

Town of Plymouth 2026 SEP -2 PM 1:53
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TOWN CLERK

Plymouth Town Council
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Regular Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2026

Call to Order: Mayor David Sekorski called the Regular Meeting of the Plymouth Town Council to order on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 7:00 PM at Plymouth Town Hall, Community Room, 80 Main Street, Plymouth, CT.

Roll Call: Present were Mayor David Sekorski, Councilor Sue Boilard, Councilor Ron Tiscia, and Councilor Ray Engle. Absent were Councilor TJ Zagurski (work obligation) and Councilor Joe Green (illness). Mayor Sekorski noted that he had confirmed with the Town Attorney that a simple majority constitutes a quorum for this body, and that the three members present were sufficient to conduct business.

Fire Exit Notification: Mayor Sekorski provided fire exit instructions to those in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Invocation: Mayor Sekorski delivered the invocation.

Addition of Emergency Agenda Item: Prior to proceeding with regular business, Mayor Sekorski indicated the need to add an emergency agenda item regarding a WPCA pump failure and a request for waiver of the bid process. The item was proposed to be inserted as Item 10, shifting subsequent agenda items accordingly.

Motion to add the agenda item – Discussion and possible action regarding WPCA pump failure and request for waiver of the bid process was made by Councilor Boilard and seconded by Councilor Tiscia. The motion carried unanimously.

Accept Meeting Minutes from August 4, 2026 Regular Meeting:

A motion was made by Councilor Ron Tiscia to accept the minutes of August 4, 2026, Regular Meeting, seconded by Councilor Sue Boilard. During discussion, Councilor Ray Engle indicated he would abstain, as he had not been present at that meeting. Mayor Sekorski determined that, given the abstention and the reduced quorum of three members, the council did not have sufficient participating votes to act on the motion.

Motion to table the acceptance of August 4, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes was made by Councilor Boilard and seconded by Councilor Tiscia. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: Mayor Sekorski opened the floor for public comments on agenda items. No members of the public came forward, and the item was closed.

Recognition and Closure of America250 Ad-Hoc Committee: Mayor Sekorski recognized the America250 Ad-Hoc Committee, which was formed by the Council to plan and execute events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. The committee organized a series of activities that drew nearly 1,000 attendees in total. Mayor Sekorski acknowledged the committee's chair as well as the municipal liaison, Gretchen DelCegno, and the following members: Jerry Milne, Mary Jean Monnerat, William Rinko, Rev. Denise Clapsaddle, Nate Doty, Charline Doty, Dorine Tennant, and Michelle Moskaluk. On behalf of the Town of Plymouth and the Town Council, Mayor Sekorski thanked all members for their volunteer hours and the success of the program. As the committee was an ad-hoc body that had completed its assigned mission, a motion was made to formally dissolve it.

Motion to dissolve the America250 Ad-Hoc Committee effective September 1, 2026, and to discharge its members from any further duties, was made by Councilor Boilard and seconded by Councilor Tiscia. The motion carried unanimously.

Boards and Commissions – Resignations:

Human Services Resignation – Lee Ulinskas: Mayor Sekorski presented the resignation of Lee Ulinskas from the Human Services Commission, which had been received and accepted by the Town Clerk's office.

Motion to accept the resignation of Lee Ulinskas from the Human Services Commission was made by Councilor Tiscia and seconded by Councilor Engle. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Appointment – Daniel Barrett: Mayor Sekorski presented the appointment of Daniel Barrett to the Public Works Board for a full three-year term. The position had become vacant following a resignation the prior month, and as the term of the prior occupant had already expired, this constitutes a new full term.

Motion to appoint Daniel Barrett to the Public Works Board for a three-year term was made by Councilor Boilard and seconded by Councilor Engle. The motion carried unanimously.

WPCA Appointment to Regular Member – Joseph Carey Jr.: Mayor Sekorski presented the appointment of Joseph Carey Jr. to a regular member seat on the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), to fill a vacancy through January 6, 2029. Mr. Carey had previously served as an alternate member and was formally endorsed by the WPCA commission for elevation to full membership.

Motion to appoint Joseph Carey Jr. as a regular member of the WPCA to fill a vacancy through January 6, 2029, was made by Councilor Tiscia and seconded by Councilor Boilard. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding WPCA Pump Failure and Request for Waiver of the Bid Process: Mayor Sekorski introduced this emergency agenda item and invited WPCA Chairman George Andrews to provide an overview of the situation.

Chairman Andrews explained that the WPCA operates two large primary pumps that handle the full incoming wastewater load at the plant. Both pumps are 36 years old, dating to the plant's last major upgrade in 1989–1991. On July 20th, one of the two pumps failed. Because the pumps are fully sealed units, internal servicing is not straightforward; an inspection via camera was conducted after cutting into one of the pump casings. Based on that inspection and consultation with the manufacturer's owner's representative, the cost to repair the failed pump was estimated at \$370,000–\$400,000, for a total replacement or repair cost of approximately \$700,000 for both units.

Chairman Andrews noted that both pumps are slated to be made obsolete by a plant upgrade anticipated within the next two to three years, making a \$700,000 repair investment unjustifiable. The WPCA therefore evaluated alternatives, including a long-term rental arrangement, but determined that rental costs over a three-year period would exceed the one-time purchase price. Only one manufacturer — Godwin Pump, represented by Xylem — was identified as producing a submersible, self-priming pump with integrated controls that could be wired into the plant's alarm and float systems, thereby eliminating the need for 24/7 manual staff oversight. The estimated purchase cost is between \$70,000 and \$100,000, not to exceed \$100,000. Chairman Andrews stressed the urgency of the situation: the current backup pump — a 36-year-old submersible with no automated controls — requires continuous staff monitoring. While flows are generally lower from summer through October, they increase significantly from November through June, and the WPCA needs a reliable pump in place and operational before that period. A standard bid process would delay procurement by 45 to 90 days or more, creating an unacceptable risk of insufficient capacity during high-flow periods and generating significant staff overtime costs.

Mayor Sekorski clarified for the record that this item does not constitute a request for an additional appropriation of funds; the WPCA has sufficient operating funds to cover the expense. The sole action requested of the Council was authorization to waive the formal bid process, as provided under Chapter 7, Section 4 of the Town Charter.

Councilor Boilard and Councilor Engle each asked clarifying questions regarding the not-to-exceed amount, the delivery timeline (estimated at approximately three months), and whether competitive bidding would realistically yield savings — to which Chairman Andrews explained that the integrated control requirement effectively narrowed the viable suppliers to one, making competitive bidding of limited practical value.

Motion to waive the bid process as described in Chapter 7, Section 4 of the Town Charter, and authorize the WPCA to proceed with the emergency repair and/or replacement of the failed pump, was made by Councilor Boilard and seconded by Councilor Tiscia. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously: Boilard – Yes, Tiscia – Yes, Engle – Yes.

Mayor's Report:

- **Police Dept Renovations Update:** Mayor Sekorski reported that renovations to the police department are progressing, with the former senior lounge nearly fully converted into an evidence storage area and additional upgrades underway in the patrol and detective areas. Final furnishings and security enhancements are expected to be completed by mid-September. He noted that a full financial accounting of the project will be provided once all work and invoices are finalized. Mayor Sekorski invited Council members and the public to view the renovations and acknowledged the efforts of Public Works staff and project vendors.
- **Route 6 Update:** The full reclamation and rebuild of the Route 6 section between Prospect Street and Park Street is unlikely to be completed by fall as originally planned. Current efforts are focused on curbing, sidewalk construction, and coordination with Connecticut Water for waterline replacement. Mayor Sekorski thanked Connecticut Water for collaborating with the Town, State, and contractor to ensure waterline maintenance on South Main Street was completed prior to full road reclamation.
- **Fleet review for all Town owned vehicles including Police Department vehicles:** Over recent months, several vehicle issues and collisions have prompted a comprehensive review of the Town's vehicle fleet, including police vehicles. Two department service vehicles have been removed from use due to significant damage, affecting the Recreation, Land Use, and Building departments. The Mayor's vehicle is currently being used to support department needs, and the Public Works Director has been without a town vehicle since being hired. The Town is working with the police fleet officer, Public Works Director, and chief mechanic to identify solutions, including repurposing a police vehicle scheduled to come offline and a nearly refurbished Public Works truck. One additional vehicle is still needed, and options continue to be evaluated. No new vehicle purchases are anticipated at this time, though future police vehicle needs for road construction duty are under review for next fiscal year budgeting. The Public Works Director will present a long-term capital vehicle plan when completed.
- **Evaluation of space and meeting rooms:** The Mayor reported significant space challenges within Town Hall, affecting multiple departments including Police, Town Clerk, Land Use, and general meeting space. He and the Public Works Director met with school officials to explore the possibility of temporarily using the library/media area at Eli Terry Middle School for a community/senior center, meeting space, and several offices. Required interior modifications would include adding two ADA-compliant restrooms, office reconfigurations, and technology upgrades; exterior changes would involve expanding and reconfiguring parking areas and improving traffic flow during school hours. This option is being evaluated as a short-term solution to address immediate space needs across town departments.
- **Personnel Updates:** The Mayor announced the hiring of two new staff members. Kate Losey began her role as Land Use Compliance Officer on August 17th; she is a New Milford resident with a background in conservation and land management. Tom Lozier

started as the Town's Building Inspector on August 24th. A Bristol resident, Mr. Lozier previously led the building departments in both Bristol and Cheshire and brings extensive experience in building code, blight policy, and ordinance enforcement. The Mayor stated his intention for Land Use staff, the Building Official, and Public Works personnel to collaborate in addressing blighted areas throughout the community.

Finally, Mayor Sekorski congratulated the Terryville Lions Club and all the volunteers on a successful—and possibly record-breaking—Terryville Country Fair. He noted that the Lions Club remains a tremendous asset to the Town of Plymouth and a valued partner to its many service organizations.

Town Council Liaison Reports:

Councilor Boilard reported that the Police, Fire, and Human Services Departments did not hold meetings. She noted that the Facilities Committee met the previous evening and is evaluating all potential options for securing additional space.

Councilor Tiscia reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved several multi-family housing applications as well as an application pertaining to livestock.

Councilor Engle reported that the Housing Authority engaged in an extensive discussion regarding maintenance, funding, and certain flooring concerns. He further stated that the Board of Finance reviewed matters related to the upcoming budget season. Fiscal Year 2024 has been closed, and efforts are underway to close Fiscal Year 2025 by the end of September and Fiscal Year 2026 by January or February. The Board also discussed the sale of assets and updates to existing financial procedures.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Mike Rinaldi of 30 Gosinski Park addressed the Council with concerns regarding the condition and maintenance of the United States Flag at Town Hall. He stated that the flag is not being properly cared for, noting that it is often not adequately illuminated and is not lowered to half-staff when required. Speaking as a U.S. Marine, Mr. Rinaldi expressed that the Town should uphold higher standards out of respect for all service members, particularly those currently serving. He respectfully requested that the Mayor assign responsibility for the flag's care to a designated individual to ensure these duties are carried out consistently and appropriately.

Melanie Church of 328 Main Street addressed the Council regarding the North Harwinton Avenue property. She noted that the Town had acquired approximately 65 acres from the Water Company, with 26 acres subsequently used for the construction of the school. Ms. Church expressed concern that the remaining land had not been subdivided or otherwise evaluated for potential use, stating that no follow-up actions appear to have been taken. She further stated her opposition to the possibility of Town Hall offices being located within a school building and urged the Town to instead consider utilizing land it already owns. Ms. Church emphasized the need for transparency in government and asserted that the public's interests must be prioritized.

Town Council Comments:

Councilor Ray Engle thanked the America250 Ad-Hoc Committee for their exemplary work. He suggested that the Town Council consider exploring the possibility of a future moratorium on data centers. Councilor Engle also inquired about potential penalties associated with delays in the Route 6 road project, asking whether the contract with the Department of Transportation includes provisions requiring the contractor to pay penalties if the project is not completed within the agreed-upon timeframe.

Councilor Ron Tiscia reported that he had been informed that the Board of Education offered to return funds to the Town during the last budget season, and that the Town declined the offer. He requested clarification on whether this information is accurate and, if so, the rationale for declining the returned funds.

Councilor Sue Boilard made no comments.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM was made by Councilor Tiscia. Second by Councilor Engle. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2026.

Linda Konopaske

Linda Konopaske
Recording Secretary