

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

July 7, 2015

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled July 7, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman William Heering, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, Town Councilman Gary Wyszynski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Director of Parks and Recreation Michael Ganem, and Interim Director of Public Works Charles Wiegert.

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.

Invocation

Mayor Merchant stated, “May God Bless the Town of Plymouth and May God Bless the United States of America” for the record.

Council Rules and Procedures

Town Councilman Wyszynski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to add “to discuss and take action, if necessary, on the hours and closing of the Transfer Station on Mondays” to the Plymouth Town Council Agenda. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Wyszynski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to add “to add the following Tax Refunds: Lereta \$2,222.56, \$2,555.90; Timothy or Lori Dingwell \$718.60” to the July 7, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Agenda. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Acceptance of Plymouth Town Council Regular Minutes-June 2, 2015 and Plymouth Town Council Special Minutes June 9, 2015

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to accept the Plymouth Town Council Regular Minutes of June 2, 2015, as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to accept the Plymouth Town Council Special Minutes of June 9, 2015, as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant gave his Mayor's report

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Crystal Doyle, Gosinski Park, Terryville, stated the Council had said they would investigate the Plymouth Housing Board members, but had yet to do so. Mayor Merchant stated the Council was looking into it. Crystal Doyle stated that DeMarco Company was at the Park and claiming they were permanent, but that it was supposed to be an open Town bid. Mayor Merchant stated she should speak to the Housing Board regarding this issue, but noted it was only a temporary company at this point in time.

RaeAnn Walcott, Town of Plymouth Assessor, stated when she shared her time between Thomaston and the Town of Plymouth she had saved the Town \$160,000 and she keeps hearing she used to be part time at every meeting and briefly explained her statement regarding her hours. Rae Ann Walcott stated she would like the Town Council to make a motion to make a one-time appropriation to put her clerk back in her office and then she would go to the Board of Finance for the appropriation

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated she wanted to know where the \$972,000 was and noted she hasn't been able to get an answer on it and that \$100,000 of that money was used for Structus scrap property and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church gave a brief overview of the Board of Finance expending money before the budget was finalized and briefly explained her reasoning.

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Terryville, stated he had congratulated the Council on the budget and noted it had been convoluted and briefly explained his reasoning. John Murphy questioned why payment performance bonds weren't accepted for contracts and briefly explained his question.

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Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Robert Ives, 282 Main Street, Terryville, stated there were people affected by the changes made and credited the Town Council members who dealt with the budget. Robert Ives stated that less than 1,500 people turned out for both Referendums, noting he wanted everyone to make an effort to get out and vote for everything the Town did and briefly explained his reasoning.

Brian Dunn, 19 Carriage Drive, Terryville, stated the budget process was interesting and thanked Town Councilman Heering and Town Councilman Zagurski for their work and briefly explained his reasoning. Brian Dunn stated that people did not want the hours of the Assessor's office cut and briefly explained his reasoning.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she had a business on Main Street and listens to people all day, but because they didn't agree with Brian Dunn doesn't make them wrong and briefly explained her reasoning.

Helen Nejfelt, Co-Chairman Plymouth Housing Authority, Town of Plymouth, stated the current Property Management Company was temporary and they would follow proper procedures when they go out to bid.

When questioned by Brian Dunn, Mayor Merchant stated he would meet with him.

Appointments/Resignations: To reappoint Anthony Orsini to the Torrington Area Health District Board of Health; to reappoint Dr. Anthony Scappaticci to the Torrington Area Health District Board of Health; to accept the resignation of Robert Dalfino, Sr. from the Housing Board of Appeals; to reappoint Elzina (Dickie) Zalaski to the Human Services Commission with an ending term of 10/01/17; to reappoint Helena Schwalm to the Human Services Commission with an ending term of 10/01/17

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to reappoint Anthony Orsini to the Torrington Area Health District Board of Health. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to reappoint Dr. Anthony Scappaticci to the Torrington Area Health District Board of Health. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the resignation of Robert Dalfino, Sr. from the Housing Board of Appeals, with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Appointments/Resignations Cont'd.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to reappoint Elzina (Dickie) Zalaski to the Human Services Commission with an ending term of 10/01/17. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to reappoint Helena Schwalm to the Human Services Commission with an ending term of 10/01/17. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action to refund the following Property Taxes: Catherine Witkowski \$13.28; John Carlson \$174.07; Corelogic \$2,587.84; Ann Lazaro-Mari Claims Paralegal \$30.00; Vault Trust \$356.80, \$163.06, \$117.62, \$308.94; Lereta \$2,222.56, \$2,555.90; Timothy or Lori Dingwell \$718.60

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to refund the following Property Taxes: Catherine Witkowski \$13.28; John Carlson \$174.07; Corelogic \$2,587.84; Ann Lazaro-Mari Claims Paralegal \$30.00; Vault Trust \$356.80, \$163.06, \$117.62, \$308.94; Lereta \$2,222.56, \$2,555.90; and Timothy or Lori Dingwell \$718.60. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action, if necessary, on the hours and closing of the Transfer Station on Mondays

Mayor Merchant gave a brief overview of the agenda item; a lengthy discussion followed.

Town Councilman Zagurski questioned the provisions of the work hours of the contract; Mayor Merchant briefly explained the process. Town Councilman Zagurski stated he was not in favor of changing the hours of the Transfer Station, noting it was taking away service from the Public. Mayor Merchant briefly explained the way the Transfer Station could be left open on Mondays.

Town Councilman Heering questioned if everyone was qualified to run the Transfer Station and Mayor Merchant briefly explained the operations and hours that would be necessary for everyone to take a turn at the hour equalization that would be required.

Charles Wiegert briefly explained the Transfer Station position and explained the work/union labor grade details involved with the issue.

When questioned by Town Councilman Wyszynski, Charles Wiegert briefly detailed the number of certified employees qualified for the position, the process and the main reason for reducing the hours of the Transfer Station.

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To discuss and take action, if necessary, on the hours and closing of the Transfer Station on Mondays Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Charles Wiegert briefly explained the qualifications required to work at the Brush Facility.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, questioned the positions of the different Labor Grades.

When questioned by Pattie DeHuff, Charles Wiegert explained which positions were filled and noted the number of positions.

Melanie Church briefly discussed the cut hours of the Transfer Station, the Brush Facility and noted the hours weren't really adjusted, noting it didn't make sense to her. Melanie Church stated until the contract was signed there was no contract and briefly explained her reasoning and stated the Transfer Station shouldn't be closed.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, stated she felt most people were upset about the Transfer Station being closed because there wasn't advance notice and briefly explained her reasoning. Cathy Kosak briefly discussed winter storms and overtime, noting a policy needed to be worked out with the union.

Bob Young, 51 Gosinski Park, questioned what would happen with Monday holidays and the overtime issue.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Charles Wiegert stated it was handled with Town Hall closing and was equalized at the end of the year and briefly cited different examples whereby this situation occurred during the year.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Charles Wiegert explained the new hours for the Transfer Station.

Mayor Merchant stated it was not a problem to open the Transfer Station on Monday, noting the overtime would just have to be spread out, noting it could be addressed in the spring; a brief discussion followed.

John Murphy stated the Transfer Station was a public service that needed to be opened and was surprised at the amount of discussion, noting the community should be involved with the opening/closing of it and briefly explained his reasoning.

Dan Gentile stated the contract could be changed if negotiations were still open and briefly explained his statement.

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To discuss and take action, if necessary, on the hours and closing of the Transfer Station on Mondays Cont'd.

Robert Ives questioned if it was about equalization of overtime hour at the Transfer Station it could be shut down every other Saturday as other towns did.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski if Snow Hours also needed to be equalized, Charles Wiegert stated that all overtimes hours, including Snow Hours in the Snow Budget, needed to be equalized.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to keep the Transfer Station open Monday through Saturday.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Mayor Merchant stated that the cost to keep the Transfer Station open on Mondays was approximately \$20,000.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Mayor Merchant stated the contract had already gone to arbitration and when it came back it would be a done deal.

Pam Pelletier, Public Works, stated she kept track of the charged time and briefly explained how overtime was equalized.

Cathy Kosak stated the issue was dollars and that there were dollars unused in the budget for positions that were not filled at this time.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

To Discuss and take action, if necessary, on the Town Hall Generator

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Charles Wiegert stated the Town was renting the power cables.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Charles Wiegert noted that he was not looking for an appropriation, and briefly explained his statement. He further stated he was not asking for any money, he was only informing the Council of the status of the Town Hall generator.

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To Discuss and take action, if necessary, on the Town Hall Generator Cont'd.

Mayor Merchant stated the Director of Finance would have an open purchase order for approximately \$50,000 and that it would go out as an RFP, noting that it should be less than that amount. He further stated that it would be encumbered from last years budget, it would be \$700.00 per month and that it had to be located outside of the building. Mayor Merchant stated that it would be an end of the year appropriation. He further stated the lease would come out of Emergency Management because they took over all of the Generator leases; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated he had a problem with Charles Wiegert taking \$50,000 out of his budget without asking the Council. Charles Wiegert stated he wasn't asking for money he was just informing the Council.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Charles Wiegert stated there wasn't a timeframe; it was just as soon as possible.

Melanie Church stated after the RFP was received the Town had to come back with a one-time appropriation and briefly explained her statement.

To discuss and take action, if necessary, regarding Public Works items to be auctioned

Mayor Merchant stated this item had been discussed at Council at past meetings, noting the Council had a list of the items from Charles Wiegert and the Public Works Advisory Commission, which would be auctioned.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Charles Wiegert briefly explained how the items would be advertised (newspapers, website and contractor journals), including the sealed bid acceptance. He further stated that this year there would be a reserve price that had to be met on all of the items and if the reserve prices were not met the Public Works Department would keep the items.

Charles Wiegert stated that he wanted to remove Cole Construction Machinery Co. from the listing because he couldn't find out what it was.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to allow the Public Works Department to auction off the surplus equipment as shown on the listing presented except for the last item (Cole Construction Machinery Company). This motion was approved unanimously.

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To discuss and take action to transfer property at 705 Main Street to Helen Nejfelt for a sum of \$1,000

Michael Ganem, Real Estate Committee Member, stated this property had gone through several phases, including the rigid Real Estate Committee Guidelines, and noted that an RFP had gone out for the property. He further stated that the adjacent property owner wasn't interested in it and that it would be good for the Economic Development of the Town.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended in the Sales Agreement that Helen Nejfelt would work with the Historic Property Commission to maintain the property as being historic and questioned if that would be included in the Sales Agreement.

Michael Ganem stated it would be included as well as the condition that 703 and 705 Main Street would be combined in the Sales Agreement.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to transfer the property at 705 Main Street to Helen Nejfelt for a sum of \$1,000.00. Vote: Town Councilman Heering/yes; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/abstained; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Real Estate Committee Report (Executive Session if necessary)

No report.

Take action on Executive Session if necessary

No report.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Wyszynski reported on the Public Works Department, noting the Equipment Auction had been one of the main issues. He further stated that ongoing bridge repairs continue, including delays on the North Riverside Avenue Bridge, but it should be straightened out by now. Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that Brush Dump had been opened on the weekends.

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

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Library Board of Directors had discussed the Phyllis Corsetti monies, which the Town was entitled to, and noted the Board was still very interested in receiving those funds.

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Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated the Human Services Commission had been busy and were looking for additional monies. He further stated they wanted the public to make an appointment prior to coming to Town Hall, so they could receive the time needed. Town Councilman Pajeski stated the Human Services Commission was waiting to hear from the Town Attorney regarding the 501c3 for grants. Town Councilman Pajeski stated DeMarco was the temporary Management Company at Gosinski Park and noted they would get things straightened out and then they will be leaving, noting they do a good job; and briefly discussed the necessary work at the Park. He further stated with the previous company all it took was a phone call and the Maintenance person would fix it right away. Town Councilman Pajeski stated that he had been approached by a person who would be teaching the residents at Gosinski Park how to form a board to discuss their rights, noting it was their park and home and briefly discussed the item.

Town Councilman Heering stated that the Inland/Wetlands Commission had received one application for a subdivision, which had passed. Town Councilman Heering noted the next meeting of the Inland/Wetlands Commission would be held on July 15th. Town Councilman Heering stated he had attended the Pequabuck River Flooding Study and Mitigation Plan presentation, noting it updated the 100-year Flood Plain with new buildings and he had it for anyone to look at. Town Councilman Heering stated the Commission had also discussed the demolition of 150 Main Street, which was basically the retaining wall for the river, noting it was not a good situation and that it would cost approximately \$250,000. He further stated the Commission had also discussed the hydraulics behind the Plymouth Village Apartments. Town Councilman Heering stated that the Police Commission meeting had been cancelled and their next meeting would be held on July 14th. Town Councilman Heering stated the Board of Education had sent a letter to the Town Treasurer requesting a reimbursement in the amount of \$191,935 in unanticipated Special Education costs. Town Councilman Heering stated the Board of Education had named Heidi O'Donnell, Science Teacher at Eli Terry Jr. Middle School as the Teacher of the Year. Town Councilman Heering stated Marty Sandshaw had given an Energy Efficiency presentation at the Board of Education meeting, and provided the following savings numbers: incurred savings to date was \$ 1.2 million, 10 year projection was 2.1 million and return on investment this year at 1,562 percent, noting that Marty Sandshaw was doing amazing work keeping energy costs down in the school system. Town Councilman Heering stated Superintendent Dr. Martin Semmel had his three-year contract approved, and Business Manager Philip Penn also had his three-year contract approved. Town Councilman Heering stated that Mike Santogatta had attended the last Board of Education meeting, noting he had stayed on several months past his April 17th resignation date. Town Councilman Heering stated the Board of Education had a lengthy meeting regarding their budget and he wanted to give them a lot of credit for discussing it openly.

Mayor Merchant stated the Board of Education had rescinded the unanticipated Special Education cost so the Town wouldn't have to pay it.

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Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

John Pajeski the Council had voted in favor of investigating where the money at Gosinski Park had been spent.

Mayor Merchant stated he was working with the Town Attorney on this issue.

When questioned by John Murphy, Mayor Merchant stated that drainage had been installed on Old Waterbury Road in preparation for paving, which should be done this summer.

Council Comments

Town Councilman Heering stated he had no comments at this time.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated he had no comments at this time.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that he would like to start looking at the Plymouth Fire House for a Bonding Referendum and requested it be placed on the next Plymouth Town Council agenda.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she had no comments at this time.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated he had no comments at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.