

**Town of Plymouth**  
**80 Main Street**  
**Terryville, CT 06786**  
**<http://www.plymouthct.us>**

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

**April 12, 2011**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr., called the April 12, 2011, Plymouth Town Council Special Public Hearing-Town Meeting to order at 6:55 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 David Sekorski, Town Councilman John Wunsch, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance was David Bertnagel-Director of Finance, Rodney Houle-Chairman Capital Improvements Committee/Municipal Facilities Committee, Public Works Director Anthony Lorenzetti, Municipal Facilities Committee Member Matthew Tellier, and Municipal Facilities Committee/Plymouth Police Commission Chairwoman Ann Tuleja.

**Fire Exits Notification**

Mayor Festa made note of the Fire Exits for the Town Council and Public Audience.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Call of the Public Hearing-Reading of Legal Notice**

Mayor Festa read the Legal Notice into the record as follows:

1. Resolution appropriating \$19,500.00 for various Capital Improvement Projects (Phase I) and authorizing the issuance of \$19,500,000 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowing for such purpose.

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**Call of the Public Hearing-Reading of Legal Notice Cont'd.**

2. Resolution appropriating \$1,200,000 for construction of waterlines on Burr Road and Harwinton Avenue and authorizing the issuance of \$1,200,000 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the marketing of temporary borrowings for such purpose.

Public Hearing-Town Meeting will take place at: Plymouth Town Hall, Community Room, 80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786, April 12, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., Vincent Festa, Jr., Mayor, Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011, Plymouth, CT.

Mayor Festa stated that there would be two sessions for discussion this evening, the first being the \$19,500,00 for the Capital Improvements Projects and the second being the \$1,200,000 for the waterlines on Burr Road and Harwinton Avenue.

**Introduction-Rodney Houle**

Rodney Houle, 16 Frankie Lane, Terryville, explained the handouts (see attachments) noting that the Director of Finance, David Bertnagel, would further detail and elaborate on the figures and the projects shown.

R. Houle stated that this evenings meeting was being held to continue to openly provide inform to the public, which had been requested at the previous Public Hearings.

R. Houle stated that his Committees had obtained a synopsis of every Town department, which would be affected in the first phase, and that hopefully, everyone would read the documents, absorb the contents and see what the Committees had been working on.

R. Houle stated that the Capital Improvements Committee was made up of five members and that their function was to examine all Capital Improvement Projects (major improvement), which were projects that would not be put into their regular departmental operating budgets.

R. Houle stated that the Town departments had all brought their Capital Improvement projects to the Capital Improvements Committee for presentation, review and discussion. R. Houle stated that the Committee had been working over five years and that during the past three years questionnaires had been distributed to every Town department asking what their Capital Improvement needs were and the Capital Improvements Committee had then prioritized those projects.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

R. Houle stated that every Town department had requested at least one item, some departments more items, noting that the Public Works Department had 82 items. R. Houle stated that the Capital Improvements Committee had reviewed all of the projects and then after sorting through them, prioritized them. He further stated that the department heads were interviewed concerning all of their requests. R. Houle stated that all project items, which did not fall under the auspices of the Capital Improvements Committee, i.e., requests for pickup truck, lawnmower, etc., were removed because they were budgetary items. R. Houle noted that the qualified items were then prioritized into three categories, from the most important to the least, but still necessary items and noted that they totaled approximately \$60,000,000.

R. Houle stated that the Committees were hoping not to have to use all the monies requested and that they had used the best estimates they could obtain and that hopefully, they would come in under the estimates. R. Houle stated that every project would go through the normal Town procedures, Planning and Zoning, the Town Council, the Board of Finance, etc.

R. Houle stated that the Municipal Facilities Committee consisted of 14 people and that because of the magnitude (five year program Phase I) they were helping the Capital Improvements Committee and that subcommittees with watchdog groups would be formed to continually check the progress of each project as the phase moves forward.

R. Houle reviewed the project listing and briefly explained the mature bonding process, noting that the bonding would cover the \$19,500,000 over a five-year period and was Phase I of the proposal. He further stated that taxes would not go up because of the level debt bonding proposal, noting that Town salaries, Town insurance, and maintenance would be the reason for any tax increases that might occur in the Town.

R. Houle stated that most of the roads in Town were horrible and that the only reason the Town received a C minus in a recent Paving Study was because the roads up at Fall Mountain had been repaired, otherwise the Town would have received a failing grade.

Rodney Houle stated that all the roads in Town needed to be addressed and cited the continuous flooding on Beach Street as an ongoing Capital expenditure that need to be addressed.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Rodney Houle stated that the portion of the Town Garage, which had collapsed under the weight of the snow this past winter, had been an addition that was built with the understanding that it would be temporary (1971) and should only have lasted three to four years. R. Houle noted that it had lasted 40 years and should have been taken care of a long time ago and that it had become a Capital project, which was listed as part of the proposal.

R. Houle stated that all of the projects were a huge job and a lot of responsibility, which the two Committees were ready to begin working on and were willing to stay with through completion. R. Houle stated that the Capital Improvements Committee members consisted of three Engineers, a College Professor and himself, a Project Manager. R. Houle stated that the Municipal Facilities Committee was made up of 14 professionals and that they were assisting the Municipal Facilities Committee because of the magnitude and work involved with the proposed projects. He further stated that subcommittees would be formed to help move the projects forward. R. Houle stated that they were all volunteers with a lot of expertise to offer and were a part of the group because they wanted to help the Town to move forward.

R. Houle stated that he, as well as both Committees, were in this for the long haul from start to finish and that they would all be overseeing the work, noting these projects would provide employment for a lot of people that were out of work or need more work.

R. Houle stated that taking advantage of the mature bonding, roughly 3.2 million (plus and/or minus) every year was an excellent idea and cited that the current construction prices were the best they have ever been. R. Houle stated that he was in the construction field and that the construction people want need work to stay alive and in business. He further stated that the Town would be providing work for many people and businesses, which in turn would be assisting in putting people back to work and helping unemployment. R. Houle stated that in addition to saving the Town money and that it would be a benefit for everyone.

R. Houle stated that David Bertnagel had been able to get the Town's bonding rating up by rolling over the Town's bonds and noted this example was having the right person at the time in the right job. He further stated that for a small town we have the rating of a big city because of D. Bertnagel's efforts. R. Houle stated that through D. Bertnagel's efforts and refinancing of the Town's bonds, D. Bertnagel had been able to save the Town \$900,000.00 last year and then an additional \$600,000.00, noting that figure was almost a million and a half in finance charges.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

David Bertnagel stated that the prioritized projects were a compilation from ten years worth of requests of all the projects, which had been submitted to the Capital Improvements Committee. He further stated that the \$19,500,000 was based upon the higher priorities in the project listings.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Town of Plymouth has \$185 million dollars worth of infrastructure and buildings that it owns and that last year \$2,500,000 depreciation had been recorded against those assets, noting that every years the Town's valuation drops without any investments. D. Bertnagel stated that there had not been any major overhauls since the new high school had been built 10 years ago, the Plymouth Ambulance Volunteer Corps and the WPCA and the Pump Stations.

D. Bertnagel stated that most of the items have a depreciation life on them, equating to the lifespan of the item, i.e. buildings 20-30 year life span, etc., and that over time the value of the assets drops down. He further stated that over the past several years the Town had fallen into the negative territory (depreciation had exceeded what the Town's assets were worth) and that by not reinvesting into those assets, the Town's net value decreases and would be considered when looking at the bonding package. D. Bertnagel stated that the 60 million dollars would be a reinvestment into the Community. D. Bertnagel stated that Phase I had a lot of projects (32) of which the plan would take and begin 29 of them, which would yield 69% of the projects for a start and would cover most of them in full.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Town had approximately \$28,000,000 worth of outstanding debt, (see attachment Pro Forma Debt Amortization Schedules) which he had compiled and reviewed the existing principal and interest. D. Bertnagel stated this document contained all of the Town's existing debt, as well. Noting that the mill rate had already been budgeted at 3 mills, D. Bertnagel stated that the Level Debt Bonding Proposal would not increase taxes and fell well within the cap of 3.3 million dollar. He further stated that the debt service would begin to come off and outlined the history on the chart document. D. Bertnagel further noted that the figure was structured to have flexibility built into it, and that any unknown foreseen emergencies (i.e., 2 to 3 million road collapse, etc.) would be covered without increasing taxes.

D. Bertnagel stated that this was a one-time opportunity for the Town and that the projects equaled nine percent of the budget with the other 91 percent being the Operating Budget of the Town, including the Board of Education.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

D. Bertnagel stated that the projects, in general, were self explanatory, and that the last page noted that the debt service into two separate bond issues. D. Bertnagel stated that there were pros and cons to handling the projects separately, one individual project at a time. The pros would be that every project would have a lot of input and would be voted upon separately.

David Bertnagel stated that the concerns would be that every separate project would require a separate official statement, separate authorization and a separate referendum, noting the costs would run between \$35,000 and \$50,000, not including the par value of the bond and that it would be a huge dollar amount. D. Bertnagel stated that if the Town were to handle each project as a separate item, the total would be approximately \$600,000.00-\$700,000.00 of additional costs to the taxpayers.

D. Bertnagel stated that all of the projects on the list would have to be addressed at some point in time, noting that the problems with the roads and building were not going to go away. D. Bertnagel noted that in the past, everything was run by emergency situation, and that this was an actual Financial Plan.

D. Bertnagel reviewed each project on the listing and detailed what the project included.

D. Bertnagel noted that the Board of Education line item needed to be addressed in order to keep them in compliance and up to date.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Comptroller's Office line item, Computer Enhancements and Land Acquisitions, had been added because the Town had not kept up with the technology installed 12 years back. He further stated that this line item would aid in telephone line charges (in the Operating Budget) and would assist the Town in saving monies.

D. Bertnagel stated that the financial systems presently utilized by the Board of Education and the Town were two separate systems and noted that at the end of the year it was a nightmare to reconcile the accounts. D. Bertnagel stated that they were looking to make one financial system, noting that move would make operating under one system more efficient. D. Bertnagel stated that they were looking into going to a higher internet speed, which would reduce operating expenses in the long run by providing more control. D. Bertnagel stated that he saw this as a six to eight year payback.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

D. Bertnagel stated that there were several opportunities to acquire property, noting R. Houle's statement for the need for firehouses public works garage potential, fields and that these acquisitions would afford the opportunity for the Town to purchase land. D. Bertnagel stated this would be an advantage to the Community for future growth.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Fire Department had come forward to the Town Council (six to eight years past) with an approved plan for \$10,000.00 with a study of what they felt was needed for their facilities at that time.

David Bertnagel stated that some of the issues with the fire trucks were size and location of them, not having gender appropriate facilities, noting they have the design work built into the bonding package to get the work done and getting these things up to par with what we need to do.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Diesel Exhaust System has been in the Board of Finance's budget for 10 years and was always dropped because when the budget fails the Town was limited to certain dollar amounts with what can be pay for with cash. D. Bertnagel stated that the \$250,000.00 would address 11 apparatus in the Fire Department. D. Bertnagel stated that when the trucks back up into the garage the diesel fumes were in a confined space in the garage and that the system would expel the exhaust from the building and puts the Town into OSHA compliance.

D. Bertnagel stated the monies earmarked for the Waterwheel and Streetscape would be cash contributions for these projects. He further stated that the Mayor has been very proactive in getting grants to secure the project itself, and that when the Town looked at the finances it was noted that the amounts were way short of what was needed to get them done. D. Bertnagel stated that if the Town relies on fundraising alone, it would take 30 years to finish one segment, financially speaking.

D. Bertnagel stated the Library Expansion would be for the purchase of the property next to the library (the Wilcox house), noting that it used to house the Fire Marshal and the defunct V.N.A., and now stands vacant.

David Bertnagel stated that the Town was still paying for utility costs in the building, as well as maintenance costs and that a decision would have to be made at some point as to what to do with that particular building. D. Bertnagel stated that the Library building was having problems with its 30+ year old air handling units and that item does not go into their operating budget because it was a huge dollar amount. He further stated that the building was leaking.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

D. Bertnagel stated that the Library's roof repair project went from \$10,000 to \$100,000 because it kept getting put to the back burner.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Parks and Recreation Department's equipment was very old and hadn't been replaced in years and needed to be addressed. He further stated that the tennis courts and fields would need refurbishing.

D. Bertnagel stated that everyone look at the Lake Winfield overhaul project in conjunction with the Seymour Road project because they would both be run as one continuous project. He further noted that whatever was done on Seymour Road would have an impact on Lake Winfield.

D. Bertnagel stated that there were a couple of options for the Police Station, noting that originally it was to be a part of the Town Hall Building with an allocation of 4.2 million dollars. He further stated that it would have to be addressed, but that did not mean that the Town would be running out and building a brand new Police Department on a piece of land. D. Bertnagel stated that whether the Police Station stays in the Town Hall, or was built as a separate building, the Committees would examine what was in the best interest for the taxpayer and where we they could save the most money. D. Bertnagel stated that it might be more advantageous to keep the Police Department in the Town Hall (after renovations) and/or put an addition on. D. Bertnagel stated that verification for the 4.2 million (12,000 square feet) was based on past and current construction projects in the demographic area.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Public Works Highway Facility had a lot of roof issues on the old structure building and that the new one had been built in 1971 and had collapsed. He further stated that insurance issues were presently taking place and that the question remained as to what to do with the reimbursements and how was the Town going to house the vehicles. D. Bertnagel stated that the Town was unsure if the building would remain where it was or be rebuilt somewhere else.

David Bertnagel stated that the Town did not have a large enough Salt Storage Shed to house salt and that because of that reason, the Town had to purchase salt at the whim of the market and were unable to purchase salt at the lowest prices possible.

D. Bertnagel stated that there were a whole host of issues with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that concerned the Town's Transfer Station. He further stated that there were necessary upgrades that the Town had to do to comply with the DEP, as well as replacement of the hopper.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

David Bertnagel stated that there were also DEP permitting regulations that had to be met and that A. Lorenzetti had done a phenomenal job keeping the DEP at bay. He further stated that the Town had Federal and State regulations to meet and that the \$700,000 would address those issues.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Major Road and Drainage Repairs line item was a huge figure and that the Town had a lot of road repairs, which totaled \$65 million dollars. He further noted that the three million dollars would get quite a bit of work done with this appropriation.

D. Bertnagel stated that the North Main Street Bridge (Route 72) would be a 1.3-1.5 million dollar project with State reimbursement, but the Town's share would be the 1.3-1.5 million. He further stated that the bridge had received a high priority when the State came in two years prior, but then it was downgraded three to four levels. D. Bertnagel stated that the Town would have to shut it down if the repairs were not made and that it would be a huge inconvenience to anyone traveling that roadway, and that would have to be addressed. He further stated that the Town had been able to secure a grant/State funding before it went away (at 32.8% of the project).

D. Bertnagel stated that the GIS Base Mapping started years ago and fell in sync with the computer orientation planning and developing, noting that the Town would be on the cutting edge if it could have all its maps and data available to anyone in the Community. D. Bertnagel stated that the GIS would assist with the assessment evaluation of the property, taxes, would detail who owns the property, etc., noting that there was an entire host of things that the GIS would be able to do. D. Bertnagel stated that the \$300,000 would get the Town where it needed to be and that this was an Economic Development project with a lot of positives.

D. Bertnagel stated that a study had been performed on Beach Avenue drainage problem and there were a lot of flooding issues there, as well as severe flooding in other areas in Town, noting they would all have to be addressed.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Street Line Establishment Project was necessary because the Town did not know (100%) which streets were town-owned and which were not. He further stated that this project would eliminate the question and engineering department right of ways were a necessary item which would aid the Town in moving forward with road projects.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Town Hall upgrade and Senior Center Project would cover the ADA and compliance issues inside the Town Hall building.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

David Bertnagel stated that this project would make for a more efficient operation and put the departments where needed to be placed, all working together.

A. Lorenzetti discussed the Pavement Management Study noting that it was a surface inventory of pavement, which provided information to keep the Town's road from getting to the point where they would need to be reconstructed. He further stated that the study also provided guidance and recommendations for fixing and maintaining the roads. A. Lorenzetti noted that the report discussed the repair allocations including recommendations on keeping the roads from degrading further.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Board of Finance policy would keep the 3.3 million level debt consistent and that the Board was very cognizant of the taxpayers dollars in the Community. He further stated that this proposal would be one of the keys in long-term financial planning.

Rodney Houle stated that the proposal had been approved by Planning and Zoning, the Town Council and by the Board of Finance and that everyone was on board with the projects.

**Public Comments on the Resolution appropriating \$19,500,000 for various Capital Improvement Projects (Phase I) and authorizing the issuance of \$19,500,000 Bonds of the Town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose**

Vincent Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated that he was a taxpayer and that he loved the Town of Plymouth and noted the Town had the greatest citizens in the United States.

V. Klimas stated that the taxes for the projects was new tax money/dollars, and was not old money

V. Klimas stated that Rodney Houle was a wonderful Chairman who dedicated his life to volunteerism and thanked him for his efforts and noted that he supported Capital Projects. He said he did not support the entire listing of proposed Capital projects.

V. Klimas stated that Mayor Festa has done a good job and has his support.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

V. Klimas stated that he wanted to challenge Mayor Festa to be the first Mayor to reduce taxes in Town and still handle Capital Projects. He further stated that instead of coming in at 19 million, he wanted to see 5 million dollars of the highest priority projects taken care of, noting this would help the struggling tax payers during one of the worst recession since the Great Depression.

V. Klimas complimented Anthony Lorenzetti's references, noting that he had done a good job preparing his documents and that he supported him 100%.

V. Klimas questioned what percentage of the projects were State and Federal funded (including reimbursements) and questioned what analysis was used to come up with the numbers. He further stated that the Town taxpayers should not be asked for a penny unless the Town had done its homework.

Mayor Festa stated that his Administration, as well as the previous Administration, had asked for State and Federal funding (including reimbursements) for the Capital Projects, which were being presented in the Level Debt Bonding Proposal. He further stated that over the last six years the Town had been informed that there was no money available at this time on both the State and Federal levels. V. Festa stated that the Town had also requested State bonding on some of the projects and that the State Representative and State Senator had assisted in putting a proposal in, however the Town was unsure if it would be approved for the assistance. V. Festa stated that the Town had been involved with the Congressmen and State Senators in Washington and noted that the Town had received \$470,000.00 on an earmark for Fall Mountain and that was all of the money that was available. Mayor Festa stated that the Town had made the attempt and invited V. Klimas to his office to examine the requests.

V. Klimas stated that he wanted an explanation, prior to voting, as to how the Mayor and the Town Staff had gone and requested State and Federal funding on each and every project in the proposal because he knows there is money available.

D. Bertnagel stated that the Board of Education's requests were not eligible for reimbursement because they were a continuation from the old high school.

At V. Klimas' request, D. Bertnagel stated he would have the Board of Education's Business Manager provide the information to V. Klimas, in writing.

V. Klimas questioned A. Lorenzetti if he had engineering and cost feasibility studies done for the estimates provided for the projects.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

A. Lorenzetti stated that the Seymour Road Construction Project was based upon linear foot costs and were bases upon similar projects being performed.

A. Lorenzetti stated that the Senior Center original number for Town Hall was based upon upgrade costs for other towns and noted he had spoken to Litchfield and Torrington regarding their Town Hall upgrade costs.

V. Klimas asked what the total request, noting the 19 million dollars would be for the principal.

D. Bertnagel, referring to the Pro Forma Debt Amortization Schedule (see attachment) stated that the figure would be approximately 10 million dollars (in interest) over the course of a ten-year period.

Jennifer Steinmann, 250 Lake Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, stated that the economic times were astronomical and that up on the Lake they have had four foreclosures, numerous bankruptcy filings. She further stated up at the Lake Plymouth they were in the midst of dredging the Lake, noting it was 50 acre compared to Lake Winfield's 16 acres and their neighbors could not pay their association fees of \$100.00 a year. J. Steinmann stated that they were behind \$100,000.00 in fees and that some people were behind six to seven years. She further stated everyone was having a hard time. She further stated that the Capital Improvements Committee had asked everyone three years ago what they wanted for Christmas and they gave them a sixty million dollar wish list. She further stated that we cannot afford it and that the State was broke and that the Federal Government almost shut down. J. Steinmann stated that some of the projects need to be done, especially the roads and stated that Lake Plymouth roads were bad. J. Steinmann stated they were able to dredge 10,000 cubic yards Lake Plymouth for approximately \$80,000.00 and that they used a local company in the Town of Plymouth.

Tom Quinn, 45 Prospect Street, Terryville, stated that he appreciated the work that everyone had done in the Town and noted that nine percent of his tax dollars goes to the debt. He further stated that if Malloy doesn't get his two billion dollars in concessions from the unions then the funding for Towns would be zero and felt that his nine percent had the potential to increase and that at the same time 91 percent of his expense dollars would remain the same. T. Quinn stated that he saw Terryville turning into a ghost town noting a lot of business were gone and that the tax base was being reduced. He further stated the census in Terryville would be reduced as well.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Tom Quinn stated that the Town looked like an auto repair shop with all of the auto and repair shops in Town. T. Quinn stated that the Town holds on the bonding until the Town sees what is coming in from the State and the Feds. T. Quinn stated that the bonding would be there and maybe up in percents next year but this was a big wish list and that the estimates were high.

Diana Oberg, 9 Kiman Drive, Terryville, stated that she had lived in Terryville for 40 years and noted that the first meeting she had attending in Town was for a leak at Terryville High School, however the dollars were not approved because the roof was new. She further stated that because the roof was not repaired it then leaked onto the gym floor and the roof was finally repaired as well as the gym floor. D. Oberg stated that looking at the bonding projects, how can the Townspeople continue to watch the Town crumble every year when the budget comes up for approval and Capital expenditures come up, noting people don't want to pay for them and that was the reason she had stopped going to Town meetings. D. Oberg stated that her family knew about unemployment over the years and they also know about sacrifice and urged the Townspeople not to let the Town crumble. She further noted that 20 years ago people came in the back way to Napco because Main Street was, and remains, embarrassing to look at. D. Oberg stated that its appearance hasn't changed and that it won't change if we keep waiting. D. Oberg stated that everyone pays interest on loans that they take out, just as the Town will have to do. She stated that she and her husband would be retired if times weren't tough, but the Town needs to move forward, its crumbling and she urges everyone to think about reducing a few things, but for the most part we need to move ahead with the projects that needed to be done years ago. D. Oberg stated that she was on the Library Board for a number of years and knows what happened to the roof and that a local contractor in Town patched it year after year for free because the funds would not be appropriated until it became critical.

Matthew Tellier, 238 Preston Road, Terryville, stated that he was a member of the Capital Improvements Committee. M. Tellier stated that about 10 years ago, he was a pay as you go type of person, however he realizes now that feasibility studies cost money and there was never any money in the budget to perform them. He further noted that with all the necessary projects, feasibility studies would eat up a million dollars easily.

M. Tellier stated that the Town's Bond Rating will fall when the Town does nothing to maintain and/or improve its assets and that other negative impacts will happen to financial ratings and financial capabilities in the Town. He further stated that \$600,000.00 to do 86 miles of road was very little money for a lot of road work.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Matthew Tellier stated that general improvements of \$20,000.00 roof repair at the library cost \$100,000.00 because the voters dragged their feet and by the time the Town got around to doing the repair the whole roof needed replacing. He further stated that if we wait to take care of proposed 2.6 million dollars worth of projects, the figure will double to five million, just as the Library roof did.

M. Tellier stated that this was a Capital Improvements Plan which includes immediate costs, to address immediate needs, and includes money for planning for future costs such as Fire Houses.

M. Tellier stated if the Town were to do separate referendums and it went out for bonding, the cost would be between \$40,000,00-\$80,000,00 per referendum, times 29 projects.

M. Tellier stated that the Townspeople need to begin thinking logically, they have to and noted that these figures included for project cost studies. He further stated that unfortunately, it costs money to find out how much money the projects would cost.

M. Tellier stated that all projects do not always have concrete numbers and cited an example of remodeling a house, breaking through a wall and finding out that there was nothing squared in the room, but noted that sometimes you have to break a wall to figure out what it will cost to do the project.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated that she looks at the project listing as a wish list and knows there are needs in the Town, such as the leaking roof, you would need to fix the roof.

P. DeHuff stated that she has a 1957 kitchen and would like a new one, but can't afford one because she just makes ends meet now, so she has to wait.

P. DeHuff stated that she was concerned about the Board of Education projects listed because 7 to 8 years ago, we were told everything would be taken care of with the school projects and now the Board of Education has listed projects.

P. DeHuff stated that she was fully supportive of the mechanical exhaust system for our firemen, but that she was concerned about the systems not being portable and questioned if the Town would be throwing good money after bad.

P. DeHuff stated that she was not supportive of the Waterwheel Project and that it would be expensive to clean up the contamination.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Pattie DeHuff stated that she was concerned about the businesses on Route 6 because the Town was planning to make Route 6 all nice and pretty for them and then would be charging them more for taxes and we don't need more businesses leaving the Town. P. DeHuff stated that she was disturbed that the responsibilities of the Public Works Department were not being carried out and quoted from Page 26 of the Town Charter, noting that by Charter the Public Works Department should have supervision and control of the maintenance of all Town owned structures. P. DeHuff questioned why the Street Survey, which cost the Town \$30,000,00 for a visual road survey to tell the Town the roads were bad, wasn't performed by the Public Works Department.

P. DeHuff questioned if we adopt the level debt service what the actual operating costs would be once all the projects had been done.

D. Bertnagel stated that the projects had been analyze, citing that the Police Department stand alone structure might have to have contract service/maintenance added.

D., Bertnagel stated that looking at other items, most of the projects which were examined were efficiency items, i.e. computer programming equipment, BOE/Town Financial System merge software, etc., which would save the Operating Budget approximately \$20,000.00 per year.

P. DeHuff questioned if the Town went after the company that damaged the Intruder System equipment at the Eli Terry School and wanted to know why the 3taxpayers should have to pay for it.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that P. DeHuff would have to address the question to the Board of Education or the School Building Committee.

Mayor Festa stated it could be looked into.

P. DeHuff stated that she was concerned by the statement which the Capital Improvements Committee, the School Facilities Committee and the Mayor all had made about the decision that we should go forward with this, but the whole purpose of a Public Hearing is to hear what we think about such an item so she feels that this is a farce that we are having here and she's really wondering if the Mayor is taking in the thoughts of Mr. Klimas when he suggested that you have a little different plan that what we have here, and questioned again if is this a farce what we're doing here.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Mayor Festa stated that this was no farce, that this proposal had been developed through Committees that have been established, that have been working over the last five years. He further stated that there have been four Public Hearing Meetings on this proposal and that the meetings were held for the purpose of having public input into the ongoing operations of those Committees. Mayor Festa stated that this final meeting was the formal process to allow the public to be heard one last time before a decision is rendered to bring it before the voters for a vote. He further stated that it was the voters that would be making the decision, not a particular committee, not the Council, and not the Mayor. Mayor Festa stated that P. DeHuff had been involved with those meetings and again noted that there had been four meetings to provide input. Mayor Festa stated that when P. DeHuff stood before the microphone this evening and called this a farce, he personally took exception to the comment on behalf of the Council, on behalf of the Municipal Facilities Committee and the Capital Improvements Committee. He further stated that the Committees had worked long and hard over the past five years, meeting after meeting, to bring something forward to the Community in an effort to keep it moving forward and to help take it out of the rut that it has been in for the last twenty plus years. Mayor Festa stated that when P. DeHuff comes before the microphone again, he would her to give a little more respect and a little more dignity to those groups of people who have worked that hard.

Pattie DeHuff questioned if, with respect, did that mean that the Mayor would not consider the suggestion made by Mr. Klimas.

Mayor Festa stated that every suggestion made by Mr. Klimas and everyone else that made one, would be considered and that further, that was the reason we were here and for the last four meetings, to listen and to take those agenda items and move forward and to come up with a plan. He further stated that no one has made any suggestion to move forward on anything, until such time that this hearing was over.

Pattie DeHuff thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

Ann Tuleja, 383 Allentown Road, Terryville, stated that she was a member of the Municipal Facilities Committee and the Plymouth Police Commission. A. Tuleja stated that nine years ago she had left the Board of Finance, and noted that it was probably one of the most miserable terms that she had ever served. She further stated that this was because there was no money, and that they were trying to squeeze every dollar.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

A. Tuleja stated that every Town resident who had appeared before the Board of Finance stated how they could not afford anything and wanted everything cut in the budget, including road repair and the restoration of Lake Winfield. She further stated that they were ongoing issues that have gone on forever in the Community.

A. Tuleja stated that striving for a zero mill increase and serving on the Board of Finance was very stressful.

A. Tuleja stated that driving around the Town, anyone could see that there have been no major road repairs, only surface repairs and noted that it was not Anthony Lorenzetti's fault or any previous Public Work Directors, for the last twenty years. She further stated that the blame lies in the fact that there hasn't been any money to fund road repairs of this magnitude in order to do them properly. A. Tuleja stated that the Police Commission was a safety board and that they receive numerous complaints and concerns from all the residents in the high school area that have complained about the roads being unsafe and in disrepair.

A. Tuleja stated the Town has reached a point where the residents have to reinvest in the Community to make it better and finger pointing will not help.

A. Tuleja stated that when she first joined the Board of Finance she was surprised that there was no financial plan in place to improve the Town. A. Tuleja stated that for the past five years the Committees have spent a lot of time working on this proposal and that the meetings were not well attended by the Community. She further stated that she hopes the Town will endorse the plan, noting that she does.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that he wanted to clarify that the Town gives Public Works money for road repair, it does not give money to a person (Anthony Lorenzetti).

Peter Giancesini, 8 Kiman Drive, Terryville, stated that when he was a member on the Board of Finance, he remembered the late Mr. Wunsch requesting the Diesel Exhaust Systems be installed in the Fire Houses for the health and safety of the volunteers. P. Giancesini cited an epidemial logic study in England and noted that an enormously high rate of lung cancer was associated with diesel emissions. P. Giancesini stated that the great Fire Department volunteers have put up with this for years, however it kept getting cut out of the budget. P. Giancesini stated that if the Town ordered the system now, it could be installed in a couple of months time. He further stated that the lack of concern for an urgent need, which should have been addressed in years past was upsetting.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Peter Giancesini stated that if the emission fumes were going into P. DeHuff's older kitchen, she would be the first up here whining and complaining about the fact that she could get cancer. P. Giancesini stated that this was one example of many, certainly some of the things were less urgent, but year after year the Town has seen the infrastructure crumble.

P. Giancesini stated that the Board of Education's \$3,000.00 Maintenance Line item for an entire school, especially the older schools, was always exceeded with emergency repairs.

P. Giancesini stated that the Town residents can't put their head in the ground like an ostrich, that they were running a Town and that just like their own property, the Town has to be taken care of and it takes a long-term commitment, not patches of black tar in one place on the roof, patched concrete, etc.

P. Giancesini stated that the Committees that put this proposal together were professionals who had worked very hard and that he had a lot of confidence in them. He further stated that this proposal had to move forward if the Town were to move forward.

Walter Lassy, 178 Poland Brook Road, Terryville, stated that he appreciated all of the work that has been done to date to bring the projects forward.

W. Lassy stated that his big concern was when the Referendum would take place because he wanted to wait to allow the taxpayers to see what the State comes forward with prior to the vote on projects of this magnitude.

W. Lassy stated there were a lot of projects that he would like to see get done, but he had strong concerns about what would happen in the next month or so.

**Council Comments**

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that he understood the 19 million was based on the Town having to fund the entire cost; however every project on the list would be researched for reimbursements should the proposal pass.

Town Councilman Wunsch questioned what the tax savings would be if none of the bonding projects were to take place per year to the average tax payer.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

D. Bertnagel stated that at the present time, the debt service was at approximately 3.2 million dollar per year and that in 2012/2013 fiscal year, the debt service would drop down to 1.628 million or roughly 2 mills and on the average \$100,000.00 assessment would come out to be approximately \$200.00 year or approximately \$15.00 per month.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that he remembers the same issue with the school and that there were a number of people who were naysayers and that the world was going to end the day the Town started building the school and that miraculously, the Town built the school and kept moving and that the Town was still here. He further stated that if he listened to some of the negative comments this evening, he would have to go home and climb under a rock because obviously it's a terrible world and it is going to end in 2012.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that there would never be a good time to borrow money whether you are a homeowner, a business owner or a Town, but the Town has to reinvest in itself.

Town Councilman Sandshaw noted that last year the Town had put off repairing one of the school roofs until the ceiling started falling down and the children had to be moved out. He further noted that the roof was over 40 years old and stated that he was certain there wasn't a person in the room this evening that had a roof on their home that was over 40 years old.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that every successful business has a plan and for the first time in the forty years that he has lived here, the Town has a plan that will move the Town forward. He further stated that the Town shoots from the hip every day of the week and asked that everyone please support this plan.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated there were a couple of misconceptions that she wanted to clarify. She noted that Main Street properties were privately owned and that if the Town could buy up the businesses and renovate them, it would.

Town Councilwoman stated the Town could improve the general appearance for when people first come to Town by implementing the Streetscape Project. She further stated the Town's goal should be to have a first good impression and begin to invest in the Town's infrastructure noting this would entice people to move into Town, which in turn would alleviate everyone's tax burden.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that Mayor Festa, during his first two years at the helm, had a zero percent tax increase, noting this has historically been unheard of. She further stated that since that time, he had implemented such a minimal increase that it's been flat.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the Mayor has the ability to bring people together and that she has never seen such a bipartisan spirit in this Town since he has come here to work.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that Mayor Festa puts 80 to 90 hours in a week of his own time. She further stated that he does it willingly because he loves the Town, just as much as everyone else and that he wasn't asking anyone to do more than what he was willing to do, or her either.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she stays up at night worrying that someone will go off the road at Seymour Road and drive into the lake and die. She worries about the enormous crack in Keegan road, noting that someone could die there, as well. She worries about the Town's firefighters who put their lives on the line and that they will contract lung cancer because they don't have the diesel exhaust systems that they need because the Town's people refuse to provide them with the basic necessities.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the plan was not the Town Council's, but belonged to a group of people that said they cared enough about the Town that they had to do something. She further stated, quoting Peter Gianesini, that the Town could not have an ostrich mentality and stick their head in the sand hoping the problems would go away. Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that lung cancer would not go away and stated the Town would become a ghost town if it doesn't reinvest in itself.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that school buses drive the dangerous roads in Town with our children and that everyone's lives were at risk daily.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she couldn't begin to tell everyone about the numerous people who have come to the Town Council over the past four years and begged them to help them with problems because all of the issues had become critical. She further stated that it was not a wish list and in that in actuality, sixty million dollars was a conservative number for what the Town really needs.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she had no affiliation with any person(s) which would cause one to receive more than the other.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she had sat through Board of Finance, Capital Improvements Committee and Municipal Facilities Committee meetings for four years and that those people truly care about the Town. She further stated that a person would need to walk in their shoes and experience what they have done to taxes down and still provide services, to see how humbling it was.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she was fully supportive of this proposal and hoped that everyone would come and work with the Committees on this proposal.

Town Councilman Sekorski thanked everyone for coming out and noted that some excellent points had been made.

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that he was in agreement with Town Councilwoman Schenkel regarding the financial plan. He further noted that he was supporting the proposal because the Town was not issuing nineteen million dollars worth of bonds out of the gate that in fact they would be issued in a controlled manner, which would prevent the Town from exceeding the current value of debt service.

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that V. Klimas was correct in saying it was new money, however it maintains the debt service at the same amount. Town Councilman Sekorski stated that should the proposal pass, the real work would fall to the Capital Improvements Committee and the Municipal Facilities Committee because they would have to take the numbers and work them even harder to determine what they would be doing and when.

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that many of the estimates included project and engineering costs and that he encouraged the Community to continue to attend and participate in upcoming meetings to get a better understanding of what it takes to put a shovel in the ground.

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that he has a lot of faith in the people that put the estimates together and that they would move forward and execute them in a responsible manner for every dollar they spend.

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**Introduction-Rodney Houle Cont'd.**

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he wanted to echo Town Councilman Sekorski's comments and that he did an excellent job of summing everything up.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he was concerned about the amount of money designated for dredging Lake Winfield (citing Jennifer Steinmann's comments) and requested that Chairman Houle's Committee go back and examine the numbers for saving monies.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he wanted to thank everyone who made comments this evening, noting that valid points had been made.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he supported the \$19,500,000 level debt bonding proposal.

**Introduction for discussion for the Bonding Proposal for the Burr Road Harwinton Avenue Waterline Project**

Mayor Festa stated that this Resolution has come forward this evening to the Town Council on several previous occasions and tonight they would discuss it relative to resolution to bring it forward for a bonding proposal. Mayor Festa noted that a number of meetings had also been previously held with the State of Connecticut and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Health Department and that the Town Council had unanimously agreed to endorse the project for a bonding request for \$1,200,000 to bring a public waterline to Burr Road and Harwinton Avenue.

**Public Comments on the Resolution appropriating \$1,200,000 for construction of waterlines on Burr Road and Harwinton Avenue and authorizing the issuance of \$1,200,000 bonds of the Town to meet said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the marketing of temporary borrowings for such purpose.**

Vincent Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated that this Resolution was a good example of a specific project that could be voted upon, and not like alphabet soup, all jumbled up. V. Klimas questioned if there was engineering work on this project.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the Public Works Department had worked on the estimate based upon some costs from previous projects and that some sewer information had also provided good information for potential rock that maybe be in the road.

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**Public Comments Cont'd.**

V. Klimas stated he supports this specific project because of the scientific basis provided and hoped that the bonding projects would also have scientific basis to them.

V. Klimas stated that this past winter had been one of the worst, ever, and that the Public Works Department had done a great job of plowing the roads.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, said thank you for separating this project out as she had recommended a number of meetings back and that this was a perfect example of a Community need. She further stated that she would be supportive of the project.

Mark Sekorski, 180 Old Waterbury Road, Terryville, stated that as the Fire Chief, he wanted everyone to know that he and his staff had ISO coming in and noted that they were insurance underwriters. He further stated that it would be a lengthy process and that ISO would be going through the entire town noting that the more municipal water the Town has the more the fire and house insurance rates go down. M. Sekorski noted that it had been approximately 10-12 years since the Town had been reviewed.

M. Sekorski stated that as a human being he supported this project even if his taxes were to go up \$300.00, and noted that he would not want to shower or drink the water from that area, and that it has to be done.

Jennifer Steinmann, 250 Lake Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, questioned who would be liable to repave the roads in the area citing an example in her past in another Town, and questioned if the bond would go across the whole community or like Burlington and their sewer project, would be isolated to those individuals that it would be affecting, requesting this be taken into consideration.

Whit Betts, State Representative, 78<sup>th</sup> District, stated that he and Senator Welch had worked with the Mayor and the Town Council, and that currently, there was a proposal in the State Legislature to get a million dollars in bonding to give back to Plymouth for expense reimbursements for this project. He further noted that the process was very long and had no certainty to it.

Whit Betts stated that he wanted everyone to be aware that Mayor Festa had asked for financial assistance (in the past) for every project that might be eligible, such as this one, and that hopefully, sometimes the Town would be lucky enough to be approved for monies.

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**Public Comments Cont'd.**

Mayor Festa thanked Whit Betts for all of his support.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated that she fully supports this project and that people shouldn't have to live in fear of bathing in this water and what it does to them or anything else. M. Church stated that as a Community we were responsible for the project and she had no problem paying for the project and considered this project an emergency not a wish list item. She further questioned how far up North Harwinton would the project go. M. Church stated that the other list should be cut down and put in smaller bunches for people to vote on it.

Mayor Festa stated that those specific details were unknown at this time and that no decisions had been made. He further stated that the exact cost of the project was also known because of the many variables, ledge, etc., that will come into play. He further stated that the 1.2 million dollar is the anticipated amount of the project.

Lisa Jarworski, 437 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, stated that her home was one of the houses that had been affected by contamination and that she had telephoned the Mayor for assistance. She further stated that she wanted to thank the Mayor for stepping up, and even providing her with his home telephone number if she needed it, noting that not many people would do that. L. Jarworski stated that she applauds Mayor Festa and thanked him for the job that he does and is doing on their behalf. L. Jarworski stated that she wanted to let the people who were against this project know that she has five children who have bathed in the water and used it and they are unsure about present and future medical issues they might have and asked for everyone's support in approving this project.

**Council Comments**

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that the affected homes were in his District and he supports it because it is a health and safety issue and that it was the Town's responsibility to provide safe and healthy drinking and bathing water. He further stated the Town would be negligent in its duties not to take care of the problem and he urged everyone to support in favor of the issue.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she was fully supportive of the project and that when Fall Mountain needed water everyone came together as a Community and paid for it together. She further stated that there was no difference between the two issues. Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that sometimes the Townspeople have disagreements, but they always pull together to do what is right and best for the Community.

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Town Councilman Sekorski stated that he thought the estimate was based on the loop of 18 homes and noted that there was a map used for the dollar amount estimate. He further state that he hoped the dollar amount would be enough, but regardless the Town needed to support the project.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that this was an important Community project that requires Community support and the he fully supports the project.

Mayor Festa stated that there had been a number of kudos made this evening and for the record, he wanted to say that no man was an island, no man stands alone. He further stated that the Town Council saw the project as a necessity to present to the Community and that he applauds the Council for their wisdom. He said that he had concurred with the Council, to separate it out, and to bring it forward as a single item. Mayor Festa stated that it was because of the people that sit with him on the Council and work with him, not against him, for the Community that makes the Community as strong as it is as a Community.

Mayor Festa thanked everyone for coming out this evening noted that everyone gives strength to the Community by coming out and participating in these kinds of Town Meetings and further, that the Community needs more of this kind of involvement. He further stated that the Council cannot do the work alone and needs to hear from the residents at meetings and see the residents involved and participating. Mayor Festa stated the Town needed to go back to the old times when Town Meetings meant something and were the voice of the people, not against, but a voice that supported and provided different points of view and interest allowing the Town to come together and form a consensus to get the job done.

Mayor Festa stated that a Special Council Meeting would be held to set a date for the Referendum vote allowing the Council to mull over what was said this evening and to consider the ideas presented and reflect prior to the formal vote.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Sandshaw, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Acting Recording Secretary