

**Town of Plymouth**  
80 Main Street  
Terryville, CT 06786  
www.plymouthct.us

**Plymouth Town Council**  
Tel: (860) 585-4001  
Fax: (860) 585-4015

Minutes

January 3, 2023

**Call to Order:** Mayor Joe Kilduff called the scheduled January 3, 2023, Plymouth Town Council Regular meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present for the meeting were Town Councilman Nate Brown, Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor Joe Kilduff, Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann and Town Councilman Ron Tiscia. Excused Absence Town Councilman Dan Gentile. Also in attendance was Town Attorney William Hamzy.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Nate Brown, to remove agenda item #12 "Discuss and take action on Operational Agreement for Reciprocity of Extra Duty Assignments Between the Town of Wolcott and the Town of Plymouth" and replace it with "To discuss and take action on Plymouth Police Department request for Red Dot Sight Program utilizing Extra Duty Fund." This motion was approved unanimously.

**Fire Exit Notification**

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted the Fire Exits for the record.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Joe Kilduff led the Town Council Members and the Public audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Joe Kilduff requested a Moment of Silence for Lori Sekorski and Rich Lyga.

**Invocation**

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated "May God Bless America and God Bless the Town of Plymouth" for the record.

**Acceptance of Minutes (December 6, 2022)**

Town Councilman Nate Brown made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ron Tiscia, to accept the December 6, 2022, minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

No report.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No report.

*Ron Tiscia*  
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH  
2023 JAN -9 PM 12:22  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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### **Financial Report**

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Town Council had the most updated Financial Report and if anyone had any questions or concerns to please contact him or the Director of Finance.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Terryville Lions Club and the Mayor's Office had partnered up for the Light Up your Home lighting contest and noted the following address winners: 1st Place: 42 Burnham Street, 2nd Place: 24 Scott Road and 3rd Place: 5 Cedar Street. Mayor Joe congratulated and thanked everyone who participated. Mayor Joe stated the December 18<sup>th</sup> Fire Department Breakfast with Santa was well attended and thanked the Fire Department and participants for a great event. Mayor Joe stated the Christmas Small Wonders program served 123 children from 53 families, noting it was a wonderful program for our community and thanked everyone for their hard work. Mayor Joe stated he had attended Gosinski Park's December 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party event with Santa in attendance, as well as their groundbreaking with several State officials in attendance. He further stated that Units 1 through 10 were completed and the residents would be moving into them next week. Mayor Joe stated he wanted to thank Vinnie Klimas and the Housing Authority Board members for all of their hard work and noted the wonderful job they have done with this renovation project.

Housing Authority Chairman Vinnie Klimas distributed commemorative Housing Authority of the Town of Plymouth coffee cups as a thank you of support to each Council Member.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated Rich Trudeau, BOE Director of Technology, would be retiring this month, noting he has been a pleasure to work with and wished him a happy and healthy retirement. He further stated the Town continues to share tech services with the Board of Education and noted there is an interim plan in place with some changes coming up in the near future. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he was happy to report he had received a letter on December 30<sup>th</sup> from the State of CT and noted they had approved the Town's request for a Contiguous Municipality Zone. He further stated the Town was only going to apply for two of the three census tracks however through the hard work of Margus Laan and Vance Taylor, the Town was able to get the State to agree to designate the entire Town and the third track was for the OZ Gedney property. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he also wanted to thank Bob Green for re-doing the mylar several times, noting his hard work was appreciated. He further stated he wanted to thank the State of CT Commissioner who is leaving for the private sector, for signing off on his way out the door. Mayor Joe Kilduff distributed pictures of the Prospect Street School graffiti clean-up showing before and after work, noting once the insurance claim was processed the owner would secure the windows and doors in a better fashion. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Town was following through on a timeline for the renovation project with the owner, as well. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Community Investment Fund (CIF) Committee was making great progress, noting they have a draft application ready to go, which is due by January 6, 2023. He further stated he wanted to thank Chairman Bill Hamzy, Vinnie Klimas and Vance Taylor for putting the application together, noting they had done a wonderful job and hopefully the application will be accepted. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated at the request of Town Councilman Dan Gentile, someone would be coming to the Town Hall's back parking lot to look at potentially replacing the lights. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he had attended the MFAC meeting, and the Commission was very happy with the Town's progress over the last few months. He further stated he was hoping the Audit would be completed by the end of March, noting the Town was on track with the plan that was submitted to MFAC.

**Discuss and take action to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Emma Baker \$141.10; Corelogic \$2,649.08; Blanca Farias \$108.98; Jamie and Patrick Ferland \$25.93, \$173.99; Honda Lease Trust \$1,045.38, \$532.51; Toyota Lease Trust \$468.14; VW Credit Leasing Ltd. \$624.60**

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**Refund overpayment of Property Taxes Cont'd.**

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Emma Baker \$141.10; Corelogic \$2,649.08; Blanca Farias \$108.98; Jamie and Patrick Ferland \$25.93, \$173.99; Honda Lease Trust \$1,045.38, \$532.51; Toyota Lease Trust \$468.14; and VW Credit Leasing Ltd. \$624.60. This motion was approved unanimously.

**To discuss and take action on Plymouth Police Department request for Red Dot Sight Program utilizing Extra Duty Fund**

Police Chief Karen Krasicky stated on October 12, 2022, Bristol Police Lieutenant Dustin DeMonte and Sergeant Alex Hamzy had been ambushed and brutally murdered, noting a third Police Officer (Alec Iurato) was successfully able to shoot the assailant because he had the Red Dot Sight tool on his gun and briefly elaborated on the positive aspects of this tool, noting it was a critical need for Police Officers. She further stated the Police Department's request for the Red Dot Sight Program was brought to the Police Commission on November 9<sup>th</sup> and unanimously approved at a cost of \$16,000 and then unanimously approved at the December 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Finance meeting.

Police Officer Chris Brody demonstrated how the Red Dot Sight tool worked and passed the tool around to the Town Council members to hold and view. Police Officer Chris Brody gave an extensive background, as well as warranty information, on the Red Dot Sight system.

Town Councilman Nate Brown made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Roxanne McCann, to approve the Plymouth Police Department request for up to \$16,000 for the Red Dot Sight Program utilizing the Extra Duty Fund.

**Discussion:**

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the balance in the Extra Duty Fund was currently at over half a million.

When questioned by Town Councilman Joe Green, Police Officer Chris Brody stated this tool would be given to the entire Police Department.

**Vote:**

This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action to rescind Police Department General Order 20-2 and replace it with revised General Order 22-2**

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the proposed new General Order was tabled at last month's Council meeting however the Police Commission had made a small revision to it and so this was now a new agenda item. He further stated the change was made to Item 5 as follows: "In the event the Police Commission determines that an internal and external candidate are equally qualified, preference may be given to the internal candidate."

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**Discuss and take action to rescind Police Department General Order 20-2 and replace it with revised General Order 22-2 Cont'd.**

Union President Mike Smegielski stated he appreciates the Town Council tabling the item last month. He further stated the clause in the Job Description for Captain currently states all internal candidates will be considered first and if no internal candidates qualify then the testing process would be opened to the outside and the Police Department would like to keep it that way and briefly elaborated.

Union President Mike Smegielski stated they currently have two Sergeants that meet the standards and are qualified candidates and by having a Sergeant promoted to Captain, it allows for movement in the department, noting the last Sergeant promotion was in March 2017. Union President Mike Smegielski stated promoting from within boosts morale and gives the Police Officers something to strive for. He further stated that looking outside without providing an internal qualified candidate first would have the opposite effect and sends a negative message. Union President Mike Smegielski stated this will also affect the Police Department for future promotions. He further stated there has not been a Second in Command for eight months now and those responsibilities have been divided up without any issues which shows they are capable of doing the job. Union President Mike Smegielski stated the work keeps stacking up and they continue to get the work done and meet the expectations; and hopes the Town Council will keep it the way it is and allow internal candidates to apply. He further stated if they don't meet the standards then go to the outside.

Police Chief Karen Krasicky stated she agrees with Union President Mike Smegielski, noting the Department has a couple of qualified candidates that can do the job and by going to the outside when there are already qualified candidates sends a bad message. She further stated the qualified candidates know this Town, they know their peers, they know their subordinates, they know their laws, they know their Council people, they know the citizens in this Town, and they know the problem areas in Town. Police Chief Karen Krasicky stated if an outside person came in, they would have to be taught all of this, noting this is a small town with a lot of idiosyncrasies, and it would take a lot of time to learn it all. She further stated the current Police Officers have been doing it for years, they know what is going on and felt they should be given the opportunity first and if the Police Commission felt they weren't doing a good job there could be a caveat about not meeting performance and removal. Police Chief Karen Krasicky stated it would be unfair to not give the opportunity to an insider first.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the General Order was not reviewed by Legal Counsel before it was passed last time and, in his opinion, and the opinion of the Legal Counsel he did speak to, it was poorly written. He further stated if the Town Council decides the proposed General Order is not what they want then it would have to go back and be rewritten. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated an option to keep as is, in his opinion, is not really an option and that some of the changes the Police Department clearly want are a possibility but leaving it as is not appropriate. He further stated he has made it clear that he supports this change and has said it publicly at the Police Commission meeting, as well as privately when asked. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he heard everything everyone said tonight and elsewhere and feels promoting from within is important, but it should not be the end all, be all. He further stated he thinks we owe it to the Town and the Police Department, even though they might not agree, to find the best possible candidate whether that be internal or external and does not feel someone should be promoted to Second in Command for the sole reason they meet the minimum qualifications and they happen to be a Plymouth Police Officer. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated it can be a factor, noting it is reflected in the General Order, but he doesn't feel it should be the only factor.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to to rescind Police Department General Order 20-2 and replace it with revised General Order 22-2.

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**Discuss and take action to rescind Police Department General Order 20-2 and replace it with revised General Order 22-2 Cont'd.**

Discussion: Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she would like to see someone promoted from within but feels we need a revised General Order. She further stated she felt it was important to recognize the fact that it was left vague on purpose so the Police Commission could still retain discretion to omit any outside agencies coming in to do the interview so that the ability to still promote within was in the Police Commission's hands, which would give them the opportunity on what is best for the Police Department and the Town.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Police Commission are empowered to hire the Second in Command and that is their role, and it is noted in the Charter and questioned how much do we want to handcuff them in the process they see fit. He further stated that ultimately, whoever they pick, has to negotiate a contract that will come before the Council anyway. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated this is the General Order the Police Commission felt they needed to put together the hiring process to get the best candidate for the Town and the Police Department. He further stated not everyone will agree, he understands the Police Officers point but feels it is important to get the best candidate and it may end up being someone internal, but he feels we need to have other candidates.

Town Councilman Nate Brown stated he believes and feels it should come from internal candidates first, noting we have a job description that lays out what is being asked for the Police Captain, we have that individual here and they meet those qualifications. He further stated the fact that they are already a Police Officer in Town, and for the reasons the Chief laid out, that is a bonus towards that applicant and feels it should start here in Town with someone already on the Police force who meets the qualifications, and we should move forward with him.

Vote: Town Councilman Nate Brown/no; Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann/yes; Town Councilman Ron Tiscia/no; Town Councilman Joe Green/no. Motion fails 3:1.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, Mayor Joe Kilduff stated because the motion failed the Police Commission can either revise it again or move forward with the currently existing language.

**Discuss and take action on ARPA recommendation for Radios and Computers/Monitors for the Fire Marshal's Office**

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Radios and Computers/Monitors for the Fire Marshal's Office had been omitted by accident previously but had been unanimously approved by the Board of Finance.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ron Tiscia, to approve up to \$10,000 for Radios and Computers/Monitors for the Fire Marshal's Office using ARPA funding. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action on ARPA recommendation Public Works Department Carport Additions**

Interim Public Works Director Paul Pronovost provided a brief overview of the department ARPA request noting the carport additions would be located at the Maintenance building and the Highway Garage building. He further stated the department is keeping the equipment at the Terryville Fairgrounds in the barns and they could use the Fence Mower now with the mild winter weather but can't get to it, noting it's blocked in because the Terryville Lions also use the barns for car storage as a fundraiser. Interim Public Works Director Paul Pronovost stated the total price would be \$100,000 and with the price of lumber coming down he felt that figure would be enough.

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**Discuss and take action on ARPA recommendation Public Works Department Carport Additions Cont'd.**

When questioned by Town Councilman Joe Green, Interim Public Works Director Paul Pronovost stated all of the equipment would fit between the two facilities and they would no longer be storing equipment at the Terryville Fairgrounds. He further stated the following equipment is what was being stored at the fairgrounds: the sweeper, the fence mower, the hydroseeded, a couple of smaller tractors, and the smaller excavator.

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Nate Brown, to approve the ARPA request from the Public Works Department for the Carport Additions in the amount of \$100,000 using ARPA funding. This motion was approved unanimously.

**American Rescue Plan Discussion**

No report.

**Other Business**

No report.

**Town Council Liaison Reports**

Town Councilman Joe Green stated he had nothing to report at this time.

Town Councilman Ron Tiscia stated he had nothing to report at this time.

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

Town Councilman Nate Brown stated he had nothing to report on at this time.

**Town Council Comments**

Town Councilman Nate Brown stated he had no Town Council comments at this time.

Referencing this evening's vote on the Police Department's General Order, Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she would like to see the Police Department work to finding wording that works for everyone, noting she is disappointed that we are stuck with the old wording which was poorly written. She further stated she would like to see something solid move forward and knows the Police Department has the ability to communicate changes that will work. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she didn't want this to be ignored, noting we need to come up with something that will work for both sides and hopes the Police Department will be proactive in helping to get the wording right so it works for them and the Commission which would let us move forward with something that is better written and still suits their needs. She further stated we do want to support the Police Department and promote from within, but we also need to make sure we have something that is a solid document moving forward that is not just tossed aside for the one night.

Town Councilman Ron Tiscia stated he had no Town Council comments at this time.

Town Councilman Joe Green stated he had no Town Council comments at this time.

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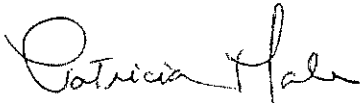
**Town Council Comments Cont'd.**

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he wanted to make it very clear that there has to be some changes made since what the Police Commission had proposed was not acceptable to this Council. He further stated that he finds it highly doubtful the Police Commission will move forward with the current General Order, noting that spot might remain vacant until we come up with some kind of agreement. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated we will continue working together to make that happen and find a solution that is acceptable, noting he is not sure where the divide will be crossed because at the end of the day if someone meets the qualifications we can't force the Police Commission to hire anyone so we might be at an impasse for the time being and so we are in a holding pattern and we will send it back to the Police Commission.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Nate Brown made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ron Tiscia, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia A. Hale  
Recording Secretary