

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

April 2, 2012

Call to Order: Mayor Vincent Festa, Jr., called the scheduled April 2, 2012, Special Town Council Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman Remie Ferreira, Town Councilman Richard Foote, Town Councilwoman Susan Murawski, Acting Mayor/Town Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance was Salvatore Vitrano, Town Attorney.

Fire Exits Notification

Acting Mayor Schenkel noted the Fire Exits for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Council Rules and Procedures

No report

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Keith Golnik, 46 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated that it had been approximately five years since the Town's formation of the Property Ordinance Committee (aka Blight Committee) and noted that it seemed as if nothing was getting done or if there was something getting done, it was not very apparent.

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Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Keith Golnik stated that the Town-owned building next to the Library had telephone books on its front steps for two years and that the recycling bucket on the side of the building had 20-foot high sumac growing out of it and the shingles were falling off the roof.

Keith Golnik stated that the house directly across from the Water Wheel had a front porch that was falling off. He further stated that its gutters were also falling off and that when you look at these things on Main Street it was just pitiful.

Keith Golnik stated that it seemed as if our Town moves so slow verses other towns that seem to move so fast and that it makes us look like a back-woody town.

Keith Golnik stated that he hoped that we could push to start taking care of some of these things and that we could begin putting the pressure on the homeowners so we could start making a difference in Town.

Keith Golnik stated that the Streetscape Project would begin soon; including sidewalks and lighting, but that it would be placed in front of some dumps in Town.

Keith Golnik stated that he had hoped that the Town Council and the Property Maintenance Committee could start making some progress in Town.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated that she learned this week that the Town had Public Works out with quite a few Public Safety violations that involved four workers. She further stated that OSHA happened to come by and that the four workers were in a trench without a trench box and did not have their hard hats on and that if something had happened like a cave-in, one of them could have died.

Melanie Church stated that these were not small things, but were major and that the Town would be fined for and that the taxpayers would have to pay the tax at their own expense.

Melanie Church stated that she understood that there was a person directing traffic without a safety vest on and that she had a concern with all these safety issues and thank God no one was injured. Melanie Church stated that anyone that works anywhere has to remember that safety is number one and that OSHA was not kind to unsafe acts.

Melanie Church stated that she found out that the workers did have hard hats, doesn't know why they weren't wearing them, but hopes that there would be reprimands done.

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Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Melanie Church stated that the Town's revenues were down and that the Town would be in deficit, so again, the Town would have to pay and that meant the Town wasn't living within its budget.

Melanie Church stated that under Capital Outlays, no final decision had been made and that it was to do the Highway Department and the rest of the garage.

Melanie Church stated that the Town was not allowed to vote and that it hadn't been put out in a sealed bid and that there was work that had to be done, even in the section that was done by the insurance company because now a floor needed to be laid down.

Melanie Church stated that this building was put in the \$19 million dollars and people voted no and in order to circumvent the vote it was being put into the budget and asked the Town to look at the \$425,000.00 to finance the other section of the garage.

Melanie Church stated that we were told that the trusses were cut and that was why it was caving in and that the insurance company needed to be called again and that the person that cut them needed to be made accountable and compared it to someone coming to her house to do work and made an error that could make her house cave in the person would be responsible.

Melanie Church stated that she would like to see some of these issues addressed, noting that these were taxpayer dollars and that our taxes would end up going up because our revenues were down. She further stated that the Town needed to look at cutting and that only the Town Council could do this cutting and that when the budget comes forward she would encourage the Town Council to encourage the Board of Finance to make cuts.

Melanie Church stated that her place of employment hasn't given out raises in 10 years and everything had gone up except her/their pay and the Town Council really needed to look at the budget when it was presented and take a good look at the Capital Outlays.

Melanie Church stated that if the garage was not fixed under the insurance it should be knocked down and demolished, it was used to store trucks.

Melanie Church stated that she understood that two trucks had been purchased under Miscellaneous Equipment and that the Town knew about one and that the other was supposed to be hidden. She further stated that she wanted this investigated as well and if it were true she wanted someone to be reprimanded for this.

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Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Melanie Church stated that there was too much playing with the budget and that it needed to be looked at and that the Town Council, along with the Board of Finance, had the right to look at it.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated that she had been reading the Audit of the Town and read an excerpt into the record from Page 44, Number 12, Other Post Employment Benefits, Retiree Health Care Plan, Item B, Funding Policy.

Pattie DeHuff stated that at the Board of Finance meetings the Public was only allowed to speak to what was on the agenda and after the members had voted and this was the reason she was bringing this issue to the Town Council's attention, in case it hadn't been brought up previously.

Noting that she was not a big Union person, Pattie DeHuff stated that the Town did have to make the commitment to the Employees of the Town and requested that the Council check with the Board of Finance to see if they had actually established the funding previously cited.

Mayor's Report: Neighborhood Assistance Act

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that the Neighborhood Assistance Act would be discussed under Small Cities Grant/Fair Housing, later in the agenda.

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that before the Town can apply for any grants it has to annually affirm that the Town was a Fair Housing Community and that the Town believed in the affirmative action policy not to discriminate in terms of applying the grants.

To refund the following Property Taxes: Chase Auto Finance Corp \$24.16

Town Councilman Foote made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to refund property taxes in the amount of \$24.16 to Chase Auto Finance Corporation. This motion was approved unanimously.

To consider and act upon Resolution regarding Pothole Patching Machine

Town Attorney Salvatore Vitrano stated that the Resolution should be read into the record followed by a motion to adopt, second the motion, followed by discussion and a roll call vote.

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To consider and act upon Resolution regarding Pothole Patching Machine Cont'd.

Town Councilman Ferreira read the Resolution into the record as follows:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Plymouth, Connecticut, that the filing of a joint grant application with the City of Bristol, Connecticut and the Town of Plainville, Connecticut to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive Program for up to \$150,000, with a Plymouth, Connecticut cash match of up to \$33,000, to purchase one Python 5000 Pothole Patching Vehicle to be shared between the Town of Plymouth, Connecticut, the City of Bristol, Connecticut, and the Town of Plainville, Connecticut is hereby approved and that the Mayor, Vincent Festa, Jr., or Acting Mayor, is hereby authorized to execute such application and any and all other documents relating to this application/grant, including but not limited to any final grant documents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Plymouth, Connecticut endorses the Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive (ICE) Program proposal referenced in Section 75 of Public Act 11-57 (An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements...);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Vincent Festa, Jr., or Acting Mayor, is authorized to assign authority of the Lead Municipality on behalf of the Town of Plymouth, Connecticut to the City of Bristol, Connecticut;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that subject to receipt of the grant award, the Mayor, Vincent Festa, Jr., or Acting Mayor is authorized to enter into a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Bristol, Connecticut and the Town of Plainville, Connecticut for the purchase and use of one Python 5000 Pothole Patching Vehicle for a fee determined based upon actual service costs.

Town Councilman Foote made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski seconded, to move to adopt the Resolution as read into the record.

Discussion:

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that information on the Python 5000 Pothole Patching Vehicle had been included in the Council packets.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the City of Bristol had approached the Town of Plymouth, in an effort to secure the aforementioned grant, noting that the grant would pay for one half of the purchase price for the piece of equipment because it was a multi-community program.

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To consider and act upon Resolution regarding Pothole Patching Machine Cont'd.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that Walter Veselka, City of Bristol Public Works Director, was present to answer questions this evening.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the Python Pothole Patching Machine would allow for patching throughout the year and had the ability to compact, spray emulsion in the hole, as well as the ability to blow out the hole. He further noted that the operator could perform all of these steps from within the vehicle, eliminating the need for traffic control, along with multiple crews of people out working on the project.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the plan discussed was that the City of Bristol would house the equipment and that Plainville and Plymouth would be able to use the equipment one day of week throughout the year, and that one day would be set aside for maintenance and/or emergency repairs.

Walter Veselka, City of Bristol Public Works Director, stated that the piece of equipment was being proposed under the Intercommunity Grant Program and that he had viewed it last year at the American Public Works Association Congress in Denver. He further stated that they have a video clip on it and was trying to arrange for a demonstration, but that the piece of equipment had been tied up in New York State.

Walter Veselka stated that the local dealer/vendor managing and supporting the equipment was W.H. Rose, Willimantic, CT.

Walter Veselka stated that the machine provided the ability for one person to do some very good permanent pothole patching that would last a longer period of time until other road maintenance could be done.

Walter Veselka reviewed the MOU in detail (see attachment).

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Walter Veselka stated that the Grant submission was due by May 1, 2012.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Walter Veselka stated that the machine had gotten great reviews where it had been used, noting that it was a piece of equipment that had not made it extensively to the East Coast, but it was something that many communities would be looking at.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Walter Veselka stated that the Town of Plymouth would be charged by the City of Bristol for the operator's hourly wage while he was in the Town of Plymouth, as part of the operational cost.

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To consider and act upon Resolution regarding Pothole Patching Machine Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Walter Veselka explained the scheduling calendar and noted that the fifth day of the week had been reserved for servicing the machine. He further stated that if the machine did not need servicing, one of the other towns could request the machine for the additional day and then pay the operational costs.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Walter Veselka stated that the machine had a heated hopper that kept five (5) tons of asphalt warm for hot mix, if desired. He further stated that the machine could be plugged in to maintain the temperature overnight.

Town Councilman Ferreira stated that he had seen a picture of the machine and that it was amazing looking. He further stated that he thought it was great that the machine could blow out the hole of moisture and debris.

Town Councilman Ferreira stated that he thought that one-day down for maintenance for a \$300,000.00 machine was also a good idea.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the road miles of each town had been examined to determine the capital outlay and the fairness of the use of the equipment.

Town Councilman Ferreira stated that community sharing of equipment seemed to be the wave of the future, noting that this concept would make it financially feasible to do the things that the Town needed to do. He further stated that because of the discussion of fixing the Town roads, this piece of machinery could not have come at a more opportune time.

When questioned by Acting Mayor Schenkel, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that it was a multi-community grant in order to get the 50 percent funding.

Acting Mayor Schenkel questioned if the machine was a lot better than the Python 4000.

Acting Mayor Schenkel questioned if there was a picture of a big snake on the side, noting that it would upset her if there were.

Melanie Church questioned the breakdown of the yearly cost for the operator, as well as the maintenance.

Melanie Church questioned if it would that mean that the Town would need one less person here due to all the pot holes being done and that less manpower would be needed to do the repairing of the potholes.

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To consider and act upon Resolution regarding Pothole Patching Machine Cont'd.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the savings would have to be examined to find out what savings would be gained and that it was always a goal to save on operations whenever possible.

Walter Veselka stated that he had provided a breakdown of the estimated maintenance cost based on some information from the manufacturer and would provide that information to the Town Council at a future date.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Walter Veselka stated that there was a provision that provided for who would take on the machinery after the five year agreement was up and that the communities could sever the agreement if they wanted to and if not, they would work out a way to terminate and dispose of the equipment.

When questioned by Acting Mayor Schenkel, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the 22 percent of the cost remaining, after the grant was received, came to \$33,000.00.

Town Attorney Vitrano stated that hopefully, the piece of equipment would have residual value and that it would be up to the three parties to decide if they wanted to continue with the piece of equipment and the contract. He further stated that if the equipment had to be salvaged and if there were some value, the agreement provides that each share would be pro-rated for salvage value.

Catherine Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, questioned what the cost savings would be and if there weren't any, why was the Town doing it.

Walter Veselka stated that there was a potential for cost savings, but more importantly it would patch the potholes so that the same area did not have to be patched over and over again throughout the winter period.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that cold patching doesn't always stay in potholes during the winter and rainy seasons, nor does it necessarily get compacted well, so not having to go back definitely saves money.

Melanie Church stated that it seemed to her that she didn't get an answer as to how much it would cost the Town to be using the one person.

Melanie Church stated that we did not know what the savings was or if there would be, noting that it was just an assumption and to her there should be more homework done and maybe call a Special Meeting with that information and then bring it forward so that everyone would be informed and understand everything completely.

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To consider and act upon Resolution regarding Pothole Patching Machine Cont'd.

Melanie Church stated that it may be a good deal or it may not be one, but without all the questions answered she could not see how the Council could just legitimately approve something with just an assumption.

Acting Mayor Schenkel questioned Town Attorney Vitrano if the MOU was basically to put all the ducks in a row for the grant, which had been applied for and how it would be expended.

Town Attorney Vitrano stated that it was and that the intent of the MOU was to express each individual town's intent to proceed should the grant be realized.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Anthony Lorenzetti stated that there were several different things that could be put into potholes, including cold patch, hot patch and the ability to put in one's own material.

Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Ferreira/yes, Town Councilman Foote/yes, Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed. (See Motion on Page 5.)

To consider and act upon a resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$9,800,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose"

Town Councilman Ferreira read the Resolution into the record as follows:

RESOLVED: That the Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$9,800,000.00 FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$9,800,000.00 IN BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF, THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE", as was introduced at the Meeting of the Town Council held on March 12, 2012 and set for the in full in the Minutes of said Meeting, be adopted.

Town Councilman Foote made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, that said Resolution be adopted as introduced and read.

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To consider and act upon a resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$9,800,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose” Cont’d.

Discussion:

Pattie DeHuff stated that for the record there were no roads, no names of roads, listed on the first portion of the \$4.8 million dollars, and even though there was a reference to the Management Pavement Study, other than Seymour Road, the people were not voting on roads.

Town Councilman Ferreira stated that looking at the Study, although there were no specific roads outlined, it did say it was for improvements for approximately 22 miles of roads in the Town of Plymouth, CT. He further stated that it noted that it could be amended as time went on and went on to say what would be done to the 22 miles of roads.

Town Councilman Ferreira stated that for the price of \$4.8 million dollars, 22 miles of road would be taken care of with, but not limited to crack sealing, chip sealing or micro surfacing, milling and overlay, base reclamation or reconstruction. He further stated that it does point to the available Pavement Management Study.

Rodney Houle, 16 Frankie Lane, Terryville, stated that in previous meetings the entire road listing had been publically presented and that it was all documented. He further stated that the 22 miles of road, with the preventative maintenance, were shown and explained according to the \$30,000.00 Study.

Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Ferreira/yes, Town Councilman Foote/yes, Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed. (See Motion on Page 9.)

Town Councilman Foote made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ferreira, that said Resolution be adopted as introduced and read.

Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Ferreira/yes, Town Councilman Foote/yes, Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed. (See Motion on Page 10.)

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ferreira, to discuss a date for the Referendum. This motion was approved unanimously.

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To consider and act upon a resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$9,800,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose” Cont’d.

Discussion:

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he would like to hold the Referendum on the same date as the Budget Referendum, noting that he did not like spending the extra dollars on extra Referendums. He further stated that the Chairman of the Board of Finance had made the recommendation during the Public Hearing.

When questioned by Acting Mayor Schenkel, Attorney Vitrano stated that there had to be sufficient time for the Referendum to properly post it and give the Public sufficient notice by way of advertising to satisfy the statutory requirements. He further stated he did not believe sufficient time existed if the Referendum was held on May 3, 2012.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Attorney Vitrano stated that he believed there was a 30-day requirement.

Town Councilman Ferreira stated that he felt the Saturday Referendum worked out well and that May 19, 2012, looked like a possible date.

Town Councilman Foote stated that this particular issue was so important that it ought to stand by itself on a certain date and that he could agree with May 19, 2012, for the date.

Town Councilman Ferreira stated that he was in agreement with Town Councilman Foote.

Pattie DeHuff stated that she would discourage the Council from picking a Saturday Referendum, noting that as the weather got nicer people would be doing things and maybe traveling for short periods of time and felt more people might show up on a regular work day.

Pattie DeHuff stated that it should be a full-day Referendum, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., as has been the history of Referenda in the Town.

Town Councilman Ferreira made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Foote, to set the date for the \$9.8 million dollar Bonding Proposal for Roads to be held on May 19, 2012.

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To consider and act upon a resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$9,800,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose” Cont’d.

Discussion:

Catherine Kosak stated that if the Council were to go with the Saturday Referendum she would recommend that the time start earlier and that at least four people had told her they forgot to vote and that she believed it was because the last Referendum didn’t start until 10:00 a.m. She further stated that with the nicer weather a lot of people were out earlier in the morning and if they didn’t vote early they would forget.

Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Ferreira/yes, Town Councilman Foote/yes, Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Town Councilman Ferreira read the Resolution into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM OF TOWN ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED TAX PAYERS

RESOLVED: That the Resolution entitled “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$9,800,000.00 FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$9,800,000.00 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF, THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE”, heretofore at this Meeting adopted, be submitted to the Town electors and qualified tax payers for approval or disapproval at a referendum to be held on May 19, 2012, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (E.D.T.), and that the warning of said referendum state the question to be voted upon as follows:

“Shall the Resolution entitled ‘RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$9,800,000.00 FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$9,800,000.00 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE, adopted by the Town Council on April 2, 2012 be approved?”

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

“Shall the appropriation and bond authorization of \$9,800,000.00 for Various Capital Improvement Projects, be approved? YES _____ NO _____”

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To consider and act upon a resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$9,800,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose” Cont’d.

The warning of said referendum shall state that the full text of the Resolution is on file and open to public inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Pursuant to Chapter VII, Section 9b of the Town Charter, electors and qualified tax payers are entitled to vote on the question. Chapter IX, Section 12 of the Town Charter defines (i) an elector as an individual who has attained the age of eighteen (18), who is a United States citizen, who is a bona fide resident of the Town of Plymouth, and whose name appears on the voter registration list as maintained by the Registrars of the Town of Plymouth, and (ii) a qualified tax payer as an individual who is a United States citizen, who has attained the age of eighteen (18), who is a resident or non-resident of the Town of Plymouth, who owns property at an assessed value of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars or more in the Town on the last completed grand list.

Town Councilman Foote made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, that said Resolution be adopted as introduced and read.

Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Ferreira/yes, Town Councilman Foote/yes, Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed. (See Motion on Page 13.)

Small Cities Grant-Fair Housing Month

Khara Dodds, Director of Planning and Economic Development, stated that the documents, which had been included in the Council packets, were part of the Small Cities Grant requirements. She further stated that annually, during Fair Housing month, the Town has to readopt Fair Housing and Affirmative Action documents.

When questioned by Acting Mayor Schenkel, Khara Dodds stated that this was part of the Town’s grant monitoring efforts and that this year the State Department of Economic and Community Development would be in the Town of Plymouth (as part of their audit) in May to ensure that the Town was following procedures and readopting the aforementioned documents.

Town Councilman Foote made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ferreira, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Compliance Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Small Cities Grant-Fair Housing Month Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Affirmative Action Policy Statement as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Ferreira made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Foote, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Fair Housing Resolution, as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Ferreira made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Foote, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Fair Housing Policy Statement, as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

To consider and act upon a resolution regarding Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement

Town Councilman Ferreira read the Resolution into the record as follows:

RESOLVED: That Vincent Festa, Jr., Mayor of the Town of Plymouth be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Plymouth an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement and a conservation and public recreation easement and agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to acquire permanent interest in land known as the Plymouth Reservoir OSWA 393 and to manage said land as Open Space pursuant to Section 7-13, 131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Town Councilman Foote made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to move to adopt the Resolution as read into the record.

Discussion:

Town Attorney Vitrano stated that this Resolution authorizes the Mayor or the designee of the Mayor, to enter into two Land Acquisition Grants/Grant Agreements. He further stated that the first was with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) for \$800,000.00 and the second with the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for \$650,000.00, both totaling \$1,450,000.00, which was the contract price of the Connecticut Water Company.

Attorney Vitrano stated that the grant agreements were typical grant agreements with the State of Connecticut, and that as long as the Town agreed to enter in the Conservation Easement (which the Council had discussed previously) DEEP and DOT would provide the grants.

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To consider and act upon a resolution regarding Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement Cont'd.

Attorney Vitrano stated that if the Council were to approve the Resolution, the Town hoped to have it signed tomorrow and then move it to the respective departments and hopefully have it completed by the end of the day.

Joyce Stregowski, Fall Mountain Lake Road, Terryville, questioned if the grant limited the use of the Plymouth Reservoir and/or did it keep the land as Open Space as it was presently utilized, preventing use of the water.

Town Attorney Vitrano stated that the grant was for Conservation Easements and noted that it provided certain recreational use of the land. He further stated that the essence of the use would be passive use, i.e. hiking, etc., and that the opportunity to build a boat house existed.

Attorney Vitrano stated that the lake could be used for row boating, however there would be no horseback riding, no motor vehicles of any sort on the land and that the land would remain much as it was now.

Attorney Vitrano stated that the ability to put in hiking trails throughout the 175 acres existed and would be a typical passive recreation site.

When questioned by Joyce Stregowski, Attorney Vitrano stated that swimming would not be allowed.

When questioned by Joyce Stregowski as to why there would be no swimming allowed, Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that it was because that was the limit of the Grant.

Attorney Vitrano stated that much of the Conservation Easement was dictated by DEEP and that the Town negotiated certain things that the Town had requested and that they come in very restrictive. He further stated that because DEEP was giving the money to the Town they wanted to be sure that the land would be preserved and that they wanted the land to remain as pristine as possible.

Attorney Vitrano stated that he was uncertain as to why swimming was not allowed.

When questioned by Joyce Stregowski, Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that the Grant was for the purchase of the land with the restrictions noted and this was what the Council was accepting, the money for the completion of the sale.

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To consider and act upon a resolution regarding Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Attorney Vitrano stated that the Town would receive the full \$800,000.00 Federal Grant, which was being administered through the DOT.

David Bertnagel stated that past grants received from the Federal Government were earmarked under the earmark process that had an administration fee attached to it. He further stated that this was a direct grant for a specific purpose, as funded through the Federal Government budgetary process and that they were releasing it to the Town.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that the Town would be required to place a plaque at the Reservoir property and that the Town would have to use grant monies to make the plaque and put it up at the site.

David Bertnagel stated that it was his understanding that the land purchase was covered by the grant in its entirety. He further stated that the Town would have to look into the cost of the plaque itself.

Attorney Vitrano stated that if it were true, he didn't believe the plaque would cost a significant amount of money.

Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Ferreira/yes, Town Councilman Foote/yes, Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed. (See Motion on Page 14.)

To consider and take action regarding approval of apparent low bidder regarding Route 6 Streetscape Bid Results

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that information on the three low bidders for the Route 6 Streetscape Bid results had been included in the Council packets.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that there had been a recommendation from the Department of Economic and Community Development to go with the low bid received from Trade Mark Contractors, LLC, noting that it was fairly straight forward and that they had come in under the estimate.

Anthony Lorenzetti stated that the Town was now looking for approval from the Town Council to move forward in accepting the bid from Trade Mark Contractors, LLC.

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To consider and take action regarding approval of apparent low bidder regarding Route 6 Streetscape Bid Results Cont'd.

It was noted that Acting Mayor Schenkel had forwarded an email to the Council members from the State of Connecticut, recommending the low bidder, Trade Mark Contractors, LLC, prior to the meeting this evening.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, that the Town Council move to accept the low bid from Trade Mark Contractors, LLC, for the Route 6 Streetscape Project on Main Street, in the amount of \$291,018.25, and to authorize the Acting Mayor (in the absence of the Mayor) to enter into any contractual agreements with Trade Mark Contractors, LLC. This motion was approved unanimously. (See motion on Page 17.)

Modification of existing Telecommunications Facility

David Bertnagel stated that this agenda item went before the Connecticut Siting Council, noting that the Tower was located at 171 Town Hill Road, and was replacing six (6) old antennas with six (6) new antennas. He further stated that there was no additional height; it was just an upgrade of the equipment on their behalf and that this item was for informational purposes only. David Bertnagel stated that the item needed to be accepted by the Town Council and placed on file for the site.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, David Bertnagel stated the local Emergency Radios would not be affected by this upgrade.

Town Councilman Foote made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ferreira, to accept the modification to the existing Telecommunications Facility located at 171 Town Hill Road. This motion was approved unanimously.

Update on FEMA Grants Storm Alfred and Hurricane Irene

David Bertnagel, referencing the previous Winter Storm Alfred/Hurricane Irene Event Costs-Town of Plymouth handout, stated that he was providing monthly cost updates to the Town Council, as well as to the Board of Finance.

David Bertnagel stated that to-date (3/31/12), the Town had incurred total costs of \$224,104.72 from Hurricane Irene, of which \$125,687.49 was in the General Fund and \$98,417.23 was in the Water Pollution Control Authority Special Revenue Fund.

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Update on FEMA Grants Storm Alfred and Hurricane Irene Cont'd.

David Bertnagel stated that to-date, based upon the estimates of the grants that the Town had received, the Town costs would be \$31,421.87 and the Water Pollution Control Authority costs would be \$34,446.03, with an estimated grant amount of \$158,236.82.

David Bertnagel stated that as a result, the Public Works Department had been working on compiling all of the data necessary to submit to the State Department Connecticut Homeland Security for reimbursement.

David Bertnagel stated that the Town had received a check in the beginning of March for \$85,920.63, which \$63,971.20 was owed to the Water Pollution Control Authority and \$21,949.43 went to the Town.

Referencing the different categories of the storm, David Bertnagel stated that because of the heavy damage in Town, it became a Federal Disaster and that usually storm events of this magnitude have a 72-hour window of time and the Town has to pick the best one that would benefit the Town the most.

David Bertnagel outlined the data (see attachment) and noted that the Town had until September 2013 to submit design work and that the projects would be opened up for a long period of time.

David Bertnagel stated that he had also submitted a letter to the State Department of Homeland Security, which explains the reimbursement of what was submitted and that for the most part; it was for what had happened during the first 72 hours of the storm.

David Bertnagel stated that to-date (3/31/12), the Town had incurred total costs in the General Fund of \$310,055.16 and the Water Pollution Control Authority total costs came in at \$1,991.99, with total costs incurred at \$312,047.15.

David Bertnagel stated that this total included approximately \$225,000.00 in debris removal. He further stated that under the State contract, the State came in and took all the tree limbs, etc., and that was almost a quarter of a million dollars.

David Bertnagel stated that the total Town cost was \$77,513.79 and the total Water Pollution Control Authority cost was \$498.00, with an estimated grant amount of \$234,035.36.

David Bertnagel stated that the Town could still receive reimbursements, which would lower the cost slightly from the 25 percent mark and hopefully, this would be wrapped up by June.

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Update on FEMA Grants Storm Alfred and Hurricane Irene Cont'd.

David Bertnagel noted that the Board of Finance did have a funding source for this issue and that they would use an unanticipated Manufacturing Grant, which had been restored to the Town, in the amount of approximately \$110,000.00.

David Bertnagel stated that the Board of Finance would recommend a June 30th appropriation of that grant to cover the Town's share of the costs for both events.

David Bertnagel stated he would provide another report update next month and that hopefully, the Town will have received a little more money by that time.

Public Comments

No report.

Council Comments

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that she wanted to thank everyone that had helped her out this past week, noting that it had been an adventure. She further stated that she never realized how hard Mayor Festa worked and that she had tried to make an appearance at all of his meetings, as well as her own, and that unfortunately, she had run out of steam at some of them.

Acting Mayor Schenkel stated that she wanted to say that it had been an educational experience and that the Town Hall Staff had done a phenomenal job and she wanted to commend staff for their efforts.

Adjournment

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ferreira, to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary

Attachments (on file in Town Clerk's Office)