

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

February 8, 2011

Call to Order: Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr., called the scheduled February 8, 2011, Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr., Town Councilman Martin Sandshaw, Town Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, Town Councilman John Wunsch, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Rodney Houle Chairman/Capital Improvements Committee-Municipal Facilities Committee, Anthony Lorenzetti, Public Works Director, Municipal Facilities Committee Member Hildie Siemiatoski, and Municipal Facilities Committee Member Matthew Tellier. Mayor Festa noted that Town Councilman David Sekorski had an excused absence.

Fire Exits Notification

Mayor Festa noted the Fire Exits for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Festa made note of the Pledge of Allegiance, as previously recited in the Public Hearing for the record.

Council Rules and Procedures

No Report.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Anthony Rinaldi, 465 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, questioned if the waterline was on the agenda this evening's meeting.

Mayor Festa stated there would be mention of it under the Mayor's Report, and that it would be an agenda item at the next Town Council Meeting.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Two of Twenty-Two Pages**

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Mr. Rinaldi stated that on behalf of his wife and himself. He wanted to thank Mayor Festa, the Town Council, in particular Town Councilman Sandshaw, and Senator Welch, for going to Hartford on their behalf to request a waterline. He further added that he appreciated their efforts, very much.

Mayor Festa stated, for the record, that the Plymouth Town Council members had voted unanimously to support the waterline for the residents with contaminated wells in the Harwinton Avenue/Burr Road area.

The Plymouth Town Council collectively thanked Mr. Rinaldi for his appreciation and comments.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Festa stated that the budget preparations had begun, there would be meetings with a number of Department Heads, etc., and that there would be a couple of Departments that would be meeting with the Mayor and the Director of Finance regarding their particular budgets.

Mayor Festa stated that he had attended a recent meeting in Hartford, along with the Superintendent of Schools, Anthony Distasio, Senator Welch and Representative Betts, regarding unfunded mandates, and that discussion had also taken place concerning the request for the waterline in Town. Mayor Festa stated that there would be a report provided at next month's Town Council meeting, which would give an extended evaluation of what had taken place with the waterline, to date.

Mayor Festa stated that the Town was looking at a Small City Block Grant Application from Gosinski Park for some possible upgrades in the near future. Mayor Festa stated that he would keep the Town Council informed should this item move forward.

Mayor Festa stated that a vacancy still existed on the Greater Waterbury Cable Council and that anyone interested in the position should contact the Mayor's Office, directly.

Mayor Festa stated that Town residents had recently expressed to the Mayor's Office that they were very happy with the recent snow removal and the plowing processes. Mayor Festa stated that he had received at least a half dozen emails and telephone calls expressing their satisfaction.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Three of Twenty-Two Pages**

Mayor's Report Cont'd.

Mayor Festa stated that the Town crew had done an excellent job, with the recent snowstorms, noting that they had put in long hours to keep themselves ahead of the storms, as well as keeping the roads clear for emergency vehicle and residential usage.

Mayor Festa requested that Anthony Lorenzetti, Public Works Director, inform the Town crew of his and the Town Council's sentiments.

Mayor Festa stated that he had met with Anthony Lorenzetti and the Town Attorney, regarding the Sidewalk Ordinance. He further noted that he would provide information (at a future Plymouth Town Council meeting) regarding the ordinance, including some of the issues that had enforcement problems, which needed further review and possible change.

Mayor Festa stated that the Maintenance and Code Enforcement Ordinance had been accepted and would be forthcoming in written form.

Mayor Festa stated the Mayor's Office was still accepting applications for the Maintenance and Enforcement Committee, as well as for the Public Works Ad Hoc Committee.

Mayor Festa stated that he had received a telephone call from the Toxic Action Group, an organization out of Massachusetts, alerting the Town Council that they were representing the Burr Road/Harwinton Avenue homeowners. He further stated that he did not believe that any of the residents from that area had addressed the issue relative to this particular group.

When questioned by Mayor Festa, Anthony Rinaldi stated that some of the neighbors had gotten together and noted that they wanted to hold a meeting at one of their houses, however the meeting was called off due to a snowstorm. He further stated that the meeting had been rescheduled until February 15, 2011, however he had no further information.

When questioned by Mayor Festa, A. Rinaldi stated he did not know if the Toxic Action Group was the reason for the meeting, only that his neighbors had looked into it, and further, that he did not know if the Toxic Action Group was in fact a citizens action group or not, he was only attending to see what they had to say.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Four of Twenty-Two Pages**

Mayor's Report Cont'd.

Mayor Festa stated that the group had indicated to him that they were non-profit and that he had offered the caller an opportunity to come to the Town Hall to speak and make a presentation to the Town Council. He further stated that the caller had noted she was new to the process and was unsure as to what she needed and why she was calling.

Anthony Rinaldi stated the neighbors had indicated that they wanted to meet with the group in order to get the word out and that they had invited a reporter from the newspaper to attend the meeting as well. A. Rinaldi stated that he would make it known at the meeting that the Mayor had extended an invitation to the Toxic Action Group to speak at a Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Festa stated that the Plymouth Food Pantry was in need of volunteers.

Mayor Festa stated that the annual Sweetheart Ball, benefiting the Plymouth Food Pantry, would be held on February 19, 2011, and that tickets were still available for this very worthy cause.

Mayor Festa stated that the Plymouth Food Pantry had an increase in clients seeking assistance and that anything the Town could do to help them out would be beneficial.

Refund Property Taxes

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Sandshaw, to refund property tax the following: \$22.77 to Tracy Verrill; Michelle A. Walesczyk, \$67.56; Wesmar Concrete Construction, \$27.12; VW Credit Leasing Ltd., \$124.79. This motion was approved unanimously.

Appointments and Resignations

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion (with regret), seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the resignation of Bruce Lebeau from the Housing Board of Appeals. This motion was approved unanimously.

When questioned by Town Councilman Sandshaw, Mayor Festa stated that the Board would have a quorum to meet, regardless of the resignation, as an appointment would also be made this evening.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Five of Twenty-Two Pages**

Appointments and Resignations Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the resignation of Jeannine Jandreau (with regret) from the Ad Hoc Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule Review Committee. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Festa stated that Jeannine Jandreau had resigned from the Ad Hoc Planning & Zoning Fee Schedule Review Committee because she was a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, thus constituting a conflict of interest.

Town Councilman Wunsch made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the re-appointment of Gary Pelletier as a Regular Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority, term expiring on January 21, 2014. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Sandshaw made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the re-appointment of Lou Santos as a Regular Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority, term expiring on January 21, 2014. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the appointment of Charles E. Clark to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate Member, term to expire February 19, 2013. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the re-appointment of Rodney Houle as a Regular Member to the Capital Improvements Committee, term to expire February 7, 2014. This motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation by Plymouth Early Childhood Council (PECC) Members

Faye Johnpiere, Parent Leader for the Plymouth Early Childhood Council (PECC) briefly explained her reasoning as a homemaker, daycare provider and parent, for joining the PECC. She further noted that she had learned a phenomenal amount of things, as well as gained the ability of networking with great people, after joining the PECC.

F. Johnpiere noted that the PECC had representation from the library, all the preschools in Town, a liaison from the Mayor's Office/Town Council and many citizen parents as well.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Six of Twenty-Two Pages**

Presentation by Plymouth Early Childhood Council (PECC) Members Cont'd.

Faye Johnpiere stated that the PECC continues to hold focus groups for Community Planning and that they had received a competitive, co-funded two-year grant from the State Department of Education and the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund, to accomplish a Community Plan. She further stated that the PECC was halfway through the process at this point in time and were doing a great job.

Paul Vivian stated that he was the Consultant hired by the PECC to work on the Community Plan and noted that Plymouth was one of 23 communities, state-wide, to be awarded funding.

P. Vivian stated that this funding would cover children from birth through the age of eight. P. Vivian stated that the Community Plan would identify and prioritize issues and that the funding would target those issues. He further stated that when the Community Plan was completed, the Community would be eligible to receive up to \$50,000.00 in start-up funding from the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund, which would assist in addressing the needs of the Community.

P. Vivian stated that for the past six to eight months, focus groups throughout the Community had been being taking surveys to help identify what the issues were in Plymouth, what had been working for the Community, as well as what the gaps were and how to address them.

P. Vivian stated that the PECC wanted to offer the Town Council members the opportunity to participate in a focus group and noted that the Town Council members would then have the ability to influence the Community Plan. He further stated that they were looking to hold a Community meeting, within the next couple of weeks, which would center on what they had learned through the focus groups, survey and interviews, which had taken place to date.

P. Vivian stated that this feedback would assist the group in deciding what needed to be addressed, as well as assist them in checking to see if they were on target. He further stated that the Community Plan was a two-year process and needed to be completed by March 2012.

P. Vivian stated that once the Community Plan had been completed, the Community would then be eligible for the funding and hopefully, further funding down the road.

Mayor Festa thanked both speakers for the work that the PECC has accomplished for the Town of Plymouth.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Seven of Twenty-Two Pages**

**Presentation/Review of Property Management Study by Vanasse Hangen
Brustlin Inc., and Anthony Lorenzetti**

Anthony Lorenzetti, Public Works Director, stated that he and Gordon Darling, P.E. Director, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., were in attendance this evening to present the Property Management Study, noting that the Board of Finance, in last year's budget, had approved the study.

A. Lorenzetti stated that the concept of the study was to make the best use of the Town's funding while the Town could, at the right time, try to maximize the life of the Town's assets.

Gordon Darling stated that his company had been selected by the Town to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of current paving conditions in Plymouth. He further stated that together with the Public Works staff, his company would use the collected information to develop a plan for future funding and project work for pavement improvement within the Town.

G. Darling gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) to assist in defining what Paving Management was and the concepts involved. He stated that his company would also share the results, which they found and provide recommendations for the Town, to assist in moving forward with the work. G. Darling stated that part of the planning process was to not only maintain what pavement conditions the Town had, but to rehabilitate the pavements which were in poor condition, with the overall goal of maximizing the life and the value of the Town's pavement. G. Darling outlined the PowerPoint presentation and welcomed comments and questions.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, G. Darling explained in detail how the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) was calculated per road, noting that for the most part, it was measured in severity and extent.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, G. Darling stated that his company had conducted the study of the Town's pavement in late summer of 2010.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the reason she asked the latter question was because some of the roads that had been rated serious actually increased proportionately in severity in the wintertime. Town Councilwoman Schenkel cited various examples of Town roads where this statement was accurate.

G. Darling stated that Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a valid point and that was the importance of digging holes to find out what was underneath the surface, and to ensure good drainage base and materials, etc.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Eight of Twenty-Two Pages**

Presentation/Review of Property Management Study Cont'd.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated that prior to the Town Council meeting, G. Darling had told her that the cost for his work would be \$30,000.00 and requested confirmation of this number.

A. Lorenzetti stated that the Town had gone out for bid and that G. Darling's company had submitted their bid. He further stated that the work Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. had done to date was only a part of what they were planning on doing. A. Lorenzetti further stated that G. Darling's findings would be integrated into the Town's GSI system and that it could be updated on a year-to-year basis.

When questioned by P. DeHuff, A. Lorenzetti stated that he had the ability and the knowledge to correctly inspect the Town roads, as previously outlined by G. Darling.

When questioned by P. DeHuff, A. Lorenzetti stated that the computer database, which had previously been discussed, was part of the \$30,000.00 and that the Town had the capability to update the data.

When questioned by P. DeHuff, Anthony Lorenzetti provided a brief explanation regarding the differences between hot and cold patch for potholes, as well as explaining the causes of the holes. A. Lorenzetti noted that there were different ways to correct potholes and pointed out that studies have shown pothole patches don't last very long and that they were band-aids, but that they remained an option.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, concerning the quality of today's black top, A. Lorenzetti stated his department had the ability to test certain things on site and briefly explained those capabilities and noted that the quality of pavement did not seem to be what it used to be.

Town Councilman Zagurski, citing the corner of Route 6 and Scott Road, noted that this pavement work had been redone a few years back and that the black top was peeling right up.

When questioned by Mayor Festa, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that a private testing firm was utilized to test the asphalt on Harwinton Avenue and that the State of Connecticut had come out to verify that the testing firm was also testing the asphalt properly. A. Lorenzetti noted that the State of Connecticut also had to approve all the materials that came onto the job site, topsoil, etc.

When questioned by Mayor Festa, A. Lorenzetti stated that he would like the same kind of testing performed when the Town's roads were rehabilitated.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Nine of Twenty-Two Pages**

Presentation/Review of Property Management Study Cont'd.

Mayor Festa thanked Gordon Darling and Anthony Lorenzetti for the presentation and information provided this evening.

To remove from table to discuss and take action on fee schedule as presented by Plymouth Fire Marshal's Office

Noting that there was no representation from the Fire Marshal's Office, Mayor Festa stated that the agenda item would remain tabled.

Report on Municipal Facilities Committee/Rodney Houle

Rodney Houle, 16 Frankie Lane, Terryville, Chairman Capital Improvements Committee/Municipal Facilities Committee, stated that he wanted to bring everyone up to date on what had been occurring with both Committees.

R. Houle stated that because of the size and magnitude of the charge given to the Committees, they were meeting jointly, as one Committee to get the work done for the Town of Plymouth.

R. Houle stated that the majority of people that had attended the public meetings were overwhelmingly in favor of the Level Debt Bonding Proposal.

R. Houle stated that these same people had requested additional information and their requests were valid. He further stated that the Committee's had requested that every Town Department that were listed in the proposal submit a synopsis/cost analysis of their request(s) for Phase One of the project. R. Houle stated that the Committees were putting together the collected information to help the public better understand the requests.

R. Houle stated that there would be two additional Public Hearings and that he was hoping to bring the collected information to the Town Council by their March meeting and then move forward with the Public Hearings. He further stated that the Committees were discussing holding one of the two Public Hearings at the Town Hall and the other at the new high school, complete with an informative slide show presentation.

R. Houle stated that the Committees were working on assembling two movies and that Skye Cable XIII, Inc., (local television network) had graciously extended their airwaves to the Committees.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Ten of Twenty-Two Pages**

Report on Municipal Facilities Committee Cont'd.

Rodney Houle stated that this project was a work in process to assist in notifying as many people as possible of the progress of the Committee's work. He further stated that the first movie would be introduced by the Mayor, and then he, along with Matthew Tellier and the Comptroller would have a 35-40 minute discussion reviewing the entire project listing and would explain how the figures were calculated and why this project would not increase taxes. R. Houle stated that the second movie would include other people involved with the projects and would be discussing why the upgrades were necessary for the Town in Phase One.

R. Houle stated that the Committees would be using colored charts and graphs at the upcoming Public Meetings, to assist in explaining how the estimated project figures were calculated. He noted that the synopsis packages would also be made available at the two Public Hearings.

R. Houle stated the Bristol Press and the Waterbury Republican-American had been very gracious to the Committees and hopefully, they would continue to keep everyone up to date as new information became available.

R. Houle stated that information and the two movies would be made available on the www.improvingplymouth.com website. R. Houle stated that the two movies could also be viewed on the high school television channel, a local television channel and two different government television channels, and every avenue possible.

R. Houle stated that a diversity of professional people, including engineers, a Priest, Project Manager, on both Committees, and noted they were very knowledgeable.

R. Houle stated that the Committees wanted to hire a Project Manager to oversee the Level Debt Bonding Project listing and noted that this person would have the Town's best interest at heart and would be working directly for the Town. He noted hiring the Project Manager would safeguard the monies that would be used for the project.

R. Houle stated that engineering costs, etc., were included in the figures and that the Committees were looking at every way possible to save money, not spend all the money. R. Houle stated that the Committees were looking to get the most bang for the buck, possible. R. Houle stated this person would hopefully be a local person and noted that as many local professionals and enterprises would be used to carry out the projects, as much as possible to provide employment to our Town residents and put them to work.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Eleven of Twenty-Two Pages**

Report on Municipal Facilities Committee Cont'd.

R. Houle thanked the Town Council members for attending the Committee meetings and taking an active interest. He further stated that the more members and people in attendance the more possible it would be to make everything work better.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated the videos were a great idea. He also recommended posting plans and additional information, charts, etc., in local grocery stores, the Town Hall, the library, and other buildings in Town, i.e., a pictorial to catch the eye.

Rodney Houle stated the plan was attempting to follow Town Councilman Sandshaw's recommendations and to post everything available in every way possible, including the newspapers. He further stated that when he explained the plan/process out to people who had trouble understanding it prior, they all immediately ask how they can help out.

R. Houle stated that the Board of Finance had set \$1,000.00 aside to place generic signs notifying people of the Referendum date in a couple of locations in Plymouth and Terryville, as well as a few smaller signs. He stated this same information would be placed in store windows.

Pattie DeHuff stated that the Town was talking about a 19 million dollar bond authorization and as everyone knows there are always two sides, and that there was a website under improvingplymouth.com website, and questioned if it would be running in the high school.

Matthew Tellier, Capital Improvements Committee member, stated that the videos and information would not be running in the school itself, it would be utilizing their channel, but would be on Educational TV Plymouth 16, 19 and 95, which would be Public Access governmental-State television, per Steven Mindera, Skye Cable XIII, Inc.

When questioned by P. DeHuff, M. Tellier stated he did not see why equal time would not be given to an opposing position and that the Committees could not stop her.

R. Houle stated P. DeHuff could do whatever she liked on her own and it did make any difference to him.

P. DeHuff stated that this thing could not be sold in the manner of "vote yes" and she recognized that R. Houle had said "go vote."

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Twelve of Twenty-Two Pages**

Report on Municipal Facilities Committee Cont'd.

R. Houle stated all the Committees were doing was reminding people that on a certain date they could vote and that good response had been received.

When questioned by P. DeHuff, R. Houle stated there were approximately 30 and 50 people in attendance at the previous two Public Hearings.

Mayor Festa stated that off hand, he could not answer the question accurately.

P. DeHuff questioned when R. Houle talked about the two movies, was he referring to the kids at the high school.

R. Houle stated that the movies had nothing to do with them; it was the two Committees (Capital Improvements and Municipal Facilities Committees) he was referring to, as a joint Committee.

When questioned by P. DeHuff, R. Houle stated that there no tax dollars being used in making the movies and that they were being shown on free public access television, and that all the work was being done on the Committee members own time because they wanted to do it.

Mayor Festa questioned P. DeHuff if she was asking the question in terms of how was the Town presenting this idea to the general public.

P. DeHuff stated she was asking if any tax dollars were being spent.

Mayor Festa stated that if the Town was promoting the project, naturally some tax dollars would be spent, but the question was actually what would they be spent on and felt that was the question P. DeHuff was asking.

P. DeHuff stated that Mayor Festa's statement was correct.

Mayor Festa stated no tax dollars would not be spent that was not in the purview of the project itself and they need to get the message out to the Townspeople as to what they would be voting on and why they would be voting either up or down on the issue.

Matthew Teller, 238 Preston Road, Terryville, Capital Improvements Committee members, stated this evening's presentation was a help in bringing together the understanding of why the Committees were bringing this project forward.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Thirteen of Twenty-Two Pages**

Report on Municipal Facilities Committee Cont'd.

Citing the earlier pavement presentation, which outlined the poor pavement conditions in Town and has put the Town in the hole by 22 million dollars, Matthew Tellier stated that this plan would help fund part of that Road Repair Improvement Plan. M. Tellier stated that in the past, the Town had been unable to use the word "plan" because of lack of funding. He further stated that the concept of "it's a hundred thousand to fix this road there, it's two hundred thousand here, it's oh gosh the US Government just gave us some money, but this is the only place we can spend it" would come to an end. M. Tellier stated that by having this proposed money available to the Town, the Town could actually plan. He further noted that the lion's share would be going to road repair in various locations, but that it was an investment in the Town.

M. Tellier stated that the Geographic Information System (GIS) was a large part of the earlier presentation and noted that it would provide a recorded history so that the next person coming into Town would not have to chase down a file in a closet that may or not be labeled in either someone's favorite color, by alphabet, by street address, etc. He further stated that this work would be done in a mechanical fashion using a computer database management system and that things of this nature would be much more structured and in turn would make it easier on everyone to use the system. Noting that this work would take a long time to accomplish, M. Tellier stated that once the public saw what the Committees were doing to establish cohesiveness, they would support it and that in turn, it would allow the Town to make giant steps that it has been unable to take in the past.

Hildie Siemiatoski, 249 East Washington Road, Terryville, Municipal Facilities Committee member, stated that she would not be making a presentation this evening. H. Siemiatoski stated that she was speaking as a life-long resident of Plymouth and was asking the Town Council members for their support. She further stated that each of them, along with the Committee members, all knew how much work was needed within the Community and that the Level Debt Bonding Proposal was needed and would provide a long range plan in so many areas. H. Siemiatoski thanked the Town Council members for their support.

Report from Anthony Lorenzetti/Safe Routes to Schools; Energy Block Grants

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that he had come before the Town Council one year ago to seek approval regarding the Energy Block Grant project in the amount of \$59,779.00, which had been made available to the Town of Plymouth for energy upgrades.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Fourteen of Twenty-Two Pages**

Report from A. Lorenzetti/Safe Routes to Schools; Energy Block Grants Cont'd.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that he, along with the Mayor, the Administrative Assistant, and Town Councilman Sandshaw, had interviewed Consultants and had picked one to go out and do an energy audit for the Town. He further stated that at this time he needed to sign a second piece of the agreement and forward the request to the Federal Government in order to keep the money alive for the project. A. Lorenzetti stated that he was not asking for money at this time, however he was looking for Town Council approval, and authorization for the Mayor, to follow through with the project at this junction in time. He further stated that there were time frames that needed to be met in order to get the second piece of the grant approved.

When questioned by Mayor Festa if A. Lorenzetti was looking at a specific date to move forward for a Referendum vote, A. Lorenzetti stated not at this time.

When Mayor Festa stated that collectively the grant totaled \$50,000.00, A. Lorenzetti stated the last \$10,000.00 grant came in under the Town's last fiscal year. He further stated that the grant had been separated into sections/pieces for the State Office of Policy and Management.

When questioned by Mayor Festa, A. Lorenzetti stated that he had not had any discussion with the Director of Finance.

Mayor Festa stated that when he, himself, had discussed the issued with the Director of Finance, he was informed that the total was \$59,000.00 and change, which would require then a Referendum vote if it were read that way. He further stated that he wanted to make it clear that the Town was looking at two separate entities, one grant for \$10,000.00 and the other in the amount of \$49,000.00.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that in order to utilize the \$49,000.00 the Town would have to put projects out to bid.

Mayor Festa stated that he was concerned that the two grants were in fact separate and that the Town needed to be certain of that to avoid someone coming back and say that a Charter violation occurred by spending over \$50,000.00 without a Referendum vote.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the Town Council would be rescheduling the Audit Report with the Board of Finance on February 24, 2011, and questioned if A. Lorenzetti could meet on that date for a Special Meeting, prior to the Board of Finance meeting, and still make his time frame.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Fifteen of Twenty-Two Pages**

Report from A. Lorenzetti/Safe Routes to Schools; Energy Block Grants Cont'd.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that he could and this Special Meeting would help him to meet the second part of the request.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, A. Lorenzetti stated that the first part of the grant, \$10,000.00, had not been billed to date, that the Town was in possession of a signed contract, and they were performing the audit at the present time and outlined the extent of the work to date. He further stated that the purchase order had been cut and the monies had been encumbered.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that the Town Council needed to look at this issue very seriously, noting that (as A. Lorenzetti had previously noted) the Town could parlay a lot of programs that Northeast Utilities and Connecticut Light and Power had to offer. He further stated that this would empower the Town to install new equipment, lighting, etc., at a reduced cost and that the savings could turn th \$49,000.00 into \$100,000.00. Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that at this point in time, it was important to authorize A. Lorenzetti to move forward with the application process and that he was in favor of the authorization.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Sandshaw, for the Town Council to meet at 6:30 p.m. for a Special Meeting, prior to the regular Board of Finance Meeting on February 24, 2011, in the Assembly Room, to authorize the Mayor to allow the application to move forward and ensure the numbers are correct. This motion was approved unanimously.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Festa stated this would be for a Town Meeting, not a Referendum vote as previously stated.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the Safe Routes to School issue went back to some earlier Public Meetings and that discussion had taken place such as alternate routes for sidewalks and things of that nature. He further stated that he had a recent meeting with the Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) and they were looking for the Town to start moving on the project. A. Lorenzetti stated that at a minimum, he needed survey services to look at designs for the project for street lines and property locations, etc. A. Lorenzetti stated that he was at this evening's meeting to request \$25,000.00 to begin solicitation for survey services. A. Lorenzetti stated that he had spoken to the Director of Finance, David Bertnagel, and noted that D. Bertnagel felt the Board of Finance had already approved this expenditure, and that A. Lorenzetti only needed approval from the Town Council at this point in time. A. Lorenzetti described the scope of the survey for which he was seeking the \$25,000.00, in detail.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Sixteen of Twenty-Two Pages**

Report from A. Lorenzetti/Safe Routes to Schools; Energy Block Grants Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski as to why the Town could not survey the possibility of going up Hillside Avenue up to Fisher School, Town Councilman Wunsch, reading from the April 2010 Town Council minutes (page 23), stated that an issue existed cutting into the banks on Hillside Avenue with the knolls coming down and the site lines coming out of the garage, as well.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, A. Lorenzetti stated they were looking at all options available, i.e. going through the cemetery, staying on the east side of East Main Street, along the cemetery at North Main Street, etc. A. Lorenzetti stated that if the Town did decide to go through the cemetery, another report would be required by D.O.T.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated since there was uncertainty involved, she wanted verification from the Board of Finance that these monies had been previously approved.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to address Anthony Lorenzetti's request for the \$25,000.00 for survey services to the February 24, 2011, 6:30 p.m., Special Town Council Meeting, prior to the Board of Finance Meeting.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel questioned Rodney Houle if he wanted the Town Council to set a date for the March Public Hearings at this evening's meeting and did he have any dates in mind.

Rodney Houle stated that he did want the Town Council to set the dates this evening for two Public Hearings, however he did not have any particular dates in mind at this time. He further stated that the two movies should be completed within the next couple of weeks.

Town Councilman Sandshaw questioned if Rodney Houle would be able to supply the necessary dates at the Town Council's February 24, 2011, meeting.

Town Councilman Wunsch questioned what the purpose would be for Rodney Houle to be coming to the Town Council in March because he was concerned about the Committee's making their anticipated timelines.

Patti DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, calling for a Point of Order, noted that the Town Council could not take a vote for any Public Hearing Meetings because the item was not on this evening's Special Meeting agenda.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Seventeen of Twenty-Two Pages**

When questioned by Mayor Festa, Rodney Houle stated that he would provide the Mayor with specific dates on February 9, 2011, for the Public Hearings and that in turn, the Mayor would contact the Town Council members with those dates.

To enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

**Real Estate Transactions
Contract Negotiations with various AFSCME Locals**

Town Councilman Sandshaw made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, to enter into Executive Session at 8:59 p.m., to discuss the following: Real Estate Transactions and Contract Negotiations with various AFSCME Locals. This motion was approved unanimously.

Present for the Executive Session were Mayor Festa, Town Councilman Sandshaw, Town Councilwoman Schenkel, Town Councilman Wunsch, and Town Councilman Zagurski.

Mayor Festa called the Town Council back into the regular session at 10:10 p.m.

To take action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session

Mayor Festa stated that there was no action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that the Board of Education had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that the Library Board of Director's Meeting had been cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission had approved McDonald's Corporation's application to rebuild.

Still speaking under the Planning and Zoning report, Town Councilman Zagurski stated that the South Street issue was ongoing and he did not see an end to it any time soon.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the Human Services Commission had cancelled their meeting due to inclement weather.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Eighteen of Twenty-Two Pages**

Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the Police Commission meeting had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the Economic Development Commission had cancelled their meeting due to inclement weather.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the Town's Auditors, BlumShapiro, had been scheduled to come to the Board of Finance meeting, however were unable to attend due to an illness and had been rescheduled to attend the February 24, 2011, meeting.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that it appeared the Board of Education would be coming in at a zero percent increase and might only be using \$100,000.00 of the grant money set aside for them for creating jobs. She further stated that this was phenomenal news.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that the Housing Board had elected a new Chairperson, Cheryl Gianesini.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that the Fire Department had shoveled out 300 fire hydrants and had talked about going out again.

The School Building Committee had submitted the as-built drawings to the Planning and Zoning Commission, so the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy should be moved on.

Speaking under the School Building Committee report, Town Councilman Wunsch stated that the track at the new high school had been certified.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated he had been unable to make the Early Childhood Council Meeting.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that he had been unable to make the Public Works meeting due to a prior working commitment.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that the Economic Development Commission had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that he was unable to attend the scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Nineteen of Twenty-Two Pages**

Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that the Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission had approved a permit for work on the cleared property next to the Waterwheel, located on the East side of Benedict Street, as well as work around the Waterwheel itself.

When questioned by Town Councilman Sandshaw, Mayor Festa stated that he was unsure if there were monies available for the work and noted that some discrepancies existed. He further stated that the Director of Finance, as well as Mary Dunne (State of CT), were both looking into the matter further, at his request. Mayor Festa stated that monies that had been allocated (as he had previously mentioned) for certain property that had been paid for out of the grant should not have been paid out in that manner.

Mayor Festa stated that the grant was still a solid base, however the issue at this point in time was how would the Town recoup the monies it should not have spent. He further stated that there were monies available at this time.

Mayor Festa stated that he would be a part of a Route 6 Streetscape teleconference tomorrow, February 9, 2011, and noted that the figures had come in. He further stated 3.5 to 4 million dollars was the estimated cost for the work and that he was concerned about the issue because the Town was tied into contracts and that if the anticipated grants didn't come in he was unsure what would happen,

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that it was anticipated that the figure would be high, however that assistance would be sought (little by little) through grants. She further stated that the Town had two schools that were despairingly different for many years and that the Town would be able to figure it out.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that the Park and Recreation Skate Board Ad Hoc Committee did not meet due to inclement weather, but would be meeting tomorrow, February 9, 2011.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that Park and Recreation Commission had a lively discussion concerning charging the Little League a \$10.00 per day fee to use the Town's fields and noted that they do utilize several of them during the course of a week's time.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that no recommendations had been made, and the question of fees had gone back to the Commission.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Twenty of Twenty-Two Pages**

Liaison Reports Cont'd.

When questioned by Mayor Festa what their reasoning for the fees would be, Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that the Commission would like to increase the maintenance level of the fields and felt the Town was not supporting them adequately to perform the necessary maintenance, trash pickup, fence repair, etc.

When questioned by Mayor Festa, Town Councilman Sandshaw stated they were referring to the field behind the Town Hall and the field at the Main Street School.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated when he was young he lived on Kearny Street and that he and his friends played all summer long on the fields. He further stated that there were no changes in the field at the present time than there was when he played on them as a youngster 30 years ago. Town Councilman Wunsch stated that the field was more of a pasture and that Town Councilman Zagurski could bring his sheep to the field to graze, noting there was no baseball field then and that it was not a baseball field at the present time.

Mayor Festa stated that when the Town inherited the field and he requested that Parks and Recreation mow it he received flack and that they had planned on grieving it because it was not part of their responsibility. He further stated that the Board of Education had mowed it the first year and that he told Parks and Recreation that because they were using the field for their programs and that the school was allowing them to use the toilets and facilities for their site programs and what was a mowing once week. Mayor Festa stated he was then told that their machinery wasn't big enough and told him if the Board of Education would bring their equipment, they would utilize it. He further stated that the Board of Education had said that they would have their men use their equipment and mow the field for the Town's use. Mayor Festa questioned what would \$10.00 do, he could understand \$50.00 or \$100.00 every time they were planning on using it.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that he was concerned about the cost of \$60.00 per year to play and that adding an additional \$10.00 per year was too much to ask from the families. He further stated that 99 percent of the registered youth in the Little League Program were Town residents.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated there were a number of families that did not have the \$60.00 and had to find sponsors.

Mayor Festa stated that he was aware of anonymous donors who sponsored the youth to play, and that without those donors there would be youth unable to play who probably be out in the streets.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Twenty-One of Twenty-Two Pages**

Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Mayor Festa stated that maybe the Town could come up with something such as tying in with another Community.

Public Comments

No report.

Council Comments

When questioned by Town Councilman Wunsch, Mayor Festa stated that the Town crew was responsible for plowing the Prospect Street School.

When questioned by Town Councilman Wunsch, Mayor Festa stated that the Town crew should also be mowing and maintaining the property in the spring/summertime, however in this past year a vendor did take care of the property. Mayor Festa stated that he was looking to stop spending that kind of money on vendors. He further stated would the Town now request a fee for the Terryville Youth Soccer Club to use the field.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel noted that the Town Charter stated that a person could speak on any given subject only twice during a meeting and that she would find the statute. She further stated that sometimes the Town meetings get bogged down by the public audience and that this was the reason for her request for the Town Council's consideration.

Mayor Festa stated that the Charter also allowed for public participation throughout the meetings.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she understood that, however she was referring to one person speaking many times on a single agenda item.

Mayor Festa state that Bill Hamzy's recent ceremony, honoring him for his years as State Representative, was a wonderful affair and a tribute to him and said a lot about what he has done for this Community and surrounding communities, as well. Mayor Festa stated that we owe him a great deal of thanks for what he has done and wish him well.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that it seemed the Town should have something in place for snow removal for the hydrants.

**Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting
February 8, 2011
Page Twenty-Two of Twenty-Two Pages**

Council Comments Cont'd.

Mayor Festa stated that everyone thought that the Connecticut Water Company had an obligation to clear the hydrants, however they do not.

Town Councilman Wunsch questioned if the Sidewalk Ordinance would be reviewed for a possible change.

Mayor Festa stated that he had held a meeting with the Town Attorney and Anthony Lorenzetti to review the obligation on the part of the homeowner to remove the snow from the sidewalk(s) after a 12-hour period once the storm ended. He further stated that the homeowner was issued a notice if they did not comply and further, if it was ignored a five dollar an hour fee would be issued. Mayor Festa stated the problem with the Ordinance was it had the same logistics as the Blight Ordinance, which was having someone check every hour on the hour to see that the Ordinance was being carried out. Mayor Festa noted that the Chief of Police had missed the meeting due to a personal illness.

Town Councilman Wunsch questioned when the Ordinance was reviewed, would it be possible to include hydrants on properties in the discussion.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that the Town had set a precedent by snow blowing sidewalks downtown.

Town Councilman Wunsch noted that particular piece of equipment had broken; Mayor Festa stated that he had not been made aware of that information.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Wunsch made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, to adjourn at 10:29 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Acting Recording Secretary