

### **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 Chris Peterson, Cheryl Cook, Sean Askham, and Michael Paine. Absent was Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Finance Director/Treasurer Sean Kimball, Public Works Director Tom Roy; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Gerard Toner; Director of Planning and Community Development Jamie Rabbitt; and other interested parties.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Dave Ryan, Chairman of the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, asked the Board not to hinder the Talcott Mountain Music Festival advertising on the banners on Hopmeadow Street.

Joe Treacy thanked the Board for backing the appeal on the Deepwater Wind decision. He asked them to reach out and work with the DEEP and Department of Agriculture as they dropped out of the appeal.

Kris Barnett, 15 Ox Yoke, former Chairperson of the EDC, told the Board to look at the previous Economic Development Task Force studies as they have a lot of information in them before approving funding for a new strategic plan.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about speaking in public audience; concerns about brick pavers; Town reimbursements for staff; compensatory time for staff; the drug crisis; and other issues.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, spoke about the hazardous waste collection and the Forest Management Plan. She gave the Board a lot of information she gathered on forest management so they can be better educated on the issue.

Diana Moody, 7 Elcy Way also spoke about how hard “Keep the Woods” worked to preserve the woodlands. She said there was a lack of audience members at the Conservation Hearings, but there is no lack of interest in preserving the woods.

### **FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT**

Mr. Wellman, First Selectman, reviewed his report, which is part of the agenda packet.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Capriola, Town Manager, reviewed her report, which is part of the agenda packet.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **a) Forest Management Program**

Mr. Wellman said several members of the public spoke with concerns about the Town's Forest Management Plan. Therefore, he asked Mr. Toner to prepare a memo with background information and a timeline related to the Forestry Management Plan.

Mr. Toner gave a timeline of dates on the second phase of the Town's Forest Management Plan. The Program was introduced back in 1989 with the condition that it be done on a self-sustaining basis with revenues generated by timber sales being used to offset expenses.

In March 2018 the Conservation Commission recommended to the Board of Selectmen that the implementation of the Onion Mountain Management Plan be resuscitated and that the forester be encouraged to review and revise the markings that have been made in the forest if necessary.

## **SELECTMEN ACTION**

### **a) Accept Donation from Stop & Shop Feed-A-Friend Program**

Mr. Askham made a motion effective March 26, 2018 to accept a donation from Stop & Shop in the amount of \$2,954.40 for the purpose of supporting our Cheese Day and Food Closet Programs with our thanks. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **b) Tax Refund Requests**

Ms. Cook made a motion effective March 26, 2018 to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$580.07, and to authorize the Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **c) Recommended Appointment of Interim Finance Director**

Mr. Wellman said Mr. Kimball is resigning from his service on or about the second week of April. A recruitment for his replacement has been initiated, but will not be completed prior to his resignation. Ms. Capriola is recommending the appointment of Christine Hutton as Interim Finance Director.

Ms. Capriola said Ms. Hutton's background would be helpful and she would be a valuable asset to the Town. She has great experience and will help out a few days a week. She would also like to spend time with Mr. Kimball before he departs.

Mr. Askham made a motion effective April 14, 2018 to appoint Christine (Chris) K. Hutton to the position of Interim Finance Director/Treasurer until the date upon the permanent Finance Director/Treasurer officially begins work in Simsbury. Further move that Ms. Hutton be compensated at \$75 per hour. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) Supplemental Appropriation Request for WPCA**

Mr. Wellman said the Water Pollution Control Authority needs to replace a boiler that recently failed.

Mr. Paine made a motion effective March 26, 2018 to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance pursuant to Simsbury Charter Section 809, a supplemental appropriation from the Water Pollution Control Authority's Sewer Use Fund Balance (Reserves) in the amount of \$30,794 for the purchase and installation of a boiler. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) Prioritization of FY 18/19 Proposed CNR and Capital Fund Projects**

Mr. Wellman said the budget that was approved by the Board of Selectmen is over the 1.75% guideline of the Board of Finance.

There was discussion on actually needing to prioritize capital items at this time or waiting until the Board of Selectmen go before the Board of Finance at their meeting on Wednesday.

No motion was made at this time.

**f) Hometown Heroes Guidelines and Appointment of Committee Members**

Ms. Capriola said there were just some housekeeping changes made in the guidelines. Ms. Martin is working on an online submission at this time.

Ms. Cook made a motion effective March 26, 2018 to approve the revised Hometown Heroes Guidelines as presented. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint the following individuals as regular members of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with terms expiring December 2, 2019: Eric Wellman, First Selectman; Selectman Michael Paine; Tom Horan, business leader; T. J. Donohue, previous Hometown Hero; and Len Lanza from the Veterans Group. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**g) Hopmeadow Street Banner Display Policy**

Mr. Wellman said the long-time volunteers that regularly hung banners for various Town and Civic events across Hopmeadow Street adjacent to Shultz Park notified the Town that they would no longer be able to perform this service.

The Board of Selectmen approved a moratorium on the hanging of banner until a policy and process could be developed to address which department will be responsible, whether a fee will be charged, and whether hanging banners will be restricted to certain seasons.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer said they pull all the permits and make sure they meet all requirements for the DOT and the Town.

Mr. Askham made a motion effective March 26, 2018 to approve the Hopmeadow Street Banner Display Policy with the two changes made as described. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the list of banners for 2018 events as presented that were approved prior to the development and approval of the new Hopmeadow Street Banner Display Policy. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**h) Proposed Referral to Culture, Parks, and Recreation Commission Regarding Carry in Carry Out Policy**

Mr. Paine recused himself.

Mr. Wellman said the Board of Selectmen approved the recommendation of the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Commission to transition to a “Carry In-Carry Out” policy for trash removal for Town owned parks, fields and other properties effective July 1, 2017.

There have been several complaints about this new policy. There was some discussion on educating the public and better signage. Mr. Toner said his staff time is better used now that the “Carry In-Carry Out” Policy is in place.

Mr. Askham made a motion effective March 28, 2018 to refer the “Carry In-Carry Out” Policy for our parks and fields to the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission. The purpose of this referral is to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and to assess whether or not any modifications to the policy are needed. The Culture, Parks, and Recreation Commission will be asked to present its findings and recommendations to the full Board of Selectmen. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine returned to the meeting.

**i) Discussion on Recruitment and Appointment Process for Unaffiliated Voters to Appointed Committees, Commissions, and Boards**

Mr. Wellman said about 38% of registered voters in Town are unaffiliated. He said there are very limited opportunities for unaffiliated voters to serve in Town government on appointed Boards and Commissions. Mr. Wellman said in an effort to increase participation and be more inclusive and have access to our government, he is proposing that a bi-partisan work group of the Board of Selectmen to review this issue.

Mr. Wellman made a motion effective March 28, 2018 to establish a work group of the Board of Selectmen to review the recruitment and appointment process for unaffiliated voters to appointed committees, commissions, and boards. The work group is tasked with researching and benchmarking how other communities recruit and appoint unaffiliated voters to appointed committees, commissions, and boards and for presenting its findings and recommendations to the full Board of Selectmen. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Eric Wellman and Michael Paine to the work group. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**j) Discussion on Economic Development**

Mr. Wellman said when it comes to moving forward the Board can reconstitute the Economic Development Commission; follow the concept of an Economic Development Commission plan; or make a process of how to get there. Section 609 of the Charter states that “the Board of Selectmen shall create, by ordinance, an Economic Development Commission which shall have the membership, terms, duties and responsibilities, not inconsistent with this Charter or State law, a determined by such ordinance.”

There has been a lot of work that was already done by the previous Economic Development Commission. The Board feels this work should be looked at and discussed.

Mr. Askham made a motion effective March 26, 2018 to establish a work group of Board of Selectmen to prepare a draft ordinance regarding an Economic Development Commission as required by Section 609 of the Charter. Once an ordinance is adopted, the Economic Development work group would be tasked with vetting potential Economic Development Commission members and making recommendations for appointment to the full Board of Selectmen. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook, Mr. Wellman and Mr. Peterson volunteered to join the Economic Development work group. The other Board members will attend meetings if possible.

### **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

#### **a) Resignation of April Schmidt from the Aging & Disability Commission**

Ms. Cook made a motion to accept the resignation of April Schmidt as a regular member of the Aging & Disability Commission retroactive to March 21, 2018 with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

#### **a) Regular Meeting of March 10, 2018**

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2018 and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

#### **b) Regular Meeting of March 12, 2018**

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2018 and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

#### **c) Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2018**

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2018 and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

### **SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) Personnel** – there was no report at this time.
- b) Finance** – there was no report at this time.
- c) Welfare** – there was no report at this time.
- d) Public Safety** – there was no report at this time.
- e) Board of Education** – there was no report at this time.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **a) Simsbury Clean-up Day**

Mr. Askham made a motion effective March 26, 2018 to grant permission to State Representative John Hampton to use the Simsbury Town Hall Parking Lot (933 Hopmeadow Street) for the temporary placement of large dumpsters and recycle bins for Simsbury Clean Up Day on April 21, 2018. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b) **Emerald Ash Borer Article – Hartford’s Borer-Infested Ash Trees Are Coming Down, March 13, 2018.** <http://www.courant.com/politics/hc-new-hartford-ash-trees-falling-2018312-story.html>

There was no discussion or motion at this time.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B) concerning Pending Claims and Litigation – Deepwater Wind Appeal, Petition 1313 to include the Board of Selectmen; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo; James Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development; and Attorney Jesse Langer. Ms. Cook 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. Mr. Paine seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Executive Session adjourned at 8:19 pm.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Askham seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio, Clerk