

Town of Plymouth
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Terryville, CT 06786
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

November 1, 2011

Call to Order: Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr., called the November 1, 2011, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 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 Public Works Director Anthony Lorenzetti.

Fire Exits Notification

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Accept Minutes of Town Council Public Hearing Meeting, October 4, 2011

Town Councilman Sandshaw made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, to approve the October 4, 2011, Town Council Public Hearing Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Sandshaw/yes, Town Councilwoman Schenkel/yes, Town Councilman Sekorski/abstained; Town Councilman Wunsch/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes; motion passed.

Council Rules and Procedures

Town Councilman Sekorski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Sandshaw, to amend the November 1, 2011, Agenda to add an item as Agenda Item No. 8 (moving all other items up one place), to discuss and take action on the authorization of David Bertnagel, Director of Finance, to be included as a signatory on the accounts at the Bank of America and Webster Bank. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, noted that the outside light, by the door nearest the exit next to the Senior Lounge, was not lighting up.

Pattie DeHuff stated that the State of Connecticut had granted a 15-day grace period for small businesses filing quarterly taxes online and recommended that the Town Council add this discussion to the Agenda, in light of the storm.

Mayor's Report: Historic Property Commission Update; Waterwheel/Brownsfields Issues; Streetscape Plans; GFOA, Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award; Firefighter Recognition, Apartment Fire 220 Main Street; State of CT Public Utility Dept. Public Hearing on CT Water Co. Sale, November 3, 2011, 6:30 P.m. Community Room

Mayor Festa stated that the Historic Property Commission was moving forward with their potential sale of sidewalk bricks.

Mayor Festa stated that the remediation had been complete to-date and that the ground had been covered over with grass seed and loam. He further stated that once the grass had taken hold, the orange fencing would be removed.

Mayor Festa stated that there was a new roof on the Waterwheel thanks to the labor of Mark Sekorski and his company and that the shingles were being paid for by anonymous sources and the Beautification Committee.

Mayor Festa stated that, like the Waterwheel, there were other grants coming forward for the Brownsfield issues in Town and that the Town was making note of this to other individual businesses who have Brownsfields on their properties. He further stated that the Town was letting them know that there were deadlines to file by if they were interested in applying for grants from the State and Federal Government, for purposes of cleaning their properties.

Mayor Festa stated that due to recent inclement weather, the Route 6 Streetscape activities had been placed on hold. He further stated that the Economic Development Commission had plans for putting bids out and moving forward in the early spring with the work going to the Contractors that make application.

Mayor Festa stated that he had included a copy of a Certificate of Achievement in the Council's packets, noting that the certificate came from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). He further stated that the GFOA had presented the Award of Finance Reporting to the Director of Finance, David Bertnagel.

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Mayor's Report Cont'd.

Mayor Festa stated that this award was an historic achievement for the Town of Plymouth, and to the best of his knowledge, it was the first time that the Town had received the award for Financial Reporting Excellence. Mayor Festa stated that this award was given to individuals designated as being instrumental to their Government unit and for achieving the Certificate for Excellence (and presented to those governments) where annual Financial Reports were judged in the particular program standards. He further stated that this was the highest award of Governmental Financial Reporting that could be achieved.

Mayor Festa stated that David Bertnagel was not present this evening, but that the Town Council wanted to congratulate him on this outstanding award. He further stated that David would be receiving a plaque, within five to six weeks, and that it would be presented to him at that time.

Mayor Festa stated that the firefighters, who had been involved with saving the life of a man from a burning building at 220 Main Street apartment, were as follows: Frank Woiman, Paul Schwanka, Walter Seaman, John Haas, Joseph Reilly, and Police Officers Kenneth Kolpa and John D'Aniello. He further stated that all of these men had done a marvelous job on behalf of the Community and its residents.

Mayor Festa noted that the State of Connecticut of Public Utilities had scheduled a Public Hearing on November 3, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall. He further stated that this Public Hearing was for the sale of the Connecticut Water Company's North Street Reservoir property. He further stated that the Public Hearing, that had been scheduled the same day for the morning hearing in Hartford, CT, had been cancelled by the State Public Utilities.

Mayor Festa stated that the Town was now in the fourth day of operations at the Town Shelter, noting that close to 300 people had been served for meals, battery charging, housing at the shelter, and use of the showers facilities. Mayor Festa that there were many volunteers present and that on Sunday, the Republican Town Committee and the candidates for office had donated food from their cancelled breakfast and had cooked and served the meal.

Mayor Festa stated that the wanted to give a great deal of credit to the Republican Town Committee, as well as to the many volunteers that came forward offering medical assistance, registration, food, materials, etc., noting that it had been a wonderful outpouring from the Community. Mayor Festa noted that the shelter was still open and that it would remain open until people were back in their homes.

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Mayor's Report Cont'd.

Mayor Festa stated that his office and Town representatives had been in daily contact through teleconferences with the Governor's Office, Senator Murphy's Office and CL&P representatives since last Friday. He further stated that many people were unhappy with the format which CL&P had used to format the operations and procedures involved and that CL&P had assured the Town that there would be over 900 crews servicing the State and that many would be sent to the Town/ Fifth District area because it had been one of the hardest hit.

Mayor Festa stated that the Brush Dump had been given extended hours and would be open all of this week from 7:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. for Town residents to clean their yards and bring their brush to the facility.

Mayor Festa stated that the emergency shelter was located at the Eli Terry Middle School and that showers were being provided there, as well as at the new high school. He further stated that 43 people who had taken advantage of the new high school shower facility.

Mayor Festa stated that pets were being house at the old Ambulance building on North Main Street and noted that assuring the elderly that their pets would be well cared for assisted in them coming forward from their cold homes to the warm shelter for assistance and three meals per day.

Mayor Festa stated that he wanted to give a great deal of credit to Anthony Orsini, Emergency Management Director, who had done a marvelous job in putting this program together from putting it down on paper and then putting it into operational procedure each and every item the Town has had a storm of this nature.

To authorize David Bertnagel, Director of Finance, to be included as a signatory on accounts at Bank of America and Webster Bank

Town Councilman Sekorski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Wunsch, to authorize David Bertnagel, Director of Finance, to be included as a signatory on accounts at Bank of America and Webster Bank. This motion was approved unanimously.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Festa stated that these were two accounts at the banks that still had Manuel Gomes as the authorized signatory on the accounts.

Appointments/Resignations

To appoint Brian Barnes to the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Commission

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Appointments/Resignations Cont'd.

Mayor Festa stated that this appointment was to ensure compliance with the Ordinance for having one additional member on the Commission that qualified as a landlord.

Mayor Festa stated that after this appointment, the Commission would be able to move forward and develop their particular plan of operation to begin the process of enforcing the code compliance.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Brian Barnes to the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Take action to refund property taxes

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Sandshaw, to refund the following property taxes: Chase Auto Finance/\$322.50; Stephanie Thompson/\$66.15; Susan T. Berard/\$25.20; Helen M. Kuharski/\$2.36; Everett Thompson/\$45.04; Nissan Infinity/\$144.27; Brenda Buckley/\$174.73; Diana L. Gaffney/\$17.89; Danielle Fay/\$54.81; Toyota Motor Credit/\$645.29; Ari Fleet/\$126.82; Nancy Barnett/\$4.82; Dominic A. Laviero/\$69.49; Robert Impresa/\$226.48; Mary or James Pepides/\$2.49. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action on authorizing the Mayor to sign Letters of Agreement for Energy Efficiency Service Project

Town Councilman Wunsch made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, to authorize the Mayor to sign Letters of Agreement for Energy Efficiency Service Project. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action, as may be necessary, on the proposed Ordinance concerning Police Traffic Duty

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he had thought that the Town Council had previously voted to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Ordinance.

Mayor Festa stated that Town Councilman Zagurski was correct and that the Agenda Item should read to take action on setting a date for a Public Hearing on the proposed Ordinance concerning Police Traffic Duty.

Mayor Festa called for a motion to set a date for a Public Hearing on the proposed Ordinance concerning Police Traffic Duty.

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To discuss and take action, as may be necessary, on the proposed Ordinance concerning Police Traffic Duty Cont'd.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Sandshaw, to table setting a date for the Public Hearing for the proposed Ordinance concerning Police Traffic Duty, until after the elections, noting if a new Council came into Office, it would give would give them the opportunity to set the date at their leisure.

Discussion as follows:

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that he was in agreement with Town Councilman Zagurski's clarification.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that if the item was tabled and if a new Council came in, they would be unaware, had not sat through the hearings, did not know the Ordinance and would have to start from square one all over again, so that the Commission could move forward with their Ordinance, noting that would be a waste of time. She further stated that this Council knew what it was about and that a Special Meeting could be held within the next week and that a Hearing could be held to accomplish this task. Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she had confidence in the three sitting Town Council Republicans and was willing to work with them.

Town Councilman Sekorski questioned if there was enough time to hold a Public Hearing and schedule a vote.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that there was enough time.

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that he did not believe there was enough time.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that this same issue had arisen two years back with the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Commission and that he felt out of courtesy the Council should wait.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that by the time notification went out to the newspaper, he was unsure if there would be sufficient time to hold the Hearing.

Keith Golnik, 46 Orchard Street, Terryville, Vice-Chairman Police Commission, stated that the Public Hearing, which had been held last year, did not incorporate comments from the Council and the Public. He further stated that that the Police Commission, after incorporating those comments, had made changes to the original Ordinance and that another Public Hearing had not been held, although discussion had taken place to set one, to review the new Ordinance with the changes that had been made.

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To discuss and take action, as may be necessary, on the proposed Ordinance concerning Police Traffic Duty Cont'd.

Mayor Festa thanked Keith Golnik for his comments and clarification.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that he wanted another Public Hearing set to allow the Public to also hear the changes that had been made.

Vote: Town Councilman Sandshaw/yes, Town Councilwoman Schenkel/no, Town Councilman Sekorski/yes; Town Councilman Wunsch/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes; motion passed.

To discuss and take action on setting date for Town Meeting on purchase of Connecticut Water Company land

Town Councilman Sandshaw made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, to set a date for the Town Meeting on the purchase of the Connecticut Water Company land.

Town Councilman Sekorski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to amend the motion to read as follows: To set the date for the Town Meeting for a vote and the purchase of the Connecticut Water Company land as November 29, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Community Room, Town Hall. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss what can be done to protect Town's assets for Public Works Department

Anthony Lorenzetti, Public Works Director, stated that previously, the Town Council had discussed trying to get the Town's Public Works equipment under cover so that it wouldn't be subject to the elements. He further stated that discussion had taken place to store some of the smaller pieces of equipment up at the Terryville Fairgrounds. Anthony Lorenzetti stated that he did not have any ideas in terms of a larger facility and noted that during the recent storm, some of the larger pieces were put underneath the spreader rack to help protect the windshields.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the Town should be looking at security cameras for the Town facilities, i.e. Highway Garage, Maintenance Garage, Transfer Facility, etc.

When questioned by Town Councilman Sekorski, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the Town had received the reimbursable from the Town insurance company for the collapse of the Highway Garage.

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**To discuss what can be done to protect Town's assets for Public Works Department
Cont'd.**

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that Anthony Lorenzetti had a proposal for a steel structure, but if the Town were to put the building on the same footprint the Town would receive the depreciation monies. He further stated that Anthony Lorenzetti had also stated that an independent structure could be built and that the Council was looking for recommendations from Staff.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that it would not be an entire new building, that it was a portion of the existing garage being less than 50 percent of the original structure and that at this juncture there really wasn't an option to go anywhere else with the funds that were available.

Town Councilman Sekorski questioned if the Council even needed to authorize the issue and noted that the only question was if the Town was going to move the structure to a different location.

Mayor Festa stated that the Public Works Department was just going through a formality of introduction in letting the Council know about the information and that further, if nothing was said or done, the Mayor's Office would have been called to task for not letting the information be made known.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that the Town did not have a real choice because there wasn't money to build elsewhere and that Anthony Lorenzetti should go and replace the building since it was an insurance claim.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that there were two plans proposed; one for the same footprint and one for a longer building. She further stated that she had requested that Anthony Lorenzetti get pricing because Town Councilman had questioned if it would include wiring, the insulation, etc. Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she was still waiting so that she could provide Public Works the best opportunity to have the best building available in accordance with the insurance reimbursement.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that they felt they could put the building on the original footprint with some of the work that they needed to be done, as well as some electrical wiring.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she agreed with Anthony Lorenzetti, but he would still need a bid proposal or contract, that listed what he would be getting for the money and that she was waiting for that list.

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**To discuss what can be done to protect Town's assets for Public Works Department
Cont'd.**

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that this request was an impossibility to have done for quite awhile; noting that they could do some things, like a design build type of situation where they put a structure up and get a Contractor in do some of the electrical and plumbing work.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that he would have a written understanding of what the Town would be getting for their money.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that at the last Town Council Meeting, the request was made to Anthony Lorenzetti to provide a listing with the breakdowns of what the Town would be getting for its money.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated they had gone back and greatly reduced the higher number, as well as working with the Fire Marshal and the Building Inspector to determine what was needed for the facility within the insurance money price range.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel questioned since Anthony Lorenzetti was telling the Council that he was getting what he wanted, did that mean he wouldn't be providing figures on how the money would be used, noting that she was not comfortable with that explanation. She further stated that she had requested an estimate at the last Council Meeting on what the Contractors would be doing and now she was being told that the project would be within budget, but she still didn't know what he was doing for the money.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she was trying to do her due diligence for the taxpayers.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that he didn't realize this issue was an agenda item for this evenings meeting.

It was noted that a Special Meeting could not be held on November 3rd because the meeting was being held by the State of Connecticut, not the Plymouth Town Council.

When questioned by Mayor Festa if he had the requested figures, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the HVAC price was a verbal from Schaffer and that Jamie Langer would be providing the figure for the electrical. He further stated that he had a meeting today with the Fire Marshal regarding possible fire code lighting, and that the Building Contractor was Mark Sekorski.

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**To discuss what can be done to protect Town's assets for Public Works Department
Cont'd.**

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that the Public Works should get the building done with "x" amount of dollars from the insurance company as soon as possible and didn't feel that the Council needed detailed pricing.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the verbal pricing was fine, but that it should be backed up with an email, a facsimile, or anything and that was the way business was done today.

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that there was supposed to have been a Special Meeting to discuss this issue further, noting that it had been cancelled, and further stated that we needed proposals and further information and that hopefully, the next Council could authorize Staff to just move forward.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that he was in the process of getting a truss design and noted that there would be a plan for the footing and the wall, as well.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she wanted to have a Special Town Council Meeting whereby figures would be presented that would show what it would cost to put the building up.

Town Councilman Sekorski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Sandshaw, that the Mayor and the Supervisor/Director of Public Works, move forward with the reconstruction of the building within the margins provided by the insurance applicable reimbursement. Vote: Town Councilman Sandshaw/yes, Town Councilwoman Schenkel/abstained, Town Councilman Sekorski/yes; Town Councilman Wunsch/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes; motion passed.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he was comfortable with the motion because the Mayor has stated that there was a legal opinion not to go out to bid.

To approve the Fall Mountain Road Paving Consultant Agreement

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that at the last Council Meeting, Town Councilman Sandshaw had pointed out a typographical error and that he had made the correction for Article 21. He further stated that he was now requesting that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign the contract as revised on Page 14, as submitted.

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To approve the Fall Mountain Road Paving Consultant Agreement Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Sandshaw, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Fall Mountain Road Paving Consultant Agreement as revised. This motion was approved unanimously.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the wording in the first sentence was a standard Department of Transportation form at \$100.00 per hour for an officer and for the crew \$1,086.46 per hour for the two-person survey for every eight hours, and noted that he would change the wording to read "per hour" for clarification purposes.

To review and discuss Curbside Waste Collection

Mayor Festa stated that the Director of Finance, David Bertnagel, had made a motion to table this item until such time as he could present a financial statement.

Town Councilman Sekorski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, to table the agenda item to review and discuss Curbside Waste Collection. This motion was approved unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he had nothing to report on this evening.

Town Councilman Sekorski stated that he had nothing to report on this evening.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she had nothing to report on this evening.

Town Councilman Wunsch stated that had nothing to report on this evening.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that he had nothing to report on this evening.

Public Comments

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated that she wanted to thank all the members of the Town Council, as well as the Mayor, for their service to the Community.

Keith Golnik, 46 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated that he wanted to echo Pattie DeHuff's comments regarding the Town Council and the Mayor's service to the Community.

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Public Comments Cont'd.

Keith Golnik stated that next week there would be at least two new members to the Council, and that he wanted thank Town Councilman Sekorski for all of his years of service, as well as Town Councilman Wunsch.

Council Comments

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he wanted to thank Town Councilman Sekorski for his many years of service and that he was sorry to see him leave.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that he wanted congratulate David Bertnagel for his award for the Financial Reporting Achievement, noting that it was outstanding.

Town Councilman Sandshaw thanked Town Councilman Sekorski for his service and noted that it had been an honor serving with him and that he had provided lot of insight and guidance to him these last two years. He further stated that he wanted to thank Town Councilman Sekorski for his service on the Board of Education, as well, and for everything else he had done for the past 20 plus years.

When questioned by Town Councilman Sandshaw, Mayor Festa stated that the Fire Department would be handling the recognition of the firefighters that saved the man's life in the burning building on Main Street at their annual meeting.

Town Councilman Sandshaw stated that it had been his honor to serve alongside of the members of the present Council and that it had been a great experience. He further wished everyone the best in their future endeavors and with the upcoming election.

Town Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she had known Town Councilman Sekorski since his Board of Education days and that she had started four years ago as his underling and had learned a lot from him. She further stated that he had become her good friend and wished him "happy trails" and thank you for working with her to move the Council forward.

Mayor Festa stated that there was supposed to be a small surprise party, including a plaque, this evening for Town Councilman Sekorski, however due to the storm it had been impossible to hold the event.

Mayor Festa asked the Council members to stand up in honor of Town Councilman Sekorski; a round of applause followed.

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Council Comments Cont'd.

Mayor Festa stated that Town Councilman Sekorski had not only served the government, but the seniors and the youth of the Community, as well, and that the Community owed him a great deal of thanks and appreciation.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Sekorski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Schenkel, to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Acting Recording Secretary