

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:02 P.M. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly, Michael Paine and Chris Peterson. Others in attendance included: Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Michael Glidden, Assistant Town Planner; Lisa Karim, Library Director; Sean Kimball, Finance Director; David Murphy, Milone & MacBroom and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wellman formally welcomed Town Manager Maria Capriola.

MOTION: Ms. Cook made a motion to add two additional appointments to the Appointments and Resignations part of the Agenda. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about two FOI complaints she made, Storyteller’s Cottage, and other issues.

PRESENTATION

a) Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mr. Glidden introduced David Murphy, Associate Manager of Water Resources Planning for Milone & MacBroom. Mr. Murphy, a consultant for CRCOG, (Capital Region Council of Governments), provided the Board with an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Capitol Region. He explained that CRCOG is in the process of updating the hazard mitigation plan for the region. FEMA requires that hazard mitigation plans be updated every five years. The current plan is set to expire in 2019. Work associated with the plan is underway to ensure that the region will not have an expired plan. Since eligibility for mitigation grant funding directly ties to hazard mitigation plans, it is important to not let the plan expire. Mr. Glidden is the local plan coordinator for the Town of Simsbury. Mr. Murphy explained the purpose and need for a hazard mitigation plan, how the plan can be used, hazards to include in the plan, mitigation strategies and actions, a schedule and next steps. He noted Simsbury is using Flood Mitigation Assistance presently. He also noted grants can now be used for standby power supplies(generators) for critical facilities. He added that he encourages communities to apply for grants if there is a case for working with FEMA. Mr. Murphy noted several examples of mitigation happening locally in the Capital Region. A survey will be distributed online very soon. Mr. Murphy then fielded questions and discussion ensued regarding dam failure.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Wellman extended a warm welcome to Simsbury’s new Town Manager, Ms. Capriola. She will be presenting her budget at the next Board of Selectmen Meeting on February 26. He noted the public is welcome at the budget workshop on March 10 at 8:00 A.M. and another on March 15 if needed. Mr. Wellman noted Simsbury is budgeting during uncertain times based on the projected State revenue shortfall. Governor Malloy has proposed additional cuts in municipal aid to towns. Under his proposal, Simsbury will receive approximately \$200,000 less than initially budgeted. He emphasized that this number is far from final and he thanked Senator Witkos and Representative Hampton for their efforts. He updated the Board on the Deepwater Wind Solar Farm. On January 22 the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to appeal the CT Siting Council’s ruling to allow the proposed twenty-six megawatt solar farm to move forward. The purpose of the appeal is to ensure that specific concerns are adequately

addressed. The Town is currently in talks with the developer, Deepwater Wind. The discussions are centering around six key issues, including, ensuring public health before, during and after construction, removing from the project the fifty-four acre field south of Hoskins Road that is most visible, providing appropriate screening that fits with the natural landscape, developing and funding a comprehensive decommissioning plan, preserving historic barns on the property, and the option for the Town to obtain the development rights for the property after the project is decommissioned. He added that given the CT Siting Council’s unanimous approval of the project, it is most likely the solar farm is coming to Simsbury. He noted the opportunity for the Town is to make sure the project is done right. Mr. Wellman said he and Representative Hampton will be hosting a Policy and Pints at Red Stone Pub on February 22 at 7:00 P.M. He said it should be considered office hours and an opportunity to chat with them in a casual setting about issues. He also noted the Farmington Valley Trails Council will present its first annual trail safety expo at Simsbury Library on March 17. Lastly, he welcomed Ana and Jeff, the new owners of Peaberry’s Cafe, and he welcomed Cardinal Gerontology, which will have a ribbon cutting on March 1 at 5:30 P.M.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Ms. Capriola referenced her Town Manager’s Report. Regarding meeting packet preparation and distribution, she asked Board members to let her know if they have any suggestions regarding format, content or how attachments or information are presented moving forward. She also asked members to indicate their preferred method of packet delivery as outlined in her report. She noted she has hit the ground running, meeting with staff, Board members and community members. She added she would like to present a draft list of goals and potential future projects to the Personnel Subcommittee for review and discussion, ultimately working towards a plan that would be brought to the full Board of Selectmen. Ms. Capriola made a suggested correction to the Draft of the January 22, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes to include the Deepwater Wind executive session attendees that provided technical support to the Board. Further, she suggested adding two appointments and a resignation, which she received today, to the agenda. Under Departmental News and Notes, she extended a warm welcome to Christopher Carney, who joined the Library Staff this week as the new full-time Adult Services Librarian. In Public Works, she noted the Town has received a \$9500 Bright Ideas Grant to better monitor energy usage. Also in Public Works, she noted Tom Roy recently became a Certified Energy Manager. And Public Works was recently the recipient of the CIRMA Excellence in Risk Management Award for New and Innovative Risk Management Initiatives, which comes with a \$2500 grant to be used towards ongoing safety and risk management efforts. In the Town Manager’s Office, recruiting for three department head positions will take place this spring: Director of Finance; Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation; and Police Chief. Under Special Events, she noted Social Services will be offering a presentation on the dangers of vaping on March 14 at 6:30 P.M., in the Simsbury Public Library Program Room.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax Refund Requests

MOTION: Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$529,105.94, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed Public Gathering Permits for 2018 Events

Mr. Toner referenced the following public gathering applications, noting they are all ready for approval:

- SMPAC - Simsbury Flea Market
- Simsbury Library - Mini Maker Faire
- The Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church - My Best Friends 5K
- Tootin Hills PTO - Duck Race, Flower Bridge
- SMPAC - Talcott Mountain Music Festival

- Valley Car Club - Car Show
- Simsbury Woman’s Club - Arts and Crafts Festival
- Parks & Recreation (co-sponsor) - Simsbury Try-athlon, (pending final running route confirmation and approval)

MOTION: Mr. Askham made a motion, effective February 15, 2018, to approve the public gathering permit applications as presented in the agenda submission form and to authorize issuance of those public gathering permits. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Proposed 2018 Fee Schedule for Simsbury Farms Golf Course, Aquatic Facilities and Summer Camps

Mr. Toner referenced the proposed fee schedule for Simsbury Farms Golf Course, Aquatics Facilities and Summer Camps. He noted there is lengthy discussion and surveying done each year to prepare the fee schedule. He added there have not been any fee increases in the last three years. In addition, he noted they are trying to add some programs to the maintenance operation to remain competitive. He pointed out a few new categories, including a new six-hole fee and an adult limited pass. Several members liked the idea of the six-hole option and there was discussion on the adult limited fee. Mr. Toner noted that Parks and Recreation unanimously approved the fee schedule.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve, effective February 15, 2018, the 2018 fee schedule for the Simsbury Farms Golf Course, Aquatics Facilities and Summer Camps as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Request for Building Permit and Zoning Compliance Fee Waivers for Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Ticket Booth

Mark Deming, 3 Ryan Circle, requested the Board waive the building permit and zoning compliance fees for construction of a ticket booth this spring. He noted the booth will be owned by the Town. The current trailer costs \$6,000-8,000 per year to rent. He also noted the new booth will be very attractive and will have a train theme. Ms. Capriola added there will be some modest costs once the Town takes ownership, including an estimated \$100 per year for insurance and occasional maintenance fees. She also noted there is a need for a standardized form for fee waiver requests and recommends that this be looked at as a future project.

MOTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective February 15, 2018, to approve a building permit and zoning compliance fee waiver for the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center in the aggregate amount of \$655 for the purposes of construction of its ticket booth. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Proposed Reappointment of Brendan Walsh (U) as a Regular Member of the Police Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2021

MOTION: Ms. Cook made a motion, effective February 15, 2018, to reappoint Brendan Wash (U) to the Police Commission as a Regular Member, with an expiration date of January 1, 2021. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed Appointment of Jacqueline S. Battos (R) to the Simsbury Zoning Commission as a Regular Member with an expiration date of December 2, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Paine made a motion, effective February 15, 2018, to approve the appointment of Jacqueline S. Battos (R) to the Simsbury Zoning Commission as a Regular Member with an expiration date of December 2, 2019. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Proposed Appointment of Susan C. Ray (R) to the Recycling Commission as a Regular Member with an expiration date of December 2, 2019.

MOTION: Ms. Cook made a motion, effective February 15, 2018, to approve the appointment of Susan C. Ray (R) to the Recycling Commission as a Regular Member with an expiration date of December 2, 2019. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Wellman thanked Gerald Post, who resigned as regular member of the Zoning Commission.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Special Meeting of January 22, 2018

The Special Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2018, include the following change:

- Under *Adjourn to Executive Session*, the portion of text that reads, “Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters concerning the Deepwater Wind Proposed Solar Project...” should read, “Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session along with Jamie Rabbitt, Bob DeCrescenzo, Bob Carr, Sean Kimball and Melissa Appleby to discuss matters concerning the Deepwater Wind Proposed Solar Project...”

MOTION: Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2018, as amended. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Regular Meeting of January 22, 2018

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2018, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Personnel:

1) Proposed (Library) Head of Borrowing & Technical Services Position Classification, Compensation and Job Description

Mr. Wellman noted the Personnel Subcommittee was asked to reclassify the Head of Circulation position at the Library to bring it more in line with the actual responsibilities of the job. The current Head of Circulation is scheduled to retire on March 1. The financial impact would be about \$20,000 in the FY19 budget. The proposal was unanimously approved by the Personnel Subcommittee. Ms. Karim addressed the Board and noted the Library is unable to replace the Head of Circulation as it is currently classified. For the sustainability of the Library, this is imperative. In addition, this position will supervise the Technical Services staff, which has been directly supervised by the Library Director since 2012 when the Head of Technical Services retired.

MOTION: Mr. Askham made a motion, effective February 15, 2018, to approve the position classification of Head of Borrowing & Technical Services and the job description as presented. Further move to approve an annual salary range for the Head of Borrowing and Technical Services

position of \$72,702 to \$89,597, which may be amended from time to time through the collective bargaining process. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Finance

No Report

c) Welfare

Ms. Cook noted Community for Care will be sponsoring a program on the Dangers of Vaping on March 14. The program is open to all members of the public and she encouraged parents to attend, as the school resource officers will be bringing paraphernalia so parents can actually see what this looks like. She also thanked the *Valley Press* for their write-up about Community for Care. In addition, she spoke about a joint program with the Library on May 9 focused on opioid use and children. Lastly, she noted the Aging and Disability Commission will have a guest speaker from AARP on February 20 regarding developing an age-friendly community.

d) Public Safety

No Report

e) Board of Education

No Report

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Pursuant to CGS § 1-2000(6)(D) concerning the Purchase and Sales Agreement - 23 Mountain Road, Tariffville

b) Pursuant to CGS § 1-200(6)(B) concerning Pending Claims and Litigation - Deepwater Wind Appeal, Petition 1313

Ms. Cook made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session along with Bob DeCrescenzo, Maria Capriola and Melissa Appleby to discuss matters concerning the Purchase and Sales Agreement of 23 Mountain Road, Tariffville pursuant to CGS § 1-2000(6)(D); and with Bob DeCrescenzo, Jesse Langer, Maria Capriola, Melissa Appleby and Mike Glidden to discuss matters concerning the Pending Claims and Litigation of Deepwater Wind Appeal, Petition 1313 pursuant to CGS § 1-200(6)(B) at 7:05 P.M. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session. Ms. Cook seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Executive Session adjourned at 7:58 pm.

ADJOURN

Ms. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cook seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk