

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

Linda Konopaske
TOWN CLERK

January 6, 2026

Call to Order: Mayor David Sekorski called the scheduled January 6, 2026, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm, in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

Roll call: The following council members were present – Susan Boilard, Raymond Engle, Joe Green, Ron Riscia, and TJ Zagurski and Mayor Dave Sekorski. Recording Secretary, Patricia Hale, was absent and the Acting Recording Secretary was Linda Konopaske for this meeting.

Fire Exit Notification: Mayor Sekorski noted the Fire Exits for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Sekorski led the Plymouth Town Council and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Mayor Dave reported that he attended the Police and Citizens Awards Ceremony held recently and he was reminded of the great risks that our first responders take, and he asked for God's blessing for all our first responders and people in our community. He also asked for a moment of silence in honor of William (Bill) Ogonowski that passed recently. Bill was a regular attendee of the various meetings over the years and a good friend to many in town.

Minutes: Sue Boilard moved to accept December 2, 2025, meeting minutes with an amendment to the Council assignments. She is assigned to the Fire Commission and Ron Tiscia is assigned to PVAC and that needs to be corrected on the list of assignments. Second by Ron Tiscia. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

- Pattie Dehuff addressed the council, emphasizing the importance of upholding oaths to the US and CT Constitutions, and encouraged the council to read the town charter and listen to the people's voices during deliberations. Mayor Sekorski gave a reminder that everyone please follow the agenda, and this is public comment on agenda items only.
- Virginia Kinane raised concerns about the potential consulting contract for the recently retired superintendent, urging the council to review it carefully.

Mayor's Report: The mayor thanked Linda Konopaske for filling in as acting secretary tonight. And thanked all the agencies, staff, and volunteers who provided services to the Town of Plymouth over the holidays. He stated that there were hundreds of families that were assisted over the holidays by the Plymouth Food Pantry and the Small Wonders Program and its volunteers. Well over 80 children received benefit from that program alone. Also, the Plymouth Beautification Committee, the Rotary Club, and other local businesses and all other volunteers who helped ensure the success of the tree lighting on December 6th. The Town should be proud of the generosity of its citizens with all the time, money, and gifts that were donated through this program. Thank you to ALL involved.

Some comments on recent snowstorms: The mayor wants to recognize the town crew and their efforts during the recent storms. Due to the holidays and various illnesses at one point we had only 4 people operating snowplows. And he also wanted to recognize that we utilized our current vendor that we have contracted for their support to the town crew. He felt they did an outstanding job considering the personnel issues that we are currently facing. We did utilize our ability to place a parking ban for the larger snowstorm, and we will continue to do that as appropriate. It is extremely helpful and very much appreciated when citizens comply with the parking bans and the public for their assistance in clearing the sidewalks. We are working on a storm related policy and communication protocol that is under review and he will let everyone know when that is complete.

Next, the mayor wanted to address some of the public comments from the December 2nd meeting. Regarding the town's response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests; regretfully one of the three requests was not acknowledged in the time frame that is prescribed by the state law as was noted by a citizen. However, at this time to the best of the mayor's knowledge all requests have been responded to, and all have been completed and closed.

Regarding the comments of the number of and use of police vehicles – as we enter the 2026-2027 budget season, a full review of the police vehicles and their use will take place during this budget season.

Regarding the question about Advisory Boards, we are currently moving forward to establish a community advisory board. The plan is to meet monthly with the mayor to discuss general concerns of the community. If members of the public are interested in participating, please contact the mayor's office. He is also following up with members of the Economic Development Commission and our consultant regarding the possibility of forming an advisory board that would focus on economic topics. But, for now he would like to start off with just the Citizens Advisory Committee and see how that goes.

Professional Staff Updates: Congratulations to Jim Schultz, who retired from the town of 30-plus years of service. Jim's experience and general operational knowledge will not be easily replaced. We are very fortunate to have reached an agreement whereby Jim will provide some administrative consulting services for a short time while we look for a replacement. The Highway Supervisor is posted internally right now and will be posted publicly after the two-week requirement by contractual agreement. In the interim, Dennis Kizis, who has the experience of filling in for Jim Schultz when needed in the past, will serve as the Acting Highway Superintendent. He will be responsible for operations and oversite and all on-call responsibilities. All the necessary departments have been notified of Dennis taking over that responsibility. The interview process for the Public Works Director is in progress now.

The mayor met with two members of the State DOT to discuss the possible use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) as an option on Route 6 in the Plymouth section of town as there have been many vehicle accidents in that area. Currently, he plans on bringing this issue to the Police Commission as a potential option as well as continued dialogue with the State DOT. This option would require the town to create a Town-wide ordinance for the use of these devices. This is very preliminary with more information to come.

There is also a full review of the town's website underway. The preliminary findings are that the site needs to be on a modernized platform. The new platform will provide more security, more self-service options for citizens, and allow for faster real time updates. We are working with the town vendors to verify the cost of the upgrade, but we are confident that we can use the existing funds in the technology budget or reprioritize items in the plan to ensure we can rebuild the website. We expect the upgrade to be accomplished in 2-3 months.

The mayor is also working on launching a new Mayor's Office/Town Facebook page to manage communication and public service announcements. More to come on this also.

He is happy to report that the final financial statements audited for FY2024 were completed and submitted to the Department of Operations and Management. There are still a few outstanding items that the finance department is completing as required but we hope to have everything completed for the 2024 audit by the end of January and will be meeting with the office of Policy Management in February. And, we have already started on the groundwork for the 2025 budget season.

Lastly included in the Council Packets was a detailed list of a variety of complaints or issues that were brought forward to the mayor's office involving land use, permitting, public works, road and bridge repair and human service to name a few. In each case the mayor's office worked with the appropriate departments to remedy the situations and all of that is outlined in the Council packets.

Town Council Liaison Reports:

TJ Zagurski reported that the sewer commission is just about wrapping up on their studies. They still have some numbers to put together over the next couple of months. They are also purchasing a new bath truck and a snake truck to eliminate the excess costs of farming that out and that Parks and Rec have basketball going on right now.

Sue Boilard reported that she was assigned to the Fire Commission, Police Commission, Human Services, and Housing Appeals and she has been to 3 of the 4 so far. The Fire Commission was very well organized, and it didn't take long to go through everything they had. There was a lot of communication that was very good. The Police Commission talked about the accidents on Route 6. Human Services have discussed the position of the new Veterans Liaison and that will be done very soon.

Joe Green reported that the Board of Finance is moving along quite well. They reviewed and approved the minutes from April through November. The Comptroller also presented a sample of an expenditure report. Once it's finalized the report will become a standard process at each meeting. The FY 2026 calendar of dates was discussed with the initial budget due February 10th.

Ron Tiscia asked for an update on the proposal for the solar farm on Preston Road. That project went to Planning and Zoning and then it was withdrawn from that committee, and the applicant is going forward through a process that was set up by the State. They are going through the Siting Council and are trying to get a declaratory judgement from the Siting Council that says that the Siting Council has the exclusive jurisdiction over this project rather than the town. We did submit a letter of intervention stating the reasons we as a community were very concerned about that proposal. We don't think that location is a particularly good idea. There are a lot of citizens working on their own who have submitted letters, petitions, etc. to the Siting Council. The chair recognized Town Attorney Bill Hamzy for comment, and he stated that the Siting Council scheduled a zoom meeting for Thursday at 1:00 pm to take up our request for a public hearing. The zoom link can be found on the Siting Council's website.

Approval of contract for Highway Department support services: This contract has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and is included in the Council Packets. It's a part-time limited contract. It is not an open-ended agreement by any means, and it has limits on the number of hours to provide. We felt that we needed additional guidance until we could replace the highway superintendent. Joe Green moved to approve the contract, second by Sue Boilard. Discussion: TJ Zagurski asked who wrote this contract? The mayor replied it was provided to us in conjunction with the original draft contract through our HR support person along with inputs from myself and the Town Attorney. Note that it is not in a supervisory capacity but strictly advisory. The question was raised by TJ Zagurski whether we should have a labor attorney look at it. The mayor replied that while not all the details were discussed with the labor attorney, he did confirm that this contract does not interfere with the retirement provisions from the town plan. A concern was expressed that when he is working on procurement with the new person coming in, working on bids and purchasing; is he going to have the ability to bid on any of these projects or does he have to recuse himself from bidding for any company that he would be working for or his own personal company? The mayor's reply was that is not the language exclusively written in the contract but it is implied and stressed that it is an operational advisory role with no advisory on hiring a replacement. Mr. Zagurski stated that he felt Jim Schultz should serve as a consultant in an advisory position only and not be involved in the hiring process of the Highway Superintendent or the Public Works Director. The Town Attorney was asked to comment, and he said that we can add a provision to make it explicit that the role does not include hiring or offering input into hiring in either position.

Joe Green withdrew his motion to approve the contract as presented; Sue Boilard withdrew her second. Mr. Green presented a new motion to approve the contract to be amended by the Town Attorney as discussed to include the more explicit language. Second by Sue Boilard.

Roll call vote was taken:

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|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| TJ Zagurski: No | Sue Boilard: Yes | Joe Green: Yes |
| Ron Tiscia: No | Ray Engle: Yes | |

Motion passed with a 3-2 vote. The mayor will work with Mr. Hamzy tomorrow to make those adjustments, and they will provide copies to the Town Council members to confirm that it meets with their approval before the contract is executed.

Discuss and act, as may be necessary to refund overpayment of Property Taxes:

The attached list was provided in the Council packets. Ron Tiscia moved to approve the attached list as presented for refunding property taxes. Second by Joe Green. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Boards/Commissions – Resignations:

TJ Zagurski moved to accept the resignation from Gladys Vasquez from the Housing Authority Commission, second by Ron Tiscia. **Motion passed.**

Board/Commissions – Re-Appointments:

- TJ Zagurski moved to re-appoint Peter Gianisini to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a 3-year term. Second by Joe Green. **Motion passed.**
- TJ Zagurski moved to re-appoint Scott Gray to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a 3-year term. Second by Ray Engle. **Motion passed.**
- Joe Green moved to re-appoint James Maloney to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a 3-year term. Second by TJ Zagurski. **Motion passed.**

Board/Commissions – New Appointments:

- Joe Green moved to appoint Tony Roveto to the Conservation Inland Wetlands Committee for a 3-year term. Second by TJ Zagurski. **Motion passed.**
- Joe Green moved to appoint Robert Wilcox to the Economic Development Commission for a 5-year term. Second by TJ Zagurski. **Motion passed.**

Discuss/Amend Town Council Meeting Dates Tabled from 12/2/2025 meeting:

Ray Engle moved to remove from the table from the 12/2 meeting the discussion on finalizing of the council meeting dates for 2026. Second by Ron Tiscia. **Motion passed.**

TJ Zagurski moved that the August meeting be scheduled for August 4, 2026, and the November meeting be held on November 10, 2026. Second by Ray Engle. **Motion passed.**

Executive Sessions/Pending litigation:

Joe Green moved that the council members, the town attorney and the attorney representing Jim Tallberg enter into executive session at 7:53 pm to discuss pending litigation in the senior lounge. Second by Ron Tiscia. **Motion passed.**

Action from Executive Session:

The council reconvened at 8:14 pm in the community room. Sue Boilard moved to provide consent to settle a lawsuit entitled Mynahan vs Town of Plymouth. Second made by Ray Engle.

Roll call vote was taken:

TJ Zagurski – Yes Sue Boilard – Yes Joe Green – Abstained
Ron Tiscia – Yes Ray Engle – Yes

Results: 4 yes, 1 abstention, **motion passed.**

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

- Melanie Church had handouts for everyone. Stated she wanted them to look at the Board of Finance because they had 6 meetings there were never approved until after this Council had taken over. And referencing her handouts 9 more that were never approved until after the election. We cannot let this happen again. She also felt that there were several items removed from the public hearing that would have put the budget increase at over 3% and she wants to know how this will get rectified. She also spoke about a Fire Marshalls Truck that came in under budget and the police extra duty fund that is not making any revenue, and she feels this should go into the Town's general fund. She also stated that we have 18 police cruisers and that this is out of control. She also spoke about abatement money that we lost because the business moved. Stated she would like to see a public safety complex and lastly some concern about people getting their money back from a possible overcharge of tax interest and collection fees. She says state statutes have a cap of 18% and some people were charged 19%.
- Pattie DeHuff urged the Council to reconsider the motion to approve the Contract for Jim Schultz until they see the final wording on it.
- Virginia Kinane commented that after running so heavily on transparency she is again asking where the transparency and communication is now. She can't believe we don't even have a Facebook page and commented that the agenda for this meeting was the least informative and transparent agenda she has ever seen. It is bare bones with basically no detail. Why has this changed so drastically and unnecessarily? People don't even know who is submitting or filing the agenda anymore. Lastly the code enforcement meeting was canceled due to lack of new business. She is not sure how there is a lack of new business or if this is necessarily truthful and transparent.

- Richard King asked if there is a day-to-day supervisor directing day-to-day operations on site in the public works department.

Seeing no further comments, the mayor stated that it will be his practice to the best of his ability to respond to public comments in the next following meeting. He will review the transcripts of the questions and issues that were raised this evening and do his best to provide responses to those at the next meeting. However, he wanted to address the staffing issue just for clarity so that people know that we do have people running the day-to-day operations of the public works dept right now and he there is someone serving as an acting highway supervisor also.

He encouraged the public to feel free to call the mayor's office to make appointments to discuss any issues or questions.

Council Comments:

- Ray Engle stated that we do take comments into consideration and we are listening and he thanked everyone for their comments.
- Mr. Green wanted to thank the mayor for providing a detailed report in their packets of the issues that were brought to the mayor's office and how they were resolved.
- TJ Zagurski spoke about the Police Department space issue, and he would like to see a committee formed to continue to investigate a solution to this problem.

Adjournment: There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council. Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 pm. Second by Ray Engle. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Konopaske

Linda Konopaske
Acting Recording Secretary

TC-1/6/2025