

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Plymouth Town Council
Telephone: (860) 585-4001
Fax: (860) 585-4015

Minutes

January 15, 2014

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled January 15, 2014, Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman William Heering, Town Councilwoman Susan Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, Town Councilman Gary Wyszynski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Director of Finance David Bertnagel, and Chief of Police Karen Krasicky.

Fire Exits Notification

Mayor Merchant noted the Fire Exits for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Council Rules and Procedures

No report.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated that she saw a Town Dump Truck with a plow on it sitting on Orchard Street and another Town Truck on Adams Drive and questioned if the Town Trucks were allowed to be taken home during snowstorms noting she was concerned about the liability. Melanie Church stated that on November 25th the Public Works Coordinator left the Town Garage and went to Thomaston picked up a Dump Truck from a landscaping company and went to Wolcott Sand and Gravel and was loaded 9 times with approximately 11 yards each time and it was brought to where the Dance Studio was being built off Preston Road. Melanie Church questioned was he paid, who authorized it and she only knew about one agreement for topsoil and that it could only be sold to Contractors. Melanie Church stated that on December 27th Mark Sekorski threw a Christmas Party at Chute Gates and Paul Pronovost and Jim Schultz went to it during working hours and maybe we don't need them.

**Plymouth Town Council Meeting
January 15, 2014
Page Two of Thirteen Pages**

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Melanie Church said she read in the Plymouth Connection that we were closing down where the mechanics work. Melanie Church stated that the Public Works Coordinator was talking about employees and should not be and that he works for the Mayor. Melanie Church stated that there were 71 manhole covers paved over and questioned when they would be opened up. Melanie Church stated she understood Anthony Lorenzetti, the Public Works Director, was leaving and she saw no advertisement for the job and that we needed an Engineer in the Town to handle problems. Melanie Church stated that she read the Town cut down routes but she saw Paul Pronovost plowing too. Melanie Church stated that a job description should be given to the Public on what the Coordinator does and there should not be favoritism for one person in this Town. Melanie Church stated that right now we have a person without a high school diploma who works for Public Works and that means the person lied on their job application.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Melanie Church stated that she would have brought her concerns up to the Public Works Commission but their meeting had been cancelled twice. Melanie Church stated that she was going to bring up the hour changes at the Town Hall and that it was the Council's job to do it and they were derelict of duty because it was already on the Website.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, stated that the Board of Education was looking into moving out of the offices across the street and that they would be spending money to hire an Architect to draw up a plan for a 4,500 square foot building on school property in a residential neighborhood, noting that it would be a major building project in Town. She further stated that the Town already has two closed schools, which for many years have stood with no action taken, and it's time we looked into it. Cathy Kosak stated that we needed to look at if we wanted to keep them, sell one or both, or renovate and that before anything gets expended from any Town budgets it should be up for discussion because in the end it will be a big tax expenditure and the Mayor and Town Council should be involved.

Appointments/Resignations

To accept the resignation of David V. Merchant from the Plymouth Fire Commission; to appoint Martin Sandshaw to the Plymouth Fire Commission; to appoint Martin Sandshaw from a Regular Member to an Alternate Member position on the Zoning Board of Appeals; to appoint Charles Clark from an Alternate Member position to a Regular Member position on the Zoning Board of Appeals

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the resignation of David V. Merchant from the Plymouth Fire Commission, with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Plymouth Town Council Meeting
January 15, 2014
Page Three of Thirteen Pages**

Appointments/Resignations Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Martin Sandshaw to the Plymouth Fire Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to appoint Martin Sandshaw from a Regular Member position to an Alternate Member position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Charles Clark from an Alternate Member position to a Regular Member position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. This motion was approved unanimously.

To appoint Ted Smith as the Acting Tax Collector

Mayor Merchant stated that this Agenda item was the result of our previous Tax Collector taking a job in the Town of Plainville, just prior to the election.

Mayor Merchant noted that the State of Connecticut had recommended that the Town go according to Charter and that the Republican Town Committee had recommended Ted Smith. Mayor Merchant noted that the Charter states the person should be of the same party and that Ted Smith was not at the time and that was the reason the Agenda listed the appointment as "Acting Tax Collector" at this time. He further stated that the time was currently less than 90 days and that he would be appointed as the Tax Collector when the 90 days had been met. Mayor Merchant stated that a complaint had been filed with the State Election Commission and that he was unsure where it would go; but that the worse thing that could happen would be that the Town holds an election.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Ted Smith as the Acting Tax Collector.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilman Wyszynski, Mayor Merchant stated that the person who filed the action did not like the way the process was handled, noting that when the previous Tax Collector left the ticket it left a vacancy and the Town Clerk contacted the State of CT who recommended the Town follow the Charter and because the previous Tax Collector was of the same party they could select a replacement.

When questioned by Town Councilman Wyszynski, Mayor Merchant stated that he did not know how long the process would take, noting that the Town was dealing with the State.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting
January 15, 2014
Page Four of Thirteen Pages

To appoint Ted Smith as the Acting Tax Collector Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that it was currently a busy time for the Tax Department and we needed someone there.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant stated that he wanted to publically thank Howard Gomme for repairing a wooden picture frame for his office.

Mayor Merchant stated that FEMA had approved the Town's appeal for snow removal reimbursement from the school roofs, as a result of Storm Charlotte last February, in the amount of \$80,000.00, noting that the check would be coming in the near future.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had voted to deem all areas under their Parks and Recreation control to be smoke-free, as recommended by the Torrington Area Health District.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Highway Garage was nearing completion and that the flooring and counters would be going in this week. He further stated that when the weather broke there would be an Open House for every to see, noting that it was a nice addition for the Town.

Mayor Merchant stated that the plow routes had been cut down from eleven to ten, that they worked well and would be a cost savings over the long run.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Handbook was being finalized and that he hoped it would be ready for the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Merchant stated that everyone upstairs in the Town Hall was working very hard to bring professionalism to the Town Hall and that everyone was wearing a Name Badge with the Employee's name and title and that everyone would know who they were speaking to, noting that it was making a difference.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Town Hall no longer closed for lunch, that it was working well, and that everyone was happy about this change. He further stated that there was a new Employee Lunch Break Room and that it was working out very well.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

Mayor's Report Cont'd.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Town was working hard on economic development and that he had four companies interested in moving into Town and would be visiting with two of them next week, noting that when he receives leads they receive immediate attention. He further stated that a third business would be taking up a place on Main Street/Route 6 and that he was excited about the interest the Town was stimulating. Mayor Merchant noted that the Town was working hard to get as much funding and grant money as possible, noting that he had just signed some paperwork, which went to the State of Connecticut. He further stated that he was disappointed that there wasn't enough money in the last Bond Package to complete Bemis Street. Mayor Merchant stated that the Town had asked for some funding from Regional Planning and it looked like it would be approved to take care of the Bemis Street Project from Route 72 to High Street. Mayor Merchant stated that as long as the design work and everything sent up to the State was approved he was passively optimistic the Town would take care of the Bemis Street project.

Mayor Merchant stated that he was working closely with Public Works and that they were working on putting together a complete Facilities Mechanical Inventory of everything the Town had, which would include the Transfer Station. He further stated that once the report was put together he would be making some changes within the Public Works Department and would report updates and recommendations to the Town Council by June 1st.

Discuss and take Action, as may be Necessary, to refund the following Property Taxes: Honda Lease Trust \$327.56; Pierre Pelletier \$54.31; GMACAB \$376.92, \$525.94; Louis W. Santos \$60.27; Nissan Infiniti LT \$753.43; Wayne R. Fridrich \$266.00, GPM Investments LLC \$20.81; Charles Formhals \$500.00, Melissa Rietdyke Wheeler \$192.32; Peter Huizenga \$286.44; Lynn D. Bennett \$29.35.

Mayor Merchant stated that Thomaston Savings Bank had made an error and had credited a Tax Refund (\$266.00) to Wayne R. Fridrich, noting that it wouldn't be included in the refunds this evening. Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to refund the following Property Taxes: Honda Lease Trust \$327.56; Pierre Pelletier \$54.31; GMACAB \$376.92, \$525.94; Louis W. Santos \$60.27; Nissan Infiniti LT \$753.43; Wayne R. Fridrich \$266.00, GPM Investments LLC \$20.81; Charles Formhals \$500.00, Melissa Rietdyke Wheeler \$192.32; Peter Huizenga \$286.44; and Lynn D. Bennett \$29.35. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to change the working hours at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Merchant stated that there were people coming in at 12:00 p.m., when shop was being closed and no one could help them, noting that the people coming in now were so happy and that this was a positive thing.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014

Page Six of Thirteen Pages

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to change the working hours at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Cont'd.

Town Councilman Wyszynski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to change the working hours at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to accept the Police Chaplain Program, as recommended by the Plymouth Police Commission.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering about the need for this program, Chief Krasicky stated that a Police Chaplain would make himself available to Police Officers, on a confidential basis, for counseling, family problems, issues, etc.

Chief Krasicky stated that the Police Chaplain could go out to serious motor vehicle accident, fatalities, serious disasters, fire, flood, a bombing, and hospital visits for Police personnel. Chief Krasicky stated that Reverend William Hawley, Plymouth Congregational Church, had volunteered for this position, noting that he had passed a background check.

Chief Krasicky stated that other Police Departments have had this program in place for years.

Mayor Merchant stated that he thought this program was a good thing for the Town.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to accept the Police Chaplain Program, as recommended by the Plymouth Police Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion and take Action, as may be Necessary, on Jaspar vs. Town of Plymouth Stipulation for Judgment

Mayor Merchant provided a brief background on this Agenda item, noting that it had been part of a foreclosure on the Jaspar property in the Industrial Park. He further stated that the Stipulation would value the property at \$1.425 million dollars, with an assessed value of \$997,000.00 and that the overpayment would be given back less owed taxes (\$9,000.00+ on Sewer Assessment) and that it was possible a small rebate might be refunded.

Mayor Merchant stated that once the Council approved the Stipulation, the Judge would sign it, and the numbers could be readjusted in the Assessor's Office.

Town Councilwoman Murawski read the Stipulation out loud for the Public audience and the record.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014

Page Seven of Thirteen Pages

Discussion and take Action, as may be Necessary, on Jaspar vs. Town of Plymouth Stipulation for Judgment Cont'd.

Town Councilman Heering made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the Stipulation as read into the record. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to disband the Municipal Facilities Committee

Mayor Merchant stated that the Municipal Facilities Committee had accomplished what they had set out to do and had provided reports on both schools (Main Street School and Prospect Street School), noting that the Committee was no longer needed. He further stated that the Capital Improvements Committee had been charged with looking into all of the Town Facilities, including the Board of Education, and would be putting together a plan for everything.

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering to disband the Municipal Facilities Committee.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Mayor Merchant stated that a thank you letter would go out to each member of the Municipal Facilities Committee.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report-David Bertnagel, Director of Finance

David Bertnagel outlined the General Fund Proforma Statement in detail (see attachment), Period Ending 12/31/13 (Estimate) by each line item, noting that everything was in good shape and none of the Departments were over budget.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that Probate Court was a one-time bill for the year. He further stated that Probate Court might be moving from the City of Bristol Town Hall to the Senior Center on Stafford Avenue and that this budget item would have to be looked at more closely, noting the cost might be slightly higher.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski regarding the Public Safety/Animal Control Officer, David Bertnagel stated that the money was moved out in the beginning of the year and that was the payment for the yearly dog expenses. He further stated that the money shown was for the Part Time Animal Control Officer salary.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014

Page Eight of Thirteen Pages

Financial Report-David Bertnagel, Director of Finance Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that the Medical Director Line Item covered the Torrington Area Health District and that it was a one-time expense on a per capita basis. He further stated that it covered three line items that included Pro Health Physicians/Dr. Scappaticci, Torrington Area Health District and Hepatitis B Shots.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that Public Health was for the Social Services Coordinator, Abigail Egan.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that Capital Outlay Line Item meant it was moved out of the General Fund and into the Capital Non-reoccurring.

David Bertnagel reviewed the Town of Plymouth 2013 Bonded Projects by each Line Item in detail.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski where the Burr Road/Harwinton Waterline Project stood, David Bertnagel stated that there was some minor work that needed to be done in the Spring and then it would be completed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that there might be outstanding bills on the Bemis Street/Beach Avenue Studies Project, but he couldn't answer the question right now, noting that there was a match from Bristol, which included Beach Avenue. He further stated that this was with Regional Planning and that the City of Bristol had formulated it. David Bertnagel stated that they were currently in the Plainville area working their way to Plymouth.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that the Asset List was only a Draft document and that there would be a second and third piece to it.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that vehicles and Town Hall equipment, etc., would be included.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Public Works Advisory Commission had cancelled their first meeting due to inclement weather and that the following meeting had been cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that he had nothing to report on Historic Property Commission.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014

Page Nine of Thirteen Pages

Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had discussion concerning additional signage at Lake Winfield for people from the Rescue Foundation walking their dogs and not cleaning up after the dog's deposits.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that Lake Winfield's water level had been lowered and clearing of brush was performed to give better access to the water for people fishing.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had discussed ideas for ice-skating and the liability involved.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had discussed the position of a Summer Program Coordinator and were unsure of how they would post the position.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission had discussion regarding an after pilot program for afternoon hours (3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.) noting there would be an additional fee and that the children did not have to be involved with the daily Summer events to be a part of it.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Parks and Recreation Yoga Class had an increase in numbers, which was good.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated questions had arisen regarding the removal of trees at Veterans Park.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Park and Recreation Commission was concerned about the disbanding of the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee and wanted to know what the plans for the property would be going forward. He further stated that they were concerned about people going onto the property and illegally poaching and fishing. Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission placed this item on their next Agenda for further discussion.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that Skate Park tee shirts were being sold, for anyone interested, at a cost of \$10.00 each.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that the PVAC was averaging about 100 calls per month with November bringing in 86 calls.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that the PVAC had purchased a new ambulance that would need to be inspected and licensed before it could go on the road.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014

Page Ten of Thirteen Pages

Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that the Fire Commission was averaging 600 to 700 calls per month.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that the Commission had lost their Department Secretary, Tom O'Hara, and that the paperwork seemed to be in order.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that they had a temporary generator on wheels and that they were working on a Grant to get an automated one.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that Martin Sandshaw had gone through the Fire Department buildings to help improve their energy conversation.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that the Housing Board of Appeals did not meet.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Economic Development Commission had met last week and as previously stated by Mayor Merchant there were a couple of businesses interested in moving into Town.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that the Economic Development Commission had discussed the Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and that they had hired George Albert as their new CEO.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that the Gosinski Park Housing Authority had their share of problems with an excessive amount of vacancies, units were not being taken care of and that they hoped to bring in a Management Company to run the place. He further stated that the Board was starting to come together and that emergency numbers had been posted and cars had received stickers enabling them to know which cars belonged to whom on the property.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that the Seniors had met this past Tuesday and that they were looking to move and get a place of their own out of the Town Hall. He further stated that a Committee had been set up and that they had looked at the Main Street School, noting there was a lot of government money available to rehab an old school. Town Councilman Pajeski stated that they had a Grant Writer in mind that could help them with this project.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that the Senior Membership numbered 200 and that he had suggested holding a Member Drive at the IGA Supermarket to help increase the numbers to 300, noting that it doesn't cost anything to belong to the Seniors.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014

Page Eleven of Thirteen Pages

Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Heering stated that he had attended a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and that one of the biggest issues raised was the new regulations for Solar installations in Town, including the proposed Solar Farm that would be installed by the new High School, noting that currently, there were no Town Solar Regulations for Solar projects. He further stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission had gotten together with a couple of Solar Energy firms and put together some Solar Regulations that were now in the hands of the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA).

Town Councilman Heering stated that he had attended a Inland-Wetlands Commission meeting, noting that they had discussed some Main Street reconstruction and that there would not be a Public Hearing because there was no impact from their Commission's standpoint.

Town Councilman Heering stated that the Inland-Wetlands Commission had discussed a proposed addition at 302 Main Street, Terryville Chevrolet, and that there had been some issues with a retention pond, but that it went through without a problem.

Town Councilman Heering stated that the Inland-Wetlands Commission had some minor enforcement issues, one being the beaver dam up at Marino Pond.

Town Councilman Heering stated that some property owners, along the Pequabuck River on Main Street, had been cutting trees.

Town Councilman Heering stated that there had been excessive reverberations with Mr. Worhunsky's dam and that he was being very cooperative to resolve the problem.

Town Councilman Heering stated that Jerry Milne would be leading a Super Bole Walk on February 2nd from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. around the Plymouth Green. He further noted that Jerry Milne would be discussing landmark trees, colonial graves in the burying ground, the stain glass window at the First Baptist^{1st} Baptist church and that soup would be available at the Plymouth Congregational Church after the tour, noting that he would be in attendance.

Town Councilman Heering stated that he attended a Police Commission meeting yesterday and that they had a guest speaker named Roger Blaine from TaxServ Capital Services who discussed booting cars for delinquent taxes and parking tickets. He further stated that through the program cars would be booted with little to no cost to the Town and that this company would tack on a fee for their services to the tax assessment. Town Councilman Heering stated that at some point the issue would come before the Town Council.

Town Councilman Heering stated that he attended a Board of Education Special Meeting where they had voted on the Superintendent's contract again and passed it unanimously.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Heering stated that the Board of Education members had changed the items on their Special Agenda and that he was unsure of the ramifications, noting they might have to vote again because they did not have a "Take Action" item on the Agenda.

Town Councilman Heering stated that the Board of Education members had voted to get rid of French as an alternate language and that it would be phased out in four years and that they would replace it with Japanese. He further stated that the logic behind that was that Japan had the largest economy.

Town Councilman Heering stated that the Board of Education members had set up some early retirement incentives, which was approved.

Town Councilman Heering stated that the Solar Farm installation had also been discussed.

Town Councilman Heering stated that the Board of Education had appointed Angela Suffridge as the new Principal for the Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.

Council Comments

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

Addressing Melanie Church's comments, Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he was at the Inland-Wetlands Commission meeting where it was reported there were 72 manholes covered over and that Anthony Lorenzetti had spoken to the W.P.C.A. and had stated that there were five or six, which was no where near the 7s number.

Addressing Melanie Church's comments, Town Councilman Zagurski noted that he did not recall the Council ever stipulating that it had to be a Contractor that bought from Wolcott Sand and Gravel, noting that whoever picks up from the company would have to have a big truck.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that the Mayor held a Department Head meeting two weeks ago and Department Heads were given guidelines to do their budgets this year. He further stated that they were instructed to put their budgets in and they would be evaluated.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that she had nothing to report at this time.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

Town Councilman Heering stated that he had nothing to report at this time.

Plymouth Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014
Page Thirteen of Thirteen Pages

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary