

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

September 15, 2015

Call to Order: Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled September 15, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman William Heering, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Susan Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Town Attorney William Hamzy, Director of Planning and Zoning Margus Laan, and Interim Public Works Director 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 America, May God Bless the Town of Plymouth, for the record.

Council Rules and Procedures

No report.

Public Comment

No report.

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To enter into an Amendment to the Intergovernmental Consortium Agreement and Resolution governing the Workforce Development Area

Alex Johnson, EVP, Chief Operating Officer, Capital Workforce Partners, Hartford, CT, thanked the Plymouth Town Council for allowing him to present the Amendment to the Intergovernmental Consortium Agreement and Resolution, noting the Town of Plymouth has been a part of the Workforce since 2003.

Alex Johnson gave a lengthy and detailed history of the Capital Workforce Partners and its relationship to Plymouth and area towns. He further stated that because of the difficulty of trying to obtain a quorum with the majority of the 37 participating municipalities, new Federal legislation has been amended and restated to allow for a 9 member majority on behalf of the 37 participating municipalities enabling the consortium to conduct business in a timely manner.

Alex Johnson noted that restated in the Agreement was the fact that the chief elected officials would come together as a collective body and they would be referred as the recipient of record. He further stated that the consortium of municipalities designates the Capital Workforce Partners as its administrator on behalf of the municipalities. Alex Johnson stated that Capital Workforce Partners receives Federal monies annually for unemployed-dislocated individuals who have lost their jobs. He further stated the nearest job center to Plymouth residents would be the New Britain office and briefly explained the process to apply. Alex Johnson stated the Town's profile was listed in the information that he had distributed this evening, noting it would be updated on an annual basis which would report the value of the service, as well as the number of residents served in the municipality.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Alex Johnson stated a resident in need of Capital Workforce Partners services would go directly to the New Britain job center for assistance. He further stated that Capital Workforce Partners work in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Labor, noting the Department of Labor can certify the individual as being eligible for Capital Workforce Partners' dislocated services and they can make an internal referral; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Alex Johnson stated there was no cost to the individuals receiving their services and no cost to the Town, itself.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Alex Johnson stated the program was very successful in most cases, but a lot depended on the individual's motivation. He further stated Capital Workforce Partners tries to enable individuals to understand what their skill needs are to compete for jobs and briefly elaborated.

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To enter into an Amendment to the Intergovernmental Consortium Agreement and Resolution governing the Workforce Development Area Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to approve the Resolution authorizing the Mayor, David V. Merchant, to enter in an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Consortium Agreement on behalf of the Town of Plymouth to implement the Workforce and Opportunity Act of 2014, in accordance with the Federal and State law. This motion was approved unanimously.

Pequabuck River Study Overview and Discussion

Robert Tedeschi, PE and Gary Nash, PE, AECOM, Rocky Hill, CT, stated the Towns of Plainville, Plymouth and City of Bristol had received an Economic Development Grant to study the Pequabuck River and to update the Flood Mapping to see what could be done to mitigate the flooding of commercial areas along the Pequabuck River. It was also noted that tonight's presentation was informational only; no action would be required by the Council.

It was noted that the presentation's objectives would be to brief the Town on the project status, update the FEMA Flood Risk Mapping, provide an evaluation of Flood Mitigation, and identification of priority Mitigation measures. It was also noted there were additional Pequabuck River flood warning recommendations and briefly reviewed them.

Robert Tedeschi and Gary Nash provided an update on flood mapping, what the Town had before and has now and also discussed the evaluation process of what could be done to mitigate flooding; a lengthy discussion followed.

Councilman Heering questioned if there was any value in not going for a letter of map revision, noting maps have already been done, lenders would know and basically it was a done deal.

Gary Nash stated it was really a public relations item and they were recommending the Town submits the letter.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, Gary Nash stated the \$15,000 to get the Gage Station reactivated could be split between the municipalities.

Robert Ives, 282 Main Street, Terryville, questioned if all the financial institutions used FEMA maps to set mortgage/insurance rates.

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Pequabuck River Study Overview and Discussion Cont'd.

Gary Nash stated flood insurance could be required if a property showed up in the FEMA mapping.

Robert Ives briefly discussed the project suggestion about opening the bridge at the rear entrance of 282 Main Street, Terryville, and questioned if the \$252,000 would fall on the Town.

Gary Nash stated the property was a privately owned structure so it would not necessarily fall on the Town. He further stated there could be FEMA Grant money available to make the improvement; a brief discussion followed.

A brief discussion took place concerning tearing down the vacant Town-owned building on the corner of Main Street and Maple.

Peter Giancesini, 8 Kimman Road, Terryville, stated he thought getting the Rain Gage Station back up and operational would be an important thing and compared it to 911. He further stated that it would be a minimal expense for safety and protecting the Town's infrastructure; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Gary Nash stated he didn't flag the bridge abutment (corner of Main Street and Maple) because of the development cost, noting it was State of Connecticut owned. He further stated that did not mean the Town couldn't bring it up to the State armed with the new data from the study.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Gary Nash stated he didn't feel taking the house down (corner of Main Street and Maple) would do a lot, but it would get it out of the floodplain and would prevent any damage that could happen to the house. He further stated the property could be used for a small park, a parking lot, etc., whatever the Town might have a use for it.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Gary Nash stated there was debris stuck under the bridge. He further stated as vegetation is removed and the channel bed exposed it provides the opportunity to line the channel with rip rap, etc., and this should be eligible for FEMA monies.

Peter Worhunsky, 19 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated a lot of the flood mitigation was common sense and briefly explained his statement. Peter Worhunsky recalled an incident in the past whereby the Water Pollution Control Authority had sewerage going directly into the Pequabuck River and briefly elaborated.

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Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town, Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to adjourn at 7:4 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.