

**PLYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 1, 2012**

A meeting of the Plymouth Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at town hall at 7:00p.m. The following were in attendance: Mayor Vincent Festa, Councilman Tom Zagurski, Remie Ferreira, Sr., Richard Foote, Councilwoman DiAnna Schenkel, and Sue Murawski.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Festa called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

2. FIRE EXIT NOTIFICATION

Mayor Festa gave instructions on the fire exits.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Festa led in the pledge of allegiance.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PLYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING APRIL 2, 2012, ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL PLYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 2, 2012, ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OS SPECIAL PLYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 5, 2012

A motion was made by Councilman Foote seconded by Councilman Ferreira to:

“approve the minutes of the April 2, 2012 meeting as recorded”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Murawski seconded by Councilman Foote to:

“approve the minutes of the special Plymouth town council meeting of April 2, 2012 meeting as recorded”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Schenkel seconded by Councilman Ferrar to:

“approve the minutes of the April 5, 2012 special Plymouth town council

meeting as recorded”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

5. COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES

Mayor Festa asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include 1. to table Helena Schwalm’s application, 2. to move to add Janine Thomas’ and Stephen Szpunar’s application for consideration for appointment as alternates to the inland/wetland commission; terms to expire 9/1/2013; 9/1/2012, 3. misinformation had been received by Mayor’s office regarding human services commission, and 4. inland/wetland commission is in need of alternates to fill absent seats to fill quorum requirements. Recent meetings had to be cancelled due to lack of quorum. A motion was made by Councilwoman Schenkel seconded by Councilman Foote to:

“approve the amendments to the agenda”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councilwoman Murawski stated that she is uncomfortable with the line that limits public comment to two times per agenda item. A motion was made by Councilwoman Murawski seconded by Councilman Foote to:

“remove the privilege of the floor of allowing 2 per item be removed from council rules and procedures”

Discussion followed with Councilwoman Schenkel stated she disagrees. Councilman Ferrar stated that when someone takes the microphone to speak it should not be a back and forth conversation. Councilwoman Schenkel stated that they could end up getting lengthy and noted this will limit redundancy. She noted this points to the people making it personal instead of sticking to the issues. Councilwoman Murawski says she doesn’t want to muzzle anyone. She would like to make sure that the remarks are addressed to the council. Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the council has been very lenient noting that people would like to see a time limit. She noted that this will allow them when they have a big agenda to move forward. Councilman Foote stated they should be allowed to at least have two times to speak. Councilman Ferreira stated that they should only be allowed to make a comment and a rebuttal. His concerns are that the points of order are totally out of control. He noted we have been lenient and said that if we take this language out it will give a license for an argument. Councilman Zagurski stated that he understands Councilwoman Murawski’s concern but this ins in a place if they get out hand. Councilman Foote stated that they should limit it to two comments per item. Mayor Festa moved the vote. Following a voice vote in which Councilman Foote and Councilwoman Murawski were the only yes votes, and Councilman Zagurski, Ferreira and Councilwoman Schenkel voted no, it was noted that the motion failed 3-2.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT-CORRESPONDENCE DISCUSSION ON VARIOUS ITEMS.
8. FYI WPCA DENTRIFICATION UPGRADES, WALKING GUIDE/JERRY MILNE; PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING – 5/31/2012, RT 6 & 72 BRIDGE; CT. WATER-PLYMOUTH RESERVIOR, LIASION REQUEST/EARLY CHILDHOOD, HEALTH REPORT/MAYOR

Mayor Festa noted that the dentrification upgrades report is attached and noted that next month will be upgraded. He asked that the council look at the report and call his office if they have any questions.

Mayor Festa gave the council a copy of the walking guide that was done by Jerry Milne and told the council if they haven't done the walk he recommends it. He publicly thanked Mr. Milne for a job well done.

Mayor Festa stated that they are looking for public input on May 3, regarding route 6 & 72. He stated this will be the first of several meetings.

Mayor Festa noted that Mr. Worhunsky had concerns and interest regarding leak in the dam. He stated that the CT. Water Dept. confirmed that there is no leak, it was just a spill over. He noted they will be providing pictures.

He presented to the council that they are looking for an early/childhood liaison. He stated that they have not had anyone since John Wunsch.

He addressed the council stating that he followed up with them on his medical condition. He noted the rumors are at it again and stated that when the time comes he will keep them informed. He stated that as Mayor of this community he felt it was his duty to present it to the council.

9. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Mayor Festa presented the name of Diana Mindera for commissioner on the historic property commission. He stated that Stephen Mindera, Diana's husband is the Chairman of the commission but noted there would be no conflict unless there is an issue that benefits him. Mayor Festa noted that the commission is always short for a quorum and stated that Mrs. Mindera is always there which would ensure a quorum. A motion was made by Councilman Foote seconded by Councilwoman Murawski to:

“appoint Diana Mindera to the historic property commission”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mayor Festa asked for a table to Helena Schwalm's appointment to the human services commission. He noted that there was a problem with making a quorum but noted due to misinformation there is not an opening to put her on the commission.

Mayor Festa presented the name of Wayne Radke as an alternate to the planning and zoning commission to a term to expire 2/19/2015. A motion was made by Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Murawski to:

“appoint Wayne Radke alternate to the planning and zoning commission to a term to expire 2/19/2015.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mayor Festa presented the name of Janine Thomas as an alternate to the inland/wetland commission to a term to expire on 9/1/2013. A motion was made by Councilman Foote seconded by Councilwoman Schenkel to:

“appoint Janine Thomas as an alternate to the inland/wetland’s commission to a term to expire 9/1/2013”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mayor Festa presented the name of Stephen Szpunar’s as an alternate to the inland/wetland commission to a term to expire on 9/1/2012. A motion was made by Councilwoman Schenkel seconded by Councilman Ferreria to:

“appoint Stephen Szpunar as an alternate to the inland/wetland’s commission to a term to expire 9/1/2012”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

10. TO REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON WAIVER REQUEST FOR PLYMOUTH FIREFIGHTERS

Mayor Festa asked for a motion to review and discussion of the request to waive fees for volunteer firefighters. A motion was made by Councilwoman Schenkel seconded by Councilman Zagurski to:

“move to review and discuss the proposal for waiver fees for firefighters”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Victor Mitchell, 39 Hillside Ave. Plymouth, a member of the volunteer firefighters department 32 years of service. He noted that 2 years ago they had an outreach signage that would waive fees to attract people to volunteer. He stated it was ways to retain them. He noted that there are

requirements in place to qualify for this. You must be an active member for five years with retirement and tax abatement. Councilwoman Schenkel questioned how does the town know if they are active. Mr. Mitchell stated that once a year they will give them a card stating they are active. Mayor Festa stated that Chairman Stephen Fennessy asked for the town attorney to review the proposal. He noted that Attorney Sal Vitrano looked it over and it is fine. Councilman Zagurski asked if this needed to be an ordinance. Mayor Festa noted that Attorney Vitrano stated it only needs a formal vote from the council. Councilman Ferreira stated that this is a great way to show their appreciation to our volunteers. Councilman Zagurski asked about the ambulance corp. and does this include them due to the fact that they are volunteers. Mayor Festa stated it was up to the council. Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the fire commission worked on this and came forward and stated that if the ambulance corp. would like this they should come forward. A motion was made by Councilman Foote seconded by Councilwoman Schenkel to:

“approve the fee waiver proposal for volunteer firefighters”

Following a voice vote in which Councilman Zagurski abstained due to the fact that his two sons are firefighters the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell asked when this will be effective. Councilwoman Schenkel made a motion seconded by Councilman Foote to:

“make the waiver fees effective July 1, 2012”

Following a voice vote in which Councilman Zagurski abstained, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

11. TO DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARHTUR BRAUER

Mayor Festa noted that the letter from Mr. Brauer speaks for itself. He is requesting that the town buy his building. He stated that unfortunately, there is no money available to purchase. He stated that the waterwheel project to not include any taxpayer funds. Mayor Festa was noted that in fairness to Arthur Brauer the council should make a decision and let him know. Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she would like to express her sympathy to the family about his son and expressed that they need to know either way. She noted that it is not practical due to the fact that there is no grant money in site. She stated the timing is so that we can't give him an offer. Councilwoman Murawski stated that she agrees we cannot move forward. Councilman Foote stated that he remembers in 2000 that Mr. Brauer made a statement that if they fixed around the waterwheel he would be happy, but he also agrees that fiscally right now this is not possible. Councilwoman Murawski stated that maybe if he sells the property and someone new takes it over they may make it better. Councilman Foote stated it is income producing property. A motion was made by Councilwoman Schenkel seconded by Councilman Zagurski to:

“express to Mr. Brauer with regret that they would not be able to make an offer”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

12. TO ENTER IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING TOWN UNIONS.

A motion was made b Councilwoman Schenkel seconded by Councilman Ferreira to:

“go into executive session at 7:35p.m.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

13. TO TAKE ACTION, AS MAY BE NECESSARY, FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Murawski seconded by Councilman Foote to:

“go back into regular session at 7:50p.m.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Schenkel seconded by Councilman Foote to:

“authorize the mayor to sign the approved contracts of supervisors-non-supervisors”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

14. LIASON REPORTS

Councilman Zagurski stated that the library board was upset about not knowing about the budget date. He noted that at one time the Mayor would have a meeting with boards and commissions. Mayor Festa stated that there is a tentative date set for May 31, 2012 at 6:00p.m. to cover Roberts Rules of Order and Freedom of Information (FOI) for all boards and commissions and secretaries because things are not being handled properly. He noted that Town Clerk Barbara Rockwell was invited but stated she will not be there. Councilman Zagurski stated that was perfect. He then stated that on economic development there has been a slight delay on Genovese Manufacturing, due to the fact that there is a need for a phase II study. Mayor Festa stated that he is glad to announce that Genovese Manufacturing is all set. Councilman Zagurski stated that on the streetscape there are a couple of properties with no easements. Mayor Festa stated that easements have been attained by all needed and they are moving forward.

Councilwoman Schenkel stated that the police commission is frustrated due to the fact that they are not getting across what they are doing. She noted every month she submits the Chief's

report. She stated that Heidi Caron is the new chairperson of the human services commission and noted this will be a good thing. She reminded everyone to vote on Thursday for the budget and mentioned that the board of finance has done a phenomenal job.

Councilman Ferreira stated that he would like to thank the board of education for bringing in a zero increase budget. He noted he was not able to attend. He stated that the department of public works met with Jim Schultz and Tony Lorenzetti and went over a few things, 1. the graded shoulders on North St., it was hydroseeded and he stated that if you get a chance take a ride, 2. they installed new catch basins on North Street and screen materials. He noted they took down trees with various groups, picked up trash, roadside shoveling, asst. with amnesty at transfer station. He stated that we are receiving FEMA reimbursement for storms Irene and Alfred. He noted that Tony Lorenzetti went to meetings with CT. transportation and work zone safety. They did work with the streetscape and coordinated with the consultants on waterwheel and streetscape, in which they went and marked out for CBYD. They also did motor vehicle registrations and were updated on things going on.

Councilwoman Murawski stated that zoning and wpca are working together. She noted that plans need to be reviewed on a case to case basis due to government restrictions. She noted this is easier for applicants to do.

Councilman Foote gave an update on fire commission. He noted that it has been quiet due to no money to spend. He stated that blight enforcement has been added to the fire marshal's job description. He noted that Dave Merchant will be taking over for Treasurer David Boilard temporarily. He update the council saying that the radios are working fine and noted Scott Miliken is in contact with APolloCo. in California to discuss the radios. They are cleaning out mold and replacing insulation in the truck room. He noted the mowers are being sharpened and serviced. He stated Chief Sekorski noted they will be training at the old Stevenson House on Kellogg Ave. The truck committee is being formed for a new truck but noted that funding is questionable. He noted on the issue of the fire marshal test he noted that ads have been placed. He stated that a company in Virginia was contacted by Commissioner Bachand to do the testing but noted they had too little of applicants for them to do it. They suggested that a committee of Chiefs from outside the area could be called to give an oral exam and a written exam. He said Commissioner Bachand has met with the police department to come up with a plan for training dispatchers. He noted they listened to 911 tapes and agreed training would be given with disciplinary action a possibility if necessary. He discussed the permit waiver fees for active firemen and noted it passed unanimously to go to council. He stated that Commissioner Bachand asked that something be done with exhaust-removal from truck room when trucks leave on call. It was suggested that funds be requested from, for examples, the Thomaston Savings Bank. He stated the cost would be around \$300 to cover three fire houses.

Councilman Foote gave an update on the historic property commission. He noted that Commissioner Green reviewed the documents and plans for the waterwheel and noted it was vote on unanimously to accept the documents. He noted that Jerry Milne presented a brochure on the "Walking Guide to Plymouth Center" and noted how he spoke to of this area as classic New England. He noted commemorative bricks are being sold. He stated that a letter was received by Arthur Brauer requesting an answer on whether or not the town will purchase his

building. He noted that discussion followed in which Chairman Mindera noted they would try to get grants. He stated the Terryville Lions Club put up a rail fence and noted they would be sending a letter of thanks.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

16. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Zagurski noted that the area down by the transfer station needs to be cleaned up and asked if there was anything they could do. Mayor Festa stated that once one thing gets cleaned up something else goes in their. He noted that Attorney Vitrano is going to court on suit for insurance of this property. He noted that short of getting a ruling, to take any legal action could jeopardize the case. He stated that it depends on what happens at hearing. He noted that Attorney Vitrano has pictures. He stated they are meeting privately with legal counsel on this site. He noted they may be able to get something done and said they are working on it. Mayor Festa stated that it is amazing how no one has seen anyone dumping there.

Councilwoman Schenkel stated that she would like to thank Councilwoman Murawski for her concern on the council rules. She thanked Councilman Foote and the Lions Club for the fence at the waterwheel. She then welcomed back Mayor Festa and noted he was looking good.

Councilman Foote stated that he was impressed with Keith Golnick's comments about Main St. He noted he talked about how the town moves slowly to clean up messes. Councilman Foote noted that more people need to speak about cleaning up Main St. He thanked Tony Lorenzetti and Jim Schultz for their help with the fence.

Councilwoman Murawski addressed the council about the property next to the library. She stated friends of the library are using it for a book sale. She stated she went in the attic and noted there was a large dead animal. She asked if public works could sweep and clean the area. Mayor Festa noted that this part of the library is off limits.

Mayor Festa thanked the Lions Club for the fence and the plants. He noted that in the Wilcox House they should only be using downstairs only and stated that the other rooms are cornered off. He stated that the public works crew is scheduled to do mowing and weeding and then he will have them work on that property. He noted that there is a blight house across the street. He stated they have a very limited crew and noted they are doing the best they can. Mayor Festa thanked the council for taking the bull by the horns when he was out. He noted that the referendum on the budget is coming up on proposal for bonding. He stated that if we want to move forward we need money. He urged the council to speak positively about the budget and noted good things will come. He noted that things are moving in a positive manner. He stated that Genovese Manufacturing is a feather in our cap. Once again he thanked the council for all their help.

17. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before said meeting a motion was made by Councilwoman Murawski seconded by Councilman Foote to:

“adjourn at 8:14p.m.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayra I. Sampson
Acting Recording Secretary