

**Town of Plymouth**  
80 Main Street  
Terryville, CT 06786  
[www.plymouthct.us](http://www.plymouthct.us)

**Public Works Board**  
Tel: (860) 585-4001  
Fax: (860) 585-4067

**Regular Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 26, 2026

**Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall, 5:45PM**

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Public Works Board was called to order on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5:45 PM in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall, Plymouth, CT.

### 2. Roll Call

**Present:** Chairman Nate Brown, Mark Lewandoski, Joe Carey, Peter Giancesini, Public Works Director Joseph Sopczneski, Highway Superintendent Aaron Heller, Councilman T.J. Zagurski, Board of Finance liaison Vicky Carey and recording Secretary Pam Pelletier.

### 3. Fire Exit Notification

Chairman Nate Brown noted the location of fire exits to those in attendance.

### 4. Pledge of Allegiance

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 5. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meetings

#### Regular Meeting – 04/28/2026

Motion to approve and accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2026, was made by Mark Lewandoski and seconded by Peter Giancesini. The motion carried unanimously.

### 6. Monthly Reports

#### Director's Report – Joseph Sopczneski, Director of Public Works

Director Sopczneski presented his monthly report, covering OSHA compliance, highway operations, and a draft three-year road program.

**OSHA Compliance:** Director Sopczneski reported that the OSHA compliance safety net program has been created. Final training with the highway department crew and facilities team is scheduled for early the following week, which will bring the department into full abatement. The one remaining item is the Emergency Action Plan for Town Hall, which requires finalization and a fire drill exercise.

**Highway Department Operations:** The following active projects were highlighted:

- **The Farms (Oakdale, Fountainhead, Tumblebrook):** Under drain installation on Tumblebrook is underway as part of the road bond. Concrete orders are being placed ahead of a scheduled June price increase.

PLYMOUTH, CT  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
2026 MAY 27 AM 11:11  
Joseph Sopczneski  
TOWN CLERK

- **Chip Seal Program:** Crack sealing began the day of the meeting on roads in Phase 1 of the chip seal program. A contractor breakdown occurred around noon, leaving work approximately halfway complete. Chip seal is scheduled for the summer.
- **Todd Road Bridge:** The permit has been approved. WMC is completing right-of-way packages for abutting properties and preparing a bid package targeted for late summer. The construction timeline aims to have concrete abutments poured before Christmas, with paving in the spring. Joseph Carey raised a concern about the cost implications of winter concrete work, including additives, hot water, and blankets, and requested confirmation that the budget accounts for winter conditions. Director Sopczneski indicated this would be verified with WMC.
- **Connecticut Water Coordination:** The Plymouth DPW and the Mayor's Office met with Connecticut Water to coordinate ongoing and future projects in town. Identified projects include water main replacements on South Main Street (from Route 6 southward) and South Eagle Street (up past Jan Court), with future projects on Holt Street and Coral Street. The department is working to negotiate in-lieu-of-pavement payments and to coordinate the work into the road program. Chair Brown noted the importance of coordinating with the DOT and Schultz to avoid new pavement being torn up, and Director Sopczneski confirmed this coordination is already underway through monthly DOT meetings.
- **Troy Crossing:** The DOT application remains underway, with the department consultant working on quantity takeoffs to build the project budget.
- **Transfer Station Compactor:** A third vendor quote has been obtained for the compactor. Joseph Carey question whether the unit will be designed to work with the town's existing tractor-trailers. Director Sopczneski confirmed the existing trailer dimensions have been provided to all vendors.
- **Storm Water Notice of Violation:** Director Sopczneski reported that a storm water Notice of Violation from the DEP, dated August 30, 2024, was discovered during a cleanup near his office. The two citations were for (1) failure to enclose or cover solid deicing material, and (2) failure to maintain good housekeeping practices, both at the Town of Plymouth Highway Garage. Director Sopczneski confirmed that both conditions have been rectified, and noted there is no record of any fines having been paid. He indicated he would need to follow up with the DEP to confirm they are aware the violations have been addressed. Joseph Carey noted he would like the department to proactively communicate with DEP to demonstrate good-faith efforts.
- **259 Apron Project:** Originally scheduled for May 20th, the contractor rescheduled to June 4th. The resident has been notified.

**Three-Year Road Program Draft:** Director Sopczneski and Superintendent Heller presented a working draft of a three-year road program incorporating the road bond, Town Aid Road funds, Connecticut Water contributions, LOTCIP/LOCIP funds, and general fund allocations. The program is structured around the \$3,000,000 Phase 1 road bond and projects out to a Phase 2 bond in fiscal year 2028. Key elements include:

- Roads covered under Bond Phase 1 include The Farms (Oakdale, Fountainhead, Tumblebrook), North Street (segmented by condition — mill and overlay from Route 6 to Plymouth Center School, reclamation from Schroback to North Arlington), sections of

South Eagle Street, and Todd Road Bridge (budgeted at \$500,000, with initial quotes around \$397,000).

- Pricing was derived from historical data — for example, catch basin work on the Crestview project averaged approximately \$953 per basin — and from updated contract extension quotes from Coachella (0.5% increase for paving) and Asphalt Repair Solutions (5% increase for milling).
- Under drain costs are running approximately \$28 per linear foot.
- Additional roads identified for future phases include Carriage Road, Burger Road, Greystone Extension, sections of South Main Street, Todd Road, and North Harrington (from North Street to Griffin).
- Connecticut Water has committed \$185,000 toward Prospect Street, which would fund a mill and overlay. Director Sopczneski also raised the possibility of sidewalk improvements on Prospect Street, given a nearby school project and new development, noting that a developer will be completing sidewalk sections adjacent to his project.

Joseph Carey noted the road survey study is a valuable tool but acknowledged that the severity of recent winters causes some roads to deteriorate faster than the study reflects. He requested that Director Sopczneski print the spreadsheet for board distribution and asked that a column be added to track bond expenditures in real time as invoices come in, so the board has ongoing visibility into budget versus actual spending. The importance of this oversight was emphasized, with reference to past difficulty in obtaining cost information on completed projects.

### **Superintendent's Report – Aaron Heller, Superintendent of Public Works 25:38**

Superintendent Heller provided the following highway operations update:

- **Staffing:** We have been interviewing for vacant positions in the department. There is still one position vacancy open; a second candidate has been contacted following the hiring of Paul Cantoni, whose start date is June 1. The board will be updated shortly.
- **Completed Work:** A culvert cross-over collapse at Greystone Road and Myers Road was excavated and repaired (April 30–May 2). A sinkhole at Naco Drive was repaired (May 6). Drainage at the public works facility was completed (May 7). Knight Lane under drainage and drainage work was completed (May 8). A basin collapse at 17 Roosevelt Avenue was repaired (May 21). The brush dump wood/brush pile was ground by Evergreen (May 22).
- **Ongoing Work:** Tree work, street sweeping, and hot patch repairs are continuously ongoing, with priority given to highest-need areas and roads within the chip seal program path. Wood chips from the brush dump grinding were spread at the transfer station and highway department. Winter damage repair continues. Vehicle and equipment maintenance is ongoing.
- **Beaver Dam Monitoring:** Minor Pond and Indian Haven Pond on Allentown Rd. are being monitored on a monthly basis to ensure waterways remain open.

**Salt/Sand Shed Expansion:** Superintendent Heller presented numbers for extending the salt/sand shed. The proposal involves upgrading the existing canopy tarp and constructing a new 30×30×17 galvanized frame canopy. The department has 40+ concrete blocks on hand (valued at

approximately \$65 each), reducing material costs. Two tarp specifications were presented — a 21.5-ounce grip stop reinforced option and a 4.5-ounce option — with Superintendent Heller recommending the heavier-duty option. Total estimated cost for the complete kit is approximately \$7,744, with approximately 6 pallets of concrete rough required for the base, and a separate cost to replace the existing tarp. The work would be performed in-house over the summer.

Funding was discussed at length. Director Sopczneski indicated the department will be over budget for the fiscal year ending June 30th, primarily due to snow removal costs (salt, overtime, and subcontracted drivers). Joseph Carey expressed a strong desire to address the DEP violation and get the shed built before the next winter season, and asked where \$17,000 could be found.

Board of Finance member Vicky Carey advised that any request requiring Board of Finance action must be submitted for the June meeting (third Thursday of June). She suggested approaching the Mayor and Comptroller regarding a one-time appropriation from the Board of Finance's undesignated fund from this fiscal year. She further noted that LOCIP funds are not restricted solely to roads and could potentially cover infrastructure improvements such as this. Joseph Carey agreed that a formal request from Director Sopczneski to the Mayor, followed by a BOF agenda item, would be the appropriate path.

Superintendent Heller suggested that the scope could be reduced — omitting the existing tarp replacement (which shows no tears or damage) — to bring the immediate cost down from approximately \$17,000 to approximately \$10,000, with the tarp replacement deferred to a future budget cycle. The board agreed this was a practical approach, and Joseph Carey expressed strong support for moving forward promptly given the DEP notice.

Councilman T.J. Zagurski raised a concern (addressed further under Public Comment) that the existing salt shed location sits atop an aquifer, which may require a concrete pad rather than the proposed bag concrete base. It was suggested that this be confirmed with the DEP prior to construction, as asphalt may be a permissible and less costly alternative.

## **7. Old Business**

Joseph Carey inquired about the status of the formal request to the Town Council regarding the sale of surplus material (sand, gravel) from the town pit. Councilman T.J. Zagurski confirmed the request has not yet been submitted. Superintendent Heller noted that activity at the pit has been limited due to short staffing.

## **8. New Business**

Joseph Carey requested that Director Sopczneski forward bid opening results and accounting for the drainage bid when available. Discussion confirmed the bid will be publicly advertised without a mandatory pre-bid meeting, with public bid opening, and will be structured as unit and day-rate pricing. The town will continue to supply materials (precast structures, etc.), with the contract covering labor and equipment. Mark Lewandoski asked whether Arrow Precast had been solicited

in addition to United; staff noted that invitations are based on vendors from prior bid lists, and Arrow had not previously participated.

## **9. Public Comment**

**Vicky Carey, Board of Finance:** Recommended that Director Sopczneski presents the three-year road program to the Capital Improvement Committee, which is currently developing a five-year road plan, for coordination purposes. She also requested that the board explore obtaining a breakdown of equipment repair costs by department (public works, police, fire) so that the board and finance committee have better visibility into where maintenance dollars are being spent across town.

**Walter Seaman (Director of Maintenance and Safety, Gosinski Park):** Expressed formal gratitude to Director Sopczneski, Superintendent Heller, and the highway crew for their assistance in clearing the parking lots at the park following the heavy winter sand and salt accumulation. He noted the effort was greatly appreciated by staff and residents of the facility.

**Melanie Church, 328 Main Street:** Commented that the town did, in fact, receive a DEEP fine the first-time salt and sand were stored at the current garage location due to its proximity to an aquifer, and that the original intent was to require removal of all storage from that area. She urged the board to verify current DEEP requirements before investing in the expansion. She also raised broader concerns about the use of revenue from surplus equipment auctions, advocating that proceeds be used to offset taxpayer costs rather than simply rolled into new purchases.

She additionally noted the sewer district is facing a potential \$15 million capital project for phosphorus compliance, with limited federal funding anticipated, which would significantly impact local tax rates.

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matters – if needed**

Executive session was not required.

## **11. Administrative**

No administrative matters were presented.

## **12. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Nate Brown commended the work of Director Sopczneski, Superintendent Heller, and the highway crew, noting that morale appears strong and that the department's transparency — particularly the financial detail provided on the road program — is critical as the town undertakes significant road bond expenditures. He asked that the paving and reclamation work on North Street be sequenced efficiently in a single mobilization to minimize remobilization costs, with a goal of completion prior to November 2026. Director Sopczneski and Superintendent Heller confirmed that is the plan, with a summer completion target.

### **13. Commission Member Comments**

**Joseph Carey** reiterated the board's formal appreciation for the highway department's support of the Plymouth Housing Authority, echoing the public comment made by the park's director.

**Mark Lewandoski** reported that the access road to the post office and learning center on North Riverside has been improved with hot patch repairs to several large sections, noting the safety concern has been substantially addressed, though a few minor areas of asphalt remain.

**Joseph Carey** additionally requested that the highway crew address several significant potholes on South Main Street, noting they pose a particular hazard to motorcyclists. Director Sopczneski reported that a related issue has arisen at the Plymouth/Wolcott border near 260 Wolcott Road, where a historical gap in maintenance responsibility has left potholes unaddressed. He confirmed he has spoken with the Mayor of Wolcott, who is also the acting DPW Director, and is working to coordinate a joint resolution, potentially paving an additional 100–200 feet to eliminate the "no man's land" section.

**Superintendent Heller** clarified for the record that the department's hot box is a 3-ton unit (not 2-ton as previously noted), and that the crew is typically able to complete two to three loads per day when patching, sourcing asphalt from the plant in Waterbury.

### **14. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by a Joe Carey and seconded by Member Mark Lewandoski. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45p.m.

Submitted by,

Pamela Pelletier  
Recording Secretary