer of the Year award.
- c. Mayor Festa, as a follow-up, as Tom pointed out the 2009 Officer of the Year award will be presented to Chief Karen Krasicky on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Farmington Club. It is a wonderful honor for our town and for our Chief. Khara Dodds nominated to be one of 34 people to participate in a very exclusive program and I am proud of the fact that she is a part of this community and bringing some professionalism to our town. There is a special EDC meeting Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. and this is when Malone and MacBroom will do a presentation on the concept developed for the Main Street Streetscape. Anyone interested in attending that special meeting it is again on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. Also, relative to the streetscape issues, I do have some things relative to informational purposes and it will be in the Mayor's office if anyone is interested in reading it. It has to do with the vote for Simsbury that has been designated as one of the dozens of distinctive destinations. It comes from the CT Main Street organization talking about what they have done relative to the streetscapes along the whole issue with Simsbury and something we look forward to do with our own main street but it is in the office if you are looking at it. Also, there is going to be a workshop to share your heritage. Developing and managing cultural heritage tourism

and something being put on by the State of CT Main Street Organization. If you are a member it will cost you \$75 and well worth going forward to if you are looking at something to get some individual ideas relative to what we can do on our follow through on heritage. It is available in my office. Again, as I pointed out earlier tonight regarding the whole issue about reforming local government, the Michigan plans if any Council people are interested I will give you copies of this to read through. It is very interesting reading relative to the impact it may have on Connecticut cities and towns. My last issue under comments is that I would like to do a clarification. As we have come off of super bowl Sunday and during this past week we have received a call from a very irate person who presented her concerns to one of the local deli's here in town and they presented it to us for a matter of clarification. On the sign post on the corner of Main and North Main Street which is the town sign post for activities taking place within the town organizations, there was a notice about the "super bole" Sunday program going on and it was s-u-p-e-r b-o-l-e. Well the individual complained that we in town should be ashamed of ourselves for not knowing how to spell. Super bowl is spelled b-o-w-l. Well come to find out what was happening is that there was a group of individuals led by Jerry Milne, if I am not mistaken, who took a walk through town and during this particular walk discovered many of the boles that we have in town, and the bole referring to the part of the tree that extends from the ground to the very first main limb of the tree and is know as the bole, b-o-l-e. So the super b-o-l-e that was listed on the sign post was actually for this particular organization to move forward and let the townspeople know. So that was clarified and the town member was notified that the fact is we had an organization in town actually doing its' different kind of super bole. So for clarification purposes if anybody thought there was a misspelling on that one, they are inaccurate.

#### 18. Adjournment

**MOTION:** To adjourn by Councilman Sandshaw; second Councilman Sekorski.

Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas  
Clerk of the Council