

1. The **Regular Meeting** of the **Town of Plymouth Police Commission** was called to order on **Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:01 p.m.** in the Senior Lounge, Plymouth Town Hall by Chairman Ann Tuleja.

2. Roll Call – Connie Kapralos, Mike Maffia, Ann Tuleja. Also present Robin Gudczauskas, Recording Secretary; Chief Karen Krasicky and Council Liaison DiAnna Schenkel (arrived 7:15 p.m.). Excused absent: Jay Biernacki, Keith Golnik.

3. Notification of Fire Exits

4. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting: December 8, 2009

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of December 8, 2009 by Connie Kapralos; second Mike Maffia. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

5. Traffic Authority Business

a. “No Through Truck” Signage on Bemis Street per Mr. Anthony Lorenzetti’s Letter – Chairman Tuleja read letter into record dated 11/17/2009 from Anthony Lorenzetti, Public Works Director, to the Traffic Authority/Chief Krasicky. Chairman Tuleja reviewed history of “No Through Truck” signs which were sent to the State of CT because officers were ticketing trucks. Per the State there is no street in town that is not allowed to have a sign on it. If a road has a “No Thru Truck” sign, a truck can go on it as long as it is a route to their destination. A call was received from Rebecca Pizzonia stating on Bemis Street a “No Thru Truck” sign was taken down and not replaced. The Commission is revisiting a previous application to look at streets to see what we want to do. Chairman Tuleja reviewed and explained a map highlighted in green and orange noting Route 72 to Bemis is orange and “no thru truck” and space between High Street, Seymour and North Harwinton need “No Thru Truck” on High Street because Bemis Street is a “No Thru Truck”. Public Works has stated from High Street to Burger Road is okay to allow trucks to go through that have a destination. Beginning Bemis and 72 to High is “No Thru”, and the corner of Burger to Bemis north would be “No Thru” to Armbruster. Harwinton from Rt 6 going north is all orange and does not include “No Thru Truck”. From Rt 6 to Harwinton is already “No Thru” from the State of CT. It is not where they (trucks) cannot access business; “No Thru Truck” means you cannot go on those roads to use as a bypass to get somewhere else. Mr. Lorenzetti had also stated areas of Schroback Road are very dangerous and it should be continuation through. He wants “No Thru” from Harwinton and north all through Schroback. Only part on Bemis that would reflect you can use is to use High Street, take left and onto Burger. There is no way to lock trucks out from using any road in the State of CT. The Chief also emails to Tony to review information from the State as the review process is important to have for Tony Lorenzetti’s review. Commission questions: Mike Maffia – (a) High Street is a bit difficult for trucks to get up and to put semi would be a problem. Discussion

held noting by putting signs up it discourages trucks from using Bemis. It is whether or not the officers stop the truck to ask for their destination. (b) On Rt 6 says two signs, one industrial park and one the high school. On North Harwinton and Armbruster, you need to guess what way to go as there is nothing that marks what way. Approve "No Thru Truck" sign at: 72 and Bemis; Burger Road and Bemis; Harwinton and Seymour going north; Armbruster going south; Bemis and North Harwinton Laura VanDuzer, 238 Bemis Street, Terryville – coming out of back part of park, look to left for Bemis toward Burger Road, there is a sign there. You turn to the right and go over bridge you have Armbruster on right and there is a sign, Bemis there is nothing. You go to end of Bemis at Harwinton and no longer a sign but there use to be. Chairman Tuleja stated the need to solve no way to turn left or right out of Napco Drive. Former Sgt. Biernacki had stated at a previous meeting a concern that the g.p.s. will take people a certain way and they will get locked in. (Council Liaison Dianna Schenkel arrived 7:15 pm). Public Comment: Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville – (a) The way describing, once come out of Burger they cannot go left or right. Chairman Tuleja stated they will go left onto Bemis and right onto High. (b) To go onto High to Route 6 and to make that turn, a semi cannot make that turn. Suggestion is from Bemis is to cut onto Harwinton which is a truck route and safest. Chairman Tuleja stated Harwinton Avenue is not a truck route. If they have a destination leaving the industrial park you cannot stop them from where they want to go. (c) If High Street is a truck route they do not have width to make a turn. It is obstructing traffic. Mike Maffia stated problem is you have to look from a worse case scenario not from a truck like Gagnon's Carpet. If you have a semi that comes out Burger to Bemis and tries to take corner on High, it will not happen. Chairman Tuleja stated if he has a destination to the park he can utilize all those roads. Signs do not block anyone from using the roads. If destination from industrial park and leaving the town, they can use any of these roads. Rebecca Pizzonia, 234 Bemis Street, worse case scenario on her section of Bemis which is across from upper and lower pond is there is not enough room to accommodate two trucks. She has been pushing kids in the stroller during the day when she had to jump into a yard. There are trucks (Yarde Metal) that to go the back way to Napco Drive as that is a short cut into the industrial park because most businesses are at the back part of the park. Local companies are not using gps. They are saving time, not a safe means of transportation. Can't we encourage people to use safer routes and suggest putting up "No Thru Trucks". Mike Maffia asked if signage wise, can a sign list truck route and if do that, it may solve the problem because than you are telling them and they will know safer route. He gave an example of a large semi coming up 72, he was given directions by dispatcher and does not read height signs. There is a bridge in Pequabuck that is low. A truck route may keep them on safer path and just an idea. Chairman Tuleja stated she would like to bring that back to Tony Lorenzetti for input, a preferred truck route sign posted on signs. Discussion held on trying to be proactive as a police commission and to invite the industrial park committee, or write a letter, asking them to bring this topic to their committee to discuss narrowing of roads, safety and local streets, encourage truck drivers to utilize these routes and not come out

of the back of Napco. Connie Kapralos also suggested a letter from the business to their preferred vendors on the safety/truck route concerns. Chairman Tuleja stated the Commission will work with Tony and come up with safe truck routes noting some other roads are dangerous to pedestrians. DiAnna Schenkel, Council liaison, stated the Commission hit the nail on the head and she is thinking of signs in stating an evacuation route. It is getting the word out and getting recommended. Bemis and High are treacherous in the winter and vehicles of those weights (semi's) cannot go down and out and could kill someone. Need Harwinton Avenue and Preston Road being routes. She agrees the Commission cannot force but can try to educate and encourage. Chairman Tuleja stated the Commission needs to go the next step and have Tony get someone from the industrial park group at a meeting. We do not want to discourage economic growth and we need a safe environment. (d) Another suggestion, Yarde Metal is no longer owned by Craig Yarde but his daughter is the president and her last name is Smith and they are very, very town orientated or whatever and think maybe not calling up and screaming at them but if you call and ask her to come out and look at the way her trucks are going they would be accommodating. If Yarde Metals is doing this every day, some time you need to approach that person and say I was almost hit on a narrow road your man is taking and there is a better route. They are town and city orientated and they are human beings and sometimes you need to contact those local ones, and she is acting C.E.O. there and you can correct these problems by talking. Laura VanDuzer, Bemis Street, it is not just Yarde, it is others and tractor trailers. There is a little bridge on Bemis and that needs to be checked. Mike Maffia noted there is also weight limits on bridges and if there is one on bridge you can bar vehicles over certain weight from using that road near Sherman Lane. Rebecca Pizzonia, Bemis Street, stated she has checked into it and could not find data on this bridge on DOT or list of State-monitored bridges and not able to obtain that information from Tony Lorenzetti's office to get specifications on efficiency rating. The width alone it is a small bridge. Mike Maffia stated if it has not been maintained properly since first installed it has a reduced rate based on age and deterioration. Chairman Tuleja stated it is on her list and she will find out. She suggested tabling this item, will keep Mrs. Pizzonia informed and suggested she may want to sit on a committee as a neighborhood person and feels that way this will be accomplished.

MOTION: To table by Mike Maffia; second Connie Kapralos and the vote unanimous.

6. Correspondence – none.

7. Old Business – none.

8. New Business

a. Chairman to address the Commission about conducting business within the Police Commission Meetings – Chairman Tuleja stated she will give update on how the commission meeting runs as an overview to get everyone on the same page. There will be an agenda and it will be followed.

*Traffic Authority business - there is a procedure in place where we get a letter from someone, it gets put on the agenda and we usually send it to Tony Lorenzetti for input and at the same time we go out and look at area in question. At the last meeting we motioned to put up a sign. Tony's concern is cause and effect. Someone requests a sign up that might not go up in their yard but in someone else's who does not know about it. There is no data for sign for outlet or dead end but one person says what they want. We want to make sure when we put up a sign that there is a need for it not just because someone wants to solve their own problem. Tony is looking to work with someone from this Commission who would work with him on Traffic Authority applications for signage and come up with a process for the application that would give us more routine and an accurate way of doing things to make sure everyone falls into procedure. Chairman Tuleja stated when she became Chair of this Commission she had asked Mr. Lorenzetti to work with this Commission with this engineering expertise as well as in regard to signage, to keep in mind need and costs.

Commission members agreed with this but are not able to take this task on. Chairman Tuleja will ask Keith Golnik if he will work with Tony. Chairman Tuleja stated she would like Jay Biernacki to work on a manpower analysis with her.

*Minutes – not expecting everyone to vote the same or to not talk about everything but does want all commissioners in the same mindset on what the Police Commission is trying to accomplish. She stated she wants everyone to read the minutes and commission secretary (Connie Kapralos) to check for accuracy of the minutes.

Chairman Tuleja stated she reads her minutes and it is important that everyone does as that is the accurate record that sits out there because sometimes it is not positive. There are three members here tonight and if one was not at the meeting of minutes being voted on, you can motion or second to accept and need to abstain from the vote. That abstention goes to majority vote whether positive or negative.

*Motions – we denied a motion but did not use words “deny without prejudice”. Important that when a motion is denied in the future that we “deny without prejudice”. In doing that a lot of confusion to get a motion off the table. You are denying what is in front of you and it does not matter about the rest of a street or six streets away. It matters about what is in front of you. If a person two houses away came in to apply for the same thing, depending on that application, may get it. You need to look at an application/request in front of you. There is hesitation in making motions. Always be firm to deliver as it is the power of the motion whether for you to agree or disagree, not everybody needs to agree to everything all the time and can have dissension vote and be happy. We are not all going to be on the same page and do not want anyone to feel they cannot like something or not voice their opinion. You need to remember what motioning about and can ask the secretary to read back the motion at any time. When having discussion it sets how the Commission feels about the motion especially when all in agreement so that you do not have to make it and then say you want to make the motion with the last six points. You can say you want help with a motion and how should we put it. People should feel comfortable making a motion and if concerned about wording it correctly, place it out there and work on it during the meeting. We have new Commissioners who need to feel comfortable and if there is incident that happens that is coming into the Commission, it is good to give the Chairman a heads up or if something is going before the town attorney and you need

an explanation, give her a call. She will rarely shut down anyone from speaking publicly but if legal situation she will not allow it. She encourages Commission members to call her at any time with questions.

*Executive sessions – four reasons for them: legal reasons, personnel reasons, officer safety reasons, negotiations. As a Police Commission these are the areas we can go into under Executive Session and when doing that it will be on the agenda. Motion to go into Executive Session which will require the time, who is invited into Executive Session. People invited have to be relevant to the Executive Session. When discussion is held in Executive Session, the Commissioners will stick to the topic of which the Executive Session for. When coming out of Executive Session, we will make a motion to come out, stated the time and will require a second and vote. Everyone is to keep in mind what is said in Executive Session because what is said there is extremely confidential and cannot be breached. You will see there can be a correlation between what happen in budgets, in chief's reports and all kinds of ways to make sure we justify what we are doing. Correlation needs to be made to it. If you vote on an Executive Session you will have that on your agenda. Motions to be made on discussion in Executive Session. You will not discuss what was said in Executive Session but you will come out and make a motion. It is a privacy item on what is said within the Executive Session.

*Budget – we have to accept the budget for 2010-2011 but it is not done. The Police Commission does discuss and motion on the budget. We are waiting for decisions for final numbers and will need a special meeting this month to put that in. We will work on manpower analysis study to upgrade it which is something when the Chief came on, we were looking into the future and being ex-Board of Finance member, wanted a plan. Something was started but five years later need to upgrade it. Have asked Commissioner Biernacki to work on the manpower analysis as he worked in the police department for 30 years and a great asset to that preparation. As a sub committee it will come to this board to be accepted. Any applications with Tony Lorenzetti will be from that sub committee and then to this Commission to be accepted. Everything always comes before the Police Commission for a final decision and for conversation. Anything that comes before the Police Commission you need to feel comfortable with it and where going in future.

*Chief's Report – confusion last month on what was wanted. Luckily we have a Chief who gives us what we need. Chairman Tuleja noted she has no background in law enforcement and did not realize evidence was taken to the crime lab or where it was. The report is an education, a bridge between the department and commission. In discussion last month was Policies and Procedures which are not under our jurisdiction; General Orders are but had not been redone since the 80's. Chief Krasicky has slowly been redoing these in her spare time and bringing up to snuff because five years ago the Town Council directed the Commissions to clean house and clean up General Orders. Then we had an Acting Chief who wanted us to farm it out but Chief Krasicky has taken it on because of her experience in this. The Police Commission is responsible for General Orders. Policy and procedure of the police department are not to our prevue. The Commission should give her the confidence to give us what she thinks we need to know and to be able to accomplish that. It is a bridge and certain things in that report accomplish what was done in the last five

years such as the Detective that was not in this department in many years; also, the SRO position. Our word was given to the Board of Finance that this would be maintained, expanding our police department and less overtime which the Chief's report is indicative of that. What is accomplished by more patrol officers is to cut down on overtime expenditures and it continues to decrease every year. The Board of Finance does not want us to go into deficit even though we are the Safety board and can technically go into deficit. When you see those items in it, the Detective and SRO; Commissioner Biernacki asked that the sergeant's report be given to the Chief to see patrolman's view. This has all been created to have bridges and to make sure the Police Commission knows what the department is and is working. You never know when budgetary cuts will come and we need to make sure we continue to know what is going on in our department and it runs efficiently the way it should. Without her having the ability to put that in the report, it is not our life and knowing what goes on every day, we need that information. The report reflects a paring down of what we wanted and accomplished what we need to. While it may look that the Chief keeps a calendar, there was animosity when came on in believing she did not need to be position of community liaison with the Police Department but the Commission at that time picked her for that reason to bridge the community. This community relationship has clergy wanting to pay for a police dog and continue to fund; and the school wanted to raise money for police vest for the dog and bridges community with police department. You have community letters saying officers are polite, people see officers on beat and in cars; people watch and making sure officers are working. We want to understand that and need to give us her Chief's report because it is her report. We need to give latitude she needs to give us information we require to be a Police Commission. Starting with the next agenda will be a line item for Commissioner Comments which enables the Commission to be able to ask questions not sure of or want to bring something to the table. If you want to add something to the agenda that we need a motion to add to the agenda; but if you want to comment on something than this line item would be helpful. Want to see all members be more jelled as a commission and understand what their authority is. Everyone needs to understand we cannot know what goes on in the police department as far as personnel as we are next step up. Should an officer get suspended for more than 5 days then they can appeal to the Police Commission and we will tackle that; but we cannot get involved in day to day matters. Policies and directives are done by the Chief of Police and should a Commissioner have a question on that you should not hesitate to call and get an explanation.

- b. Discuss and take action on the nomination of Jennifer Pacelli as a Part-time Animal Control Officer – Chairman Tuleja stated the Police Commission is to authorize our part time animal control officers (aco) and Chief Krasicky has hired a part time animal control officer and did not know date of start and did not believe body responsible but we are. Chief Krasicky stated a test was given and this individual came in first on exam. Animal Control Officers are needed because part time aco's have full time jobs, dispatch has been inundated with animal control officer calls. The last full time ACO was on board August 2006 was 32 hours. This individual has been hired and through training, completed

today, and ask for approval. She was temporarily sworn in based on fact going through training and will be officially sworn in upon approval from Commission. Her hours will be when needed and issue now is during the day during the week. We have 3 part timers. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville stated (a) she noticed this is a part time animal control officer and does that mean now you are looking for another officer or is her job police officer and this. Chief Krasicky stated she is a civilian and an animal control officer only. (b) The charter did not change with request you asked, it didn't pass. Chairman Tuleja stated animal control officers are part of the police department. We had a full timer who worked 32 hours and gone; now this is another part timer who can fill hours that 3 part timers took but are working so little we needed someone else on as needed. Chief Krasicky stated they are sworn for duties under State of CT but civilians. **MOTION:** To authorize the hiring of Jennifer Pacelli as a part time Animal Control Officer by Mike Maffia; second Connie Kapralos. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

c. Budgetary Discussion/Special Meeting – Chairman Tuleja stated the proposed 2010-2011 budget is not ready and will call for a special meeting.

9. Chief's Report – Chairman Tuleja noted only 17 vacancies this month; officers volunteered to work and none mandated. Congratulated Chief Krasicky on a good job shortening report and making sure she got all input. Mike Maffia stated good job and covered everything that needed to be in the report. Noted Detectives and SRO have been very busy and like to see what is here with patrolling, lunches, counseling students, patrol school. Chairman Tuleja stated she is happy to see no loitering at the library. Chief Krasicky stated the second shift continues to monitor and less problems there. Any time presence is there adds to positive; officers were getting out and walking around library and inside and gives sense of safety. Update on mobile data terminals noting three will be in the police cruisers, mounted, and in future hopes to have more. Start up cost is \$30,000. By having laptops in cruisers, time management, and Officers are able to make report at scene, more effective and depending on how set up, can do reports in vehicles and still be out in the public. Also when trying to get information and dispatcher is busy, they can go onto computer and obtain listings on vehicles and get officer safety information. Sergeants can check for errors, etc. depending on how much the department can get for the money. Officers currently have to come off the road to do reports. Discussion held on Department of Transportation on Harwinton Avenue and North Harwinton regarding need more officers paid on overtime basis for 40 days to 100 calendar days and because work is within Plymouth it is not extra duty. Chief Krasicky stated the town is doing a project on Harwinton Avenue. Chairman Tuleja stated if 4 officers are on a shift could we try to budget where one officer is doing road work, but we cannot pull off road work for a call. Chief Krasicky noted if we plan for that day and one of other three pulls out sick you are hiring on overtime and we are mandated the manpower of 3 per shift. Discussion held on budget costs to fund this for 40 calendar days, 8 hours per day not weekend totaling roughly 224 hours at Grade A patrolman rate. As of July 1st, if detective or sergeant works more, \$9815.16 and if up to 100

calendar days \$25,240.32 out of our overtime budget. Chairman Tuleja asked if we get funding from the Town for this project or in kind services where someone gets paid and why not in project budget as it is a lot of money. Chief Krasicky stated it was brought to her attention by Tony Lorenzetti. The Commission has made substantial cuts to overtime budget with new officers taking less sick time, and having less vacation time, etc. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, stated she believes Harwinton Avenue is federal stimulus money and you have right as federally subsidized, this is labor for that job to be done and think you need to go back and check. If you need money for police officers the same as if construction company, that is figured into price and somebody, that has been figured in or adjust for that and that money is going somewhere. This stimulus money if go on and check, you will find out officers are in there and money going into something else because they went in with a price and that should figure equipment, police and everyone has to be paid prevailing wage which is union scale. Go to CCRPA and ask why money is not there for this and just a suggestion. Chairman Tuleja stated she will talk to Tony Lorenzetti about whether this is to be reimbursed or not and if it is an accounting method. Discussion held. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, if you remember the high school being built, we paid for the Building Inspector and Fire Chief to go out and Sanitation to go out there and taken out of monies that was for the school. SBC had to pay back, because they were charging overtime to the town. DiAnna Schenkel, liaison, when you get money funded it is up to whoever is doing the project to make it all fit. If he needs officers something else needs to be foregone. Somewhere he needs to restructure budget so it fits within money appropriated. He may be looking to see costs, estimates and did not plan for it. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Chief Krasicky ask when Pete and Steve did road with USDA money for water to put water in, police officers used and if you check back it did not come out of the police budget but USDA money. Chairman Tuleja stated that was under extra duty. Melanie Church, it is the same thing, but the town has that money and does not come under extra duty. Councilwoman Schenkel stated this is also Board of Finance and Town Council who will ask public works how they are accounting for this and there are other people looking out for you. The Police Department has always been going for grants, a give and take process all around and as liaison she will be very vocal. Chairman Tuleja noted the overtime budget will be cut from schedule change, officers on board and if have to absorb this that will be cut. Connie Kapralos stated the Chief's report is good and concise noting article on veteran female officer rises to chief. Discussion held with Commission stating nice write up, great for Plymouth and thanked the Chief for keeping them informed.

MOTION: To accept the Chief's report by Connie Kapralos; second Mike Maffia.
Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

10. Public Participation

a. DiAnna Schenkel, Council Liaison – Welcome to Mike and happy to be back as liaison. Sub committee idea is very good and the committee might want to implement on person recommending sign is notification that they have to send something to neighbors notifying them of request. Also, Commission Comment line

item on agenda is brilliant idea and it offers opportunity to say something outside of the agenda. Always enjoys reading the Chief's report and Karen has brought a lot of community trust and pride back. She sees where people are not afraid to approach a police officer and not intimidated and this is thanks to Karen. All of the community volunteering the Chief has done is reflected in this and shows appreciation of what she is bringing to the job. Under this Chief we have never seen more training and growth of officers, advancement opportunities of officers and feel this group, from community perspective, seems to be working together and working as a team and nice to see. Love those laptops and allows to work efficiently and in the moment while doing other things. Chairman Tuleja noted police presence in the community is noticed and public comments on seeing the officers out there and very important. People take effort to show appreciation to officers.

b. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street– thanked Officer Griffin as one day her husband's dog got out and stopped traffic on Main Street and they came out and able to get her; probably a 45 minute fiasco and people were wonderful. Also, 3 car accident on Route 6 and she lives on Route 6 and update and may need to be looked at by state DOT as where that car went off, about 40 years ago her brother went off and some of problem was corrected there, his brakes failed, speed has increased over time and for safety maybe they should look at it. Chairman Tuleja stated she will put it on the agenda next month to look from Chute Gates to D&D Auto to look at stretch and ask the State to look and maybe make changes i.e. to the speed limit or improvements to the road. Melanie Church, one other thing, notice animal shelter will start building and has the town approached them to add a section on for our dogs and something the Chief may want to look into and may be cost savings to us; they are non profit and tax free. Council Liaison Schenkel stated she will check into it. Chairman Tuleja stated it is nice to have our liaison come back for continuity. Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, maybe Public Works can help out this summer in exchange for putting up our section of it and numerous ways not to spend a lot of money.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn by Connie Kapralos; second Mike Maffia. Discussion: none.

Vote: unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas
Recording Secretary