

1. The **Regular Meeting of the Town of Plymouth Police Commission** was called to order on **Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Senior Lounge, Plymouth Town Hall by Chairman Ann Tuleja.

2. Roll Call – Jay Biernacki, Keith Golnik, Connie Kapralos, Mike Maffia (arrived 7:14 p.m.), Ann Tuleja. Also present Robin Gudeczauskas, Recording Secretary; Chief Karen Krasicky and Council Liaison DiAnna Schenkel.

3. Notification of Fire Exits

MOTION: To move item 7 on agenda to become item 4 by Keith Golnik; second Connie Kapralos and the vote unanimous.

4. Old Business

a. Discuss Safety and Traffic Concerns Regarding Construction Site on Public Roads
Jay Biernacki distributed a Town of Plymouth Ordinance Concerning Police Traffic Duty. He also distributed information to what enforcement would be from a standard infraction schedule and State Statute which gives municipalities the power to adopt a town ordinance and gives authority to issue infraction for a violation. Areas highlighted show on top part what is applicable (read into record) we have set a \$250 fine for any violation so this ordinance would go to particular Statute highlighted and officers would have to fill out and issue to construction site and shut it down; per the Ordinance. Review and discussion held noting layout of Ordinance is easily read and easy to understand. DiAnna Schenkel, concern is if protested or objected to in terms of public demonstration for freedom of speech issues. Jay Biernacki, not sure applicable; if the town accepts and adopts the Ordinance it becomes a municipal law and has teeth from State Statute. This particular Statute applies to all the Ordinances in the town and this infraction can be applied. It is always at the discretion of the officers. He stated when public works issues permit for digging we are accepting liability because we are allowing it to happen and if a car rolls into construction equipment or a child is struck we assume responsibility. We should have a clear traffic lane; if people are gathering and that is more criminal and disorderly conduct and if officer gives order to disperse it would be disorderly conduct. DiAnna Schenkel stated the Ordinance is great and the Commission has her support of it. Connie Kapralos, question if falls under category of emergency repair of something; Jay Biernacki stated this is something that is predetermined and if a telephone is taken down this does not prevail. Keith Golnik, he hopes during permit process where a construction firm gets appropriate permits through Land Use they will be able to hand them a pamphlet at that level so that the firms know they need to coordinate with the Police Department. Jay Biernacki, it would be beginning stage and part of permitting application. Ann Tuleja, Tony has packet of everything required and if this Ordinance is adopted it should be added to that packet.

MOTION: To send this Ordinance concerning Police Traffic Duty to the Mayor in hopes it will go to the Council next for their agenda, by Jay Biernacki; second Keith Golnik. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

5. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting: February 9, 2010

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of February 9, 2010 by Connie Kapralos; second Keith Golnik. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous with Keith Golnik abstaining.

6. Traffic Authority Business

a. “No Through Truck” Signage on Bemis Street per Mr. Anthony Lorenzetti’s Letter (Tabled)–. Will remain tabled and Chairman Tuleja meeting with Tony this week to get committee for that.

b. Letter from Mr. Ken Wood to the Plymouth Police Department Regarding Signage on North Harwinton Avenue – Read into record by Chairman Tuleja dated 1/30/2010. (Mike Maffia, arrived 7:14 p.m). Ken Wood, as you come up from industrial park there is sign that says to 72 and would like to see one on the other side pointing toward 72 to assure guests that they can find way out to Rt. 72. Most come in from Rt 6 and he brings them in 72 than try to wind through Harwinton to North Harwinton. Commissioners noted several years ago a sign was requested from the Plymouth Industrial Park as people were shooting past Preston Road and turning around in private homes. Ken Wood, there is a sign that says to 72 and a third sign which is an arrow that points down. They average at least 5000 people per year who go to the farm and travel that route. There are problems with Route 6 and anyone trying to get back to route 6 as they get to Harwinton Avenue and go right trying to find Route 6 and end up in Plymouth. Once they get out to 72 it is o.k. but question a sign below that marks 72. Discussion held on whether it is better to have a sign for Rt 6 pointing down to Harwinton and then one to 72 pointing down Preston Road noting how easily someone can shoot over 72, not realize it and get lost. Keith Golnik suggested for a sign pointing to route 6 you would need a few because of bends in road. Most come from Bristol or Route 8, they bring them up North Street and these are directions on web sites. Discussion held on sending this to Tony Lorenzetti noting whether or not he has money for these signs. Chairman Tuleja reviewed process for Mr. Wood noting signs come out of the Public Works Director’s budget and we send it to him as the Traffic Authority as he will be responsible to put up sign. There are certain times when the Board of Education has need of signs and Mr. Lorenzetti made decision they had to be in but the BOE had to pay for the signs. If a business is requesting and the sign (s) goes in for their use, who pays for it because it is not a safety issue it is a directional issue and that is not for the Commission to decide who to pay and Tony needs to make that decision. Discussion held. Ken Wood, it is an investment if he has to pay for it. The Commission stated they want to make sure we make the right decisions on what signs and where to be placed so that people get out or in. DiAnna Schenkel, liaison, two issues that will suit Mr. Wood’s question; we need to acknowledge that people are traveling when light is dim and do not know where they are going and you probably have a better case with a sign at the end of Preston Road. We want to direct traffic from the industrial park down Preston Road vs. Bemis Street to avoid truck traffic and we want to use signs as a way to change people’s habits to get to go a different way. Also, the lighting at the end of Preston Road is not very bright and 72 can be a hazardous road especially late at night and if go across the way we could have a serious accident. Having directional or reflective it gives them

notice of major highway. The first sign when people are leaving might be a case more difficult to make but could see because of a state highway and we can find creative ways to get something at end of Preston Road at 72. Chairman Tuleja stated this is an opportunity to send to Tony Lorenzetti and for the commissioners to drive it in the next month and then Tony can make comments and get back to us for the next meeting. Ken Wood stated from Preston getting onto 72 he has not heard much feedback but problem is coming down North Harwinton to turn left onto Preston Road to go out to 72 and where had more comments. Chairman Tuleja stated we want to encourage business in our community and make sure we get people in and out of our community and do the right thing. Mr. Wood stated he will not be able to make the April 13th meeting so Chairman Tuleja will call him and let him know what happens at the next meeting.

MOTION: To send request by Mr. Wood for signage on North Harwinton Avenue to the Public Works Director by Keith Golnik; second Connie Kapralos. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.

c. Review Draft of Sign Applications –Chairman Tuleja distributed packets on signs stating Tony gave us these to consider and did not know whether or not we wanted to look at doing a neighborhood watch sign application and feels we should have a sign application for any sign that comes before us. This is the one he thought could fit our town and feels it is important for the Police Commission. Some of the comments from him are: did we want to be proactive as a Traffic Authority Commission or did we want to be reactive. We only react and grant people signs when they complain. We go through process; is there something we want to undertake as a Commission to be proactive noting concerns on route 6 parking. Our town is lacking in signage as well as speed limit signs. Do we want to react to complaints or look at way as Police Commission to have a plan for that. We do not have money in budget and a tight year ahead and the State is cutting but he has a point and something to throw out there and not decide on tonight. Keith Golnik, as I drive around the town there is definitely signs that would have to wonder if put up properly at right heights to standards, signs that need to be replaced because faded but coming up with idea on how to be proactive is a daunting task whether we choose 5 or 6 roads or one square block mile to look at and some would fall under the Highway Superintendent. Don't know if he has the jurisdiction to replace and maintain signs and something that particular position should be doing. Ann Tuleja, signs equal money and it is a lot of money and reviewed issue on Keegan Road. Agree with proactive and reactive and people do come to us for a reason and what about the people that don't and what is our thought. Discussion held on holding workshop, putting together information for the public who has an idea but doesn't know how to go about bringing it to our attention; we cannot possible know every road and every issue; we are willing to listen to issue of safety or direction. Ann Tuleja, we can have a public hearing or public input on it after we work on it here. Our roads have not been updated and something we need to look at; we need to figure a way we feel is good to attack it. We can cover a few roads, work slowly and would go from outside in and those outside of community were established later. Sign permit is the beginning of it; next month will put application on agenda. Keith stated he will come up with a form the town can use

and will present it at the next meeting; need reason for request and documentation that can correspond with it. Ann Tuleja, any plan that we have we would invite the Council for review after we determine this is a plan we like and should have the other leaders of our community as well as Tony at the workshop to give us some help. Councilwoman Schenkel stated she loves the idea that you want to develop your own permit/form and because you are going into a workshop to say these are the criteria and might consider more layers such as a sign plan and how will we implement it and you might want to think of including emergency management. Chairman Tuleja noted she has to go to a BOF meeting with Tony when his budget comes up as the Police Commission representative because we make decisions on Tony's budget and I do not want to see signs in our budget. We make decisions on somebody else's money and okay because it is a safety situation and we make decisions based on safety and as in tonight, we have someone asking for a sign, not a safety issue and we have to determine what to do. We have to keep in mind when doing signs to make sure we are not becoming total sign friendly and get nuts on them. We want to develop something to make sure if someone wants a sign, is it more for business and why should the community have to pay for it, and something Tony has to determine and not us. We can put on the form it needs to comply with public works standards and if voluntary payment on citizen or have town pay for it. Mr. Wood would like to have sign put up and will pay for it and something we can understand for his business need but we need Tony to make sure it is put in right and meets criteria. Keith Golnik will not be at April meeting and it will be on May agenda.

7. Correspondence

8. New Business - none

9. Chief's Report – Chairman Tuleja noted 15 vacancies; she and the Chief had to go before the Board of Finance last night and having these things in our Chief's report helped us make them understand the animal control calls, vacancies and backfills. The call list continues to be up and we had a lot of conversation last night on dog complaints and concerns on our budget. Keith Golnik, on extra patrol checks do you see any need for third shift 892 extra checks and need for some of them that may be at same places where another category created or different. Chief Krasicky stated there are various ones. Keith, any reported separately. Chief Krasicky, there are so many and making sure businesses are safe and places with problems are ok. Discussion held. Ann Tuleja noting on cars, a problem and the Chief's report that car 10 blew an engine.

MOTION: To accept the Chief's Report by Connie Kapralos, second Keith Golnik.
Discussion: none. **Vote:** unanimous.

10. Public Participation

a. DiAnna Schenkel, as Police Commission liaison and also liaison to the BOF, thank you both for going to talk to the BOF because they did not understand when a Council or union approves a position it is a position and you need to adjust the budget to make it work and they thought it was an option and it is necessary, needed and

important and it was done. Thank you for explaining it to them and why it is important to have a Detective Sergeant and Animal Control Officer/Police Officer position. Chairman Tuleja stated some of things that helped most was Chief Krasicky collected data based on calls that came in on first shift not able to be answered by ACO because we did not have one and part of what we heard was if they do not finance it we will not have it and they did not realize it was a position they needed to finance. When we left I think they were versed and did not have a provelm with it. Chief Krasicky explained the law to them and thinks it helped them; we asked them if they cut any more of our budget and we did not get anything that they cut but my understanding is they might have cut or uniforms which are pretty basic numbers that we cannot cut and are contractual and solid numbers. They cut our overtime again from what we cut it and I told them that is alright as long as you understand we are public safety and she is against deficit spending and if we get to a problem we will be seeing you. They cut the clothing allowance by \$1500; Chief Krasicky stated that is contractual and does not know how they did that. DiAnna Schenkel will check into that and stated everybody knows the belt is tight. Chairman Tuleja stated the Police Commission came in a bit under 1% of our budget and we had a 3% raise increase and we offset it well. She thinks people should justify things and our manpower analysis study shows a plan and what we are looking for and we have to update that. We are meeting with Capital Improvements and Municipal Facilities to get our police department and we need to know what we are looking at and have asked Jay to help for his expertise in that department and will also work with Karen and Dave and will update and bring to the commission to look at and approve. Discussion held. DiAnna Schenkel, other thing to ask is to consider is she went to a sidewalk presentation that EDC is doing and one thing architect talked about is enforcement is the key in changing landscape; talking specifically of area by Terryville Diner where cars are parking on the sidewalk and she has gone there many times and the back parking lot is empty. Wants the Commission to think about this in terms of cars there and will talk with Blight Committee on getting rid of broken down cars. We need to get a plan to improve the face of downtown and want to make sure that investment is protected so please consider and think about how we want to roll out this enforcement. Ann Tuleja, they came before us a few years ago and asked for people not to park there and application made and coming out of that driveway there were accidents. Discussion held. There have been allowed practices and nothing to do with police department but people who allowed use to go in there. If our police officers go down Route 6 and ticket people but do you want to tell them that is not fair to ticket someone at Sunrise and not at Hometown but okay to do so at Terryville Diner. If you look at Route 6 there are a lot of parking issues. DiAnna Schenkel, as the Traffic Authority maybe we can educate the public and maybe get appropriate signage and do not expect our officers to be out there; thinking about pawn shop across the street and if person is in wheelchair they could not get by that. Examples given. We need to think about things with skateboards, bicycles, etc and the Commission needs to think about it. Ann Tuleja, when we look at traffic and signs we should entertain Route 6. We looked at It's a Wrap and maintained they were not following the rules and there are a lot of other people not following the rules. DiAnna Schenkel, with regard to the dog kennel, ARF had submitted plans to Planning & Zoning and on

footprint and if to have a kennel they would have to pull back plans and there are liability issues if a person gets bit while getting a puppy and it a town kennel. Looked at renting space in kennels in town and have neighbors saying not my neighborhood and barking dogs. It is on the radar and looking at options; but for ARF it could hurt them and impact their non profit status. Keith Golnik, the best place for a kennel is in the 7 million town hall police expansion and right back here.

11. Commissioner's Comments

- a. Chairman Tuleja, a few things Keith brought up (a) he represents me at the Communication Commission and want to keep that continual, he does a good job, always there and will keep that. Also he says we have a Safety Board Police Commission vacancy. Ann stated she was thrown off that board by the previous mayor who said a Police Commission seat was not required. Keith has offered to go on to that vacancy and will be appointed unless somebody wants to do it. With no other volunteers, Keith will be appointed to the Safety Commission.
- b. Connie Kapralos reported she found extreme need for animal control officer yesterday at her job in Waterbury on Bunker Hill for a rabid fox and they got no one to respond and it was going through neighborhoods with children outside. Chairman Tuleja noted thanks to Karen who spoke with Bristol P.D. and they volunteered to train our ACO/PO.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn by Connie Kapralos; second Jay Biernacki. Discussion: none. Vote: unanimous.
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Gudeczauskas
Recording Secretary