

**Town of Plymouth**  
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**Plymouth Town Council**  
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**Minutes**

**February 18, 2014**

**Call to Order:** Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled February 18, 2014, Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting to order at 6:00 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 Executive Director Rick Dunne/Valley Council of Governments (VCOG), Senior Planner Joe Perrelli/Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley Executive Director Samuel Gold/Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley, Town Attorney William Hamzy, and Executive Director Carl Stephanie/Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency.

#### **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.

#### **Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency and Valley Council of Governments MPO Restructuring Presentation and Discussion**

Mayor Merchant stated that the purpose of this evening's meeting was to acquaint everyone with the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA) and what they do, as well as what would be happening to their organization. Mayor Merchant stated that the Town of Plymouth was a current member of the CCRPA, which was made up of seven towns, and that the State Legislators were doing away with a number of these types of agencies. Mayor Merchant stated that the Town of Plymouth had been assigned to the Hartford Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), however the Town would be petitioning to go to the new Naugatuck Valley COG. Mayor Merchant stated that David LeVasseur, Acting Under Secretary, Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Hartford, would be present tomorrow evening and that Town Council would be taking a vote to allow the Town to make the move to the Naugatuck Valley Region.

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**Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency and Valley Council of Governments MPO  
Restructuring Presentation and Discussion Cont'd.**

Mayor Merchant stated that Samuel Gold, Executive Director, Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley, would be present tomorrow night and would give the basic presentation to David LeVasseur and explain that the Town of Plymouth has a lot more in common with Naugatuck than with Hartford.

Carl Stephanie cited examples of grants that CCRPA had found for the Town of Plymouth by CCRPA, and noted that their job was to look out for all the towns in the region and that Sam Gold would be doing the same thing when the Town of Plymouth moved to the Naugatuck Valley Region. He further stated that the only thing moving right now was the Regional Planning Agency (RPO) and that function would move to wherever Plymouth decides to go and briefly explained the function of the RPO.

Mayor Merchant noted that this change would take place at the end of the year.

Rick Dunne named the towns in his group and briefly explained the process of bringing the organizations together. Rick Dunne briefly explained the functions of his agencies in detail, noting that COG's tend to provide a different range of services from Planning Agencies and work directly with Chief Elected Officials, basically. He further noted that his agency had done the Brownsfield work on Plymouth's Waterwheel Park.

Joe Perrelli explained what a COG was and the services that his group provides, noting that he works on Transportation Planning.

Joe Perrelli distributed the attached information as an introduction to the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and outlined the information at length.

Bill Hamzy stated that the Regional Planning Agencies designated by the State to go from 14 to 9 RPO's and that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) had designated Plymouth to be in the Capital Region of Governments, noting that if the town does nothing we will stay there. He further stated that the issue today and tomorrow night would be that the Town has the right to appeal that designation and that he felt the Town of Plymouth would not be well served by remaining the Capital Region. He further stated that the Town will make the argument tomorrow night to OPM and that was the issue in its most basic form.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski about the Town of Plymouth going with Northwest Hills, Mayor Merchant stated that the big money would be at the MPO and Northwest Hills did not have one and the MPO in Naugatuck would serve us much better; a lengthy discussion followed.

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**Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency and Valley Council of Governments MPO  
Restructuring Presentation and Discussion Cont'd.**

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, GIS Mapping, Joe Perrelli stated that this was a service provided to each town and that they had a great GIS Department. He further stated that they provided training and also hold seminars at no charge; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Carl Stephanie briefly explained the difference between the RPO and new COG and how they function.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Carl Stephanie stated that the COGS/RPO's make recommendations to each town's Planning and Zoning department/boards.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Carl Stephanie stated that the Grants from the COGS and RPO come from private, Federal, State funding and that there were many different Grants from many different directions.

Copies of Town of Plymouth, Connections with the Naugatuck Valley Planning Region were distributed; noting that they would be utilized at tomorrow night's Special Town Council Meeting.

It was noted that David LeVasseur would provide the wording for the Resolution; a brief discussion followed.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary

Attachment on file