

Town of Plymouth
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Terryville, CT 06786
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

September 1, 2015

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled September 1, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Public Hearing meeting to order at 6:35 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, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski.

Also present were Police Chief Karen Krasicky, Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini, and Interim Public Works Director Charles Wiegert.

Fire Exit 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.

Reading of Legal Notice

Mayor Merchant read the Legal Notice into the record as follows:

Legal Notice (Bristol Press, August 25, 2015)

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters and qualified taxpayers of the Town of Plymouth that the Plymouth Town Council will hold a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall, 80 Main Street, Terryville, CT, to consider an Emergency Appropriation of \$75,000 for the setup, installation, and other costs incidental to a generator replacement at Town Hall.

David V. Merchant

Mayor

Dated this 25th day of August 2015

Plymouth, CT

**Plymouth Town Council Public Hearing
September 1, 2015
Page Two of Four Pages**

Emergency Appropriation of \$75,000 for the setup, installation, and other costs incidental to a generator replacement at Town Hall.

Anthony Orsini stated the Town Hall had a serious problem, noting when the power went out at Town Hall on May 14, 2015 the generator had problems so it was shut off for repairs, and there was no emergency generator for the Town Hall.

Anthony Orsini stated the 911 Dispatch System is dependant upon uninterrupted electrical service and incoming emergency calls would go unanswered, noting it was a matter of life and death.

Anthony Orsini stated the old generator is obsolete with no parts available and it has to be replaced, noting the generator had been installed in 1972 and was 43 years old. Anthony Orsini cited recent power outages whereby the Town Hall had no power for approximately four hours and explained the problems associated, noting this issue had become a matter of life and death.

Anthony Orsini stated he is recommending a new 125 KW generator be installed in the Town Hall that would service the entire Town Hall, not just the lower level. Anthony Orsini stated he uses the Town Hall as his Emergency Operating Center, as well as a cooling/warming center for Town residents. Anthony Orsini stated the generator would cost \$75,000 and detailed the break down of the cost, noting it should be funded as an Emergency Appropriation.

Charles Wiegert reviewed the lease verses buying options for the proposed generator in detail for a 125 KW at length as follows: Installation of infrastructure for the preparation of a new generator would cost \$49,800; four (4) months of Wacker Cable rental at \$2,500 per month (\$10,000); ten (10) months lease payment at \$700.00 per month (\$7,000.00); Contingency amount \$8,200, for a total of \$75,000.

Charles Wiegert stated included in the installation cost would be permits, 800 Amp Automatic Transfer Switch, 800 Amp CT Cabinet, Site work/excavation, Craning/delivery, Reinforced Concrete Pad for the Generator, and Electrical Work (materials, labor, tools, etc.); in the Lease Terms Five (5) year term; Maintenance on Leaser and Out-of-Service Time Protection.

Charles Wiegert stated the difference in cost for a 125 KW Generator for Town Hall would be \$15,000.00 over five years (\$106,800.00 for a Buy and \$91,800.00 for a Lease). Charles Wiegert stated the difference in cost for a 60 KW Generator for the Police Department would be \$9,700.00 over five years (\$89,800.00 for a Buy and \$80,100.00 for a Lease).

Chief Krasicky briefly outlined what happens when the radio system and the CAD system go down, noting it was a Public Safety issue. She further stated all the lights go out, as well and cited a recent incident when the Police Department had lost lighting.

**Plymouth Town Council Public Hearing
September 1, 2015
Page Three of Four Pages**

Public Comments/Written recommendation regarding the Emergency Appropriation of \$75,000 for the setup, installation, and other costs incidental to a generator replacement at Town Hall

Keith Golnik, 46 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated he was in favor of the Emergency Appropriation for the emergency generator and also noted the Town needed to look at an appropriate sized battery backup for the console system.

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated this was a huge safety issue and urged the Town Council to vote yes.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, stated the generator was needed, funds should be approved and we should look now for a power system for the dispatchers and questioned where the money was coming from and briefly explained her question.

Peter Cook, 11 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated this item had come to the Board of Finance and they had approved it under the Emergency Appropriation section of the Charter, noting the Council had the authority to approve it as well. He further stated because it was an Emergency Appropriation the money would come from the General Fund.

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Terryville, stated he agreed with Cathy Kosak and the Town knew this was coming and we had to have the system and questioned why it had to come up to an emergency and briefly explained his reasoning.

Terri Dewell, 17 Prospect Street, Terryville, questioned if the Town had looked into Homeland Security for grant money for the generator, stating they used Homeland Security funding when she was living in Ohio.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated she agreed the Town needed the generator but did not feel it was an emergency and should be a one-time Appropriation and briefly explained her reasoning.

Vinnie Klimas stated his family had utilized the 911 System in the past and this issue was an emergency to him and that he found it offensive that someone did not consider 911 calls emergencies.

Cathy Kosak stated the Dispatch Center was for emergencies, but the question was how the expenditure would be classified.

Robert Ives, 282 Main Street, Terryville, stated he didn't care what the issue was called and urged the Council to vote yes because it put the citizens of Plymouth, the Police Officers and the Town Hall Staff at risk.

**Plymouth Town Council Public Hearing
September 1, 2015
Page Four of Four Pages**

Council Comments

Town Councilman Zagurski stated he wanted better justification as to why the Town wanted to lease the generator rather than buy it.

Charles Wiegert stated there was no warranty needed when leasing a generation and was part of the leasing agreement. He further stated the issue could be revisited in five years (the leasing term) and that grants could be looked at and Capital funds could be set aside during that time. He further stated time was of the essence and that was why the Town was looking to lease it.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Charles Wiegert stated the difference between leasing and buying it outright was mostly the warranty benefit, i.e., no maintenance required, no downtime, etc., a lengthy discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Charles Wiegert stated the Town had been renting the wires since June and paid for them out of last years Public Works budget, noting he was asking for four months of rental because the Town planned on being done with this project by the end of October.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Charles Wiegert stated the Town had looked into Homeland Security for grant monies for this issue, but the problem was time, noting the Town could apply for grants but it would be many months before the Town found out if they had been approved. He further stated he did not believe the Town could get reimbursed for a later application request.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Charles Wiegert stated that over the winter the old generator would be taken apart piece-by-piece and would then be scrapped.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Anthony Orsini stated the current generator would be moved to the Eli Terry Jr. Middle School in the case of an emergency and a generator would be rented for the Town Hall. He further stated the portable would go back to 7 North Main Street as a backup generator if we needed to open a shelter or had another emergency in Town. Anthony Orsini stated there were other antiquated generators in Town and briefly reviewed this issue.

Adjournment

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.