

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

March 4, 2014

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled March 4, 2014, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:02 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, Parks and Recreation Director Michael Ganem, Consultant Vincent Klimas, Associate Planner Abby St. Peters Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency and Director of Technology Richard Trudeau.

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.

Acceptance of Minutes (February 4, 2014, February 18, 2014, February 19, 2014)

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Council Wyszynski, to accept the February 4, 2014, Regular Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Heering/yes; Town Councilwoman Murawski/abstained; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Council Wyszynski, to accept the February 18, 2014, Special Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Heering/yes; Town Councilwoman Murawski/abstained; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Two of Eleven Pages**

Acceptance of Minutes Cont'd.

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Council Zagurski, to accept the February 19, 2014, Special Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Heering/yes; Town Councilwoman Murawski/abstained; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant stated that the Town received a letter from David LeVasseur, State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM), designating the Town of Plymouth to be reassigned to the Naugatuck Valley Planning Region. He further stated that the Town of Plymouth would stay with the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA) until January 1, 2015.

Mayor Merchant stated that Community Garden had been turned over to Michael Ganem, Director of Parks and Recreation, noting that Town Councilwoman Murawski was working with this group on the garden and that it should become a reality this summer.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Town had received four (4) new hybrid cars from a Grant previously applied for. Mayor Merchant stated that the Town Seal would be put on the doors and that they would produce a cost savings in gasoline.

Mayor Merchant stated that the budget was almost completed and would be brought to the Board of Finance this week, noting that it would have a reduction in the mil rate.

Mayor Merchant stated that Tax Office has an outstanding team and was producing some big results, which would be noticed this year and in next year's budget.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Town was concerned about the recent fire at the Eagles Nest restaurant and noted that it would take a few months to recover. He also noted that the owners had lost their tenants because of the damage.

Mayor Merchant stated that the owners were hard workers and that one of their good friends was organizing a breakfast fundraiser at the Lyceum. Mayor Merchant asked everyone to watch for it, noting that they would appreciate the Community help.

Mayor Merchant stated that Anthony Lorenzetti, Public Works Director, would be retiring next week.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Three of Eleven Pages**

Mayor's Report Cont'd.

Mayor Merchant noted the following calendar events for the record: Earth Hour, Booktique, Plymouth Maple Festival, Boy Scout Ziti Supper, Girls/Boys Softball Registration, noting all the notices were on the back table in the Community Room.

Mayor Merchant welcomed the Public to make positive comments, noting that the Town was a great Community and there were a lot of good people and happenings within it.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Diane Reed, 5 Chidsey Terrace, stated that she had made an FOI request to the Comptroller's Office and described her waiting time and complaint at length.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated that she was still upset about the manhole covers in Town and described the issue at length. Melanie Church stated that the Superintendent of Public Works was working overtime and discussed the budget involved with it. Melanie Church stated that the Highway Garage plumbing wasn't working and the employees had to use the Maintenance Garage bathroom. Melanie Church reported someone's car was ransacked/rummaged through and briefly described the problem noting the employee wasn't allowed to see the camera pictures video. Melanie Church questioned if Council voted and accepted the land that the Solar Panel Project would be built on. Melanie Church stated that she tried to get a letter from the Comptroller and complained about the length of the wait to get an answer. Melanie Church stated that the Charter wasn't being followed and all jobs needed to be advertised. Melanie Church stated that the Town needed a Public Works Director with an Engineering degree.

Kathy Milish, 81A Bemis Street, Terryville, stated that she thought the \$2.5 million Bemis Street Reconstruction Project could be done for less money, noting that the Town didn't need sidewalks that go to nowhere and briefly discussed her reasoning and the issue.

Rob Wilcox, 151 South Main Street, Terryville, thanked the Town for updating the website and noted that they did a good job. Rob Wilcox stated that he would like to see all Agendas posted on the website ahead of time and the information on the Agenda, whenever possible, also on the website.

Diane Reed questioned the information contents of the letter received from David Bertnagel.

Ed Milish, 81 A Bemis Street, Terryville, stated that the Town couldn't afford sidewalks and extensive work on Bemis Street and briefly discussed his reasoning and the issue. Ed Milish distributed copies of his information to the Council members.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Four of Eleven Pages**

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Jim Deutsch, 34 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated that the Town Website was very good, he agreed more information would be also be good and that he uses the site all the time. Jim Deutsch stated that the Public Works Department had done a really good plowing job all winter long where he lives.

Gerry Bourbonniere, 6 Fairmont Avenue, Terryville, stated that the Public Works Department had done a phenomenal job this winter. Gerry Bourbonniere stated that the Solar Panel company had purchased the property proposed for the Solar Panel Project. He further stated that the property would be held for 20 years and at the end of that time the Town would have the option for the company to stay and maintain the project for five more years. Gerry Bourbonniere stated that the agreement went on to say that at the end of 20 years the company would donate the land to the Town.

Michael Kennedy, 11 Overlook Terrace Road, Terryville, stated that he was disappointed in some Council members because the Council was willing to spend taxpayer dollars and should be looking for ways to give some of the taxpayers money back, noting the economy was in trouble and briefly discussed the issue and his struggles to meet his weekly/monthly obligations with tax increases. Michael Kennedy stated that the 2011 Town Employee Payroll was unsustainable to the private sector and briefly discussed his reasoning and the issue.

Appointments/Resignations

To accept the resignation of Regular Member Cheryl Giancesini from the Plymouth Housing Board; to appoint Harold Sturgeon as a Regular Member to the Plymouth Housing Board; to appoint Bob White to the Code Enforcement Committee; to appoint Patrick Perugino II as an Alternate Member to the Economic Development Commission

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to accept the resignation of Regular Member Cheryl Giancesini from the Plymouth Housing Board. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to appoint Harold Sturgeon as a Regular Member to the Plymouth Housing Board. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Merchant stated that a Board and Commission Application was not available to the Council this evening for Bob White's appointment to the Code Enforcement Committee, however he noted he'd like to move forward with the appointment and that the Application would be pending tomorrow.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Five of Eleven Pages**

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to table the appointment of Bob White as a Regular Member to the Code Enforcement Committee. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski to appoint Patrick Perugino II as an Alternate Member to the Economic Development Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund the following Property Taxes: Jaspas Associates Limited Partnership \$1,635.52; Joseph A. Kucia III \$209.94; Toyota Motor Credit Corporation \$164.67; Richard Kirkwood, \$1,666.00

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to refund the following Property Taxes: Jaspas Associates Limited Partnership \$1,635.52; Joseph A. Kucia III \$209.94; Toyota Motor Credit Corporation \$164.67; Richard Kirkwood, \$1,666.00. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action on the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPI) Grant Application/Resolution (Resolution Projects: Aerial Imaging and GIS Upgrades, Municipal Transportation Service Study, Municipal Cloud Services, Dial A Ride Software/Hardware Proposal)

Abby St. Peters, Associate Planner, Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA) briefly outlined the Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Resolution Projects for the Council Members and Public audience that were being brought to the Plymouth Town Council for consideration and approval.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve and endorse the Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Application/Resolution and read the Resolution out loud for the Public Audience.

Discussion

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated that whenever she heard the word “Regional” her ears perk up and briefly elaborated. She further stated that she did not trust government, even though she was a part of it, and briefly discussed her reasoning. Pattie Dehuff urged the Town Council to table the motion and briefly gave her reasons.

Vote: Town Councilman Heering/no; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Pajeski/no; Town Councilman Wyszynski/no; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion failed.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Six of Eleven Pages**

To discuss and take action on the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPI) Grant Application/Resolution Projects Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Abby St. Peters stated that there was a deadline and that the Resolutions were due to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management on March 31, 2014.

Abby St. Peters stated that the projects being offered would make the Town Employees lives easier at their jobs. Abby St. Peters stated that the funds were from the State of Connecticut and that if the Town did not take the funding it would go to a different Region within the State.

Discuss and take action on the North Street Reservoir property for the purpose of turning this area over to the Parks and Recreation Department for Passive Recreation

Michael Ganem, Plymouth Parks and Recreation Director, distributed copies of a narrative (noting it was available to anyone who wanted to see it in his office) which included the Town Council's charge to the North Street Reservoir Ad Hoc Committee and Liaisons, the member's names, the Rules and Procedures for the property and briefly reviewed the information. Michael Ganem thanked the Committee members for their time, dedicated commitment and their selfless giving to the Community. Michael Ganem stated he was requesting the Town Council legislate that the Parks and Recreation Commission be the stewards of the Conservation Recreation Easement, as filed in the Town of Plymouth's records and as presented in the narrative; a brief discussion followed.

Marie MacDermid, 364 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, read a letter, which she had written to the Mayor and the Parks and Recreation Director, noting that she wanted to stay involved in the North Street Reservoir property because her properties abut the Reservoir. She further stated that should an opening become available on the Parks and Recreation Board she would like to become a member.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to authorize the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Commission to manage the North Street Reservoir Conservation area within the covenants that had been agreed upon by the Town of Plymouth. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to approve and sign the NCAA Grant for a Senior Fitness Class

Michael Ganem stated that he, along with Abigail Egan, Plymouth Human Services Director, had been working together on some ideas and that this grant was one of those initiatives and briefly elaborated on the issue.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Seven of Eleven Pages**

Discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to approve and sign the NCAAA Grant for a Senior Fitness Class Cont'd.

David Bertnagel stated that the Council had received information on the grant, that the amount was up to \$5,000.00 and briefly discussed the grant in detail, noting it would provide services to approximately 20 to 30 Town Seniors.

Michael Ganem stated that he would be researching the grant further, but they needed to do a little more research and were present this evening seeking Council's approval.

When questioned by Town Councilman Wyszynski, Michael Ganem stated that the deadline for the grant was March 14th.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, David Bertnagel reviewed the length of the grant and the percentages involved (in-kind contributions) in detail.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that the Fitness Class was free, with no charge to the Seniors; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Wyszynski, David Bertnagel stated that the Council was only looking at one program, as opposed to three years, and briefly discussed the current Comcast service.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to authorize the Mayor to approve and sign the NCAAA Grant for a Senior Fitness Class. Vote: Town Councilman Heering/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/no; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Discuss and take action on the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Nutmeg Network Fiber Optic Connection Grant for the Plymouth Town Hall (12 Departments) in the amount of \$6,948.00)

Vincent Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated that this grant was a continuation of a previously approved grant for the Town of Plymouth and explained the grant in detail and at length. He further stated that he had written thousands of grants and that Richard Trudeau had handled the technology portion of the work, noting that there were three phases of the grant.

Richard Trudeau explained the fiber optic material portion of the grant in detail and at length, as well as the system currently in place.

When questioned by Town Councilman Wyszynski, Richard Trudeau explained the Nutmeg Network in detail, as well as the benefits; a lengthy discussion followed.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Eight of Eleven Pages**

Discuss and take action on the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Nutmeg Network Fiber Optic Connection Grant for the Plymouth Town Hall (12 Departments) in the amount of \$6,948.00) Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Richard Trudeau stated that the grant would cover the installation of the equipment and that there would be quarterly fees for the actual Internet access; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Vin Klimas stated that there were three phases to the grant and that this was the final phase, noting that it had to be completed by the end of the month and briefly elaborated on the phases.

Mayor Merchant stated that Vin Klimas and Rich Trudeau had spent a lot of time on this project, thanked both men for their work, and noted that they had done an excellent job and he appreciated all of their work.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the Resolution endorsing the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal for additional Fiber Optic Connections in the Town Hall Offices referenced in the Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-12, 124S as amended by Sections 251 and 253 of Public Act 13-247. This motion was approved unanimously.

To enter into Executive Session for discussions concerning the Town Hall Clerical Contract and other Contractual issues

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to move into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m., for discussions concerning the Town Hall Clerical Contract and other Contractual issues. This motion was approved unanimously.

Present for the Executive Session were David Bertnagel, Town Councilman Heering, Mayor Merchant, Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Councilman Pajeski, Town Councilman Wyszynski, and Town Councilman Zagurski.

To discuss and take action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session

Mayor Merchant called the Plymouth Town Council meeting back into Regular Session at 9:34 p.m.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering to approve the Town Hall Clerical Contract. This motion was approved unanimously.

Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Nine of Eleven Pages

Financial Report (David Bertnagel)

David Bertnagel stated that there was an overage in the Sand and Salt Line Item (Public Works Budget) and that budgetary transfers would cover this item.

David Bertnagel stated that tax collections were very strong.

David Bertnagel stated that the Budget would be presented on Thursday evening.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that the new pumps at the Town Garage accounted for every department using the pumps and that the collected information would actually show what person was using the pumps because everyone had their own code.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the Historic Property Commission did not meet.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that he was unable to attend the Parks and Recreation due to the Special Town Council meeting.

Town Councilman Wyszynski provided his Public Works Report.

Town Councilwoman Murawski provided her Planning and Zoning Commission Report.

Town Councilwoman Murawski provided her Water Pollution Control Authority Report.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated he was unable to attend the Library Board meeting because of the Town Council's Special Meeting.

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

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

Town Councilman Zagurski provided his Economic Development Commission report.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he was upset that the Council had not been notified about the Public Hearing concerning sidewalks for the Bemis Street Reconstruction Project, noting that he would like to see a presentation to see what the Council could do with it.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that the Plymouth Housing Authority (Gosinski Park) had not met since his last report.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Ten of Eleven Pages**

Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that the Seniors had not met since his last report.

Town Councilman Heering provided his Inland-Wetland Commission Report.

Council Comments

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he had received a number of complaints regarding sidewalks on Bemis Street and briefly elaborated on the issue. He further stated that he would like to see a presentation on the project concerning the sidewalks.

Town Councilman Zagurski discussed the monitoring of the cameras at the Highway Garage and briefly discussed his concerns.

Mayor Merchant stated that he would look into the issue.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that the energy upgrades to the Town facilities were completed, not the Town Garage.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he could not believe the Maintenance Garage was locked and asked that this be looked into.

Referencing a previous Public comment this evening that she wasn't responsible in bringing enough information to the Council as the WPCA Liaison, Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that one of things mentioned was an issue with a resident, Mr. Bandish. She further stated that Mr. Bandish had passed away some time ago and that he had called her right away about the damage to his car, noting that it had been a pothole that damaged his car, not a manhole cover. Referencing Mr. Bandish's passing eight years ago, Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that she tries to make her comments timelier than the issued mention.

Town Councilman Heering stated that he heard complaints about sidewalks on Bemis Street, as well.

Town Councilman Heering stated that he was also unaware about the Public Hearing concerning the sidewalks on Bemis Street and it sounded like they were being shoved down the resident's throats.

Mayor Merchant stated that he was unaware of the Public Hearing, as well, and that he would look into the issue.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
March 4, 2014
Page Eleven of Eleven Pages**

Council Comments Cont'd.

Town Councilman Heering stated that there would be an open forum called "Meet your Representatives Night" on May 2nd, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Town Councilman Heering stated that Boards and Commissions would have representative's present who would provide updates and answer questions.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Wyszynski, to adjourn at 9:46 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary