

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MAY 13, 2019**

“Approved”

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CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Sean Askham, Michael Paine, Chery Cook, Chris Peterson, and Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Planning Director Mike Glidden; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski; Deputy Chief of the Simsbury Fire District Kevin Kowalski; President of SMPAC Linda Schofield; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

a) Proposed Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Personnel Tax Abatement Ordinance Amendments

Deputy Chief Kowalski said that the Fire District is in favor of these changes as they help with recruitment and retention. The longer you stay in service the greater the benefit. If you stay in for 2 years you get \$500 and for 5 years you get \$1000.

Deputy Chief Kowalski said there were three changes to the ordinance:

- 1) There was a technical error about the retiree benefit, which was left off the previous document, by error, when posted
- 2) Eliminating benefits while volunteering for another town
- 3) A clarification of receiving benefits after moving out of Town, while still owning property in Town and occupying the property

Mr. Askham made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the budget referendum, the mil rate, real estate values, declining school enrollments, abatements and fee waivers, the elections, and other issues.

Mike Rinaldi, Pinnacle Mountain Road, spoke about the budget referendum flyer, the budget, and other issues.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, spoke about the Wild and Scenic River Designation, trail days, the Vet hike, concerts on the green, a Historical Society event, and other events.

PRESENTATION

a) CRCOG Adoption of Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2019-2024

Mr. Wellman said CRCOG has completed the update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the region. Dave Murphy from Milone & MacBroom, Inc. will make the presentation. The adoption of the plan will help the Town's eligibility for hazard mitigation grants or similar funding sources provided by FEMA.

Mr. Murphy said CRCOG has completed the update as required by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which has to be updated once every 5 years. He went through the purpose and need for this plan, how the plan can be used, and different hazards in the plan, strategies and actions, different successes, the proposed action, and next steps.

After some discussion, Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to approve the attached certificate of adoption for the Capitol Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Updated 20192024. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed Permanent Sound Towers at the SMPAC and Fee Waiver Requests

Ms. Schofield spoke about SMPAC wanting to erect permanent sound towers at the facility. Sound towers are currently rented for \$18,000 per year. They also have to pay for labor. Ms. Schofield said the estimated cost for the towers is from \$60,000 to \$80,000. SMPAC has an interested donor that would be funding this project.

Ms. Schofield said the SMPAC is also requesting a waiver of the fees associated with the Zoning Commission application, administrative zoning permit application, and the building permit.

After some discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to authorize the Town Manager to sign applications related to the proposed sound towers for the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Facility on behalf of the Town of Simsbury. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to approve the request for the fee waivers corresponding to the proposed sound towers for the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Facility subject to design approval by Land Use Commissions. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to give our conditional support to accept the donation for the sound towers pending approval by all Land Use Boards. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Selectman Wellman, reviewed his First Selectman's report.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager, Capriola, reviewed her Town Manager's Report.

a) Tax Refund Requests

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$2,441.98, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Personnel Tax Abatement Ordinance Amendments

Mr. Wellman said the Board of Selectmen established a workgroup to review the Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel ordinance. There were three changes that the workgroup proposed. Two were administrative and one was about eliminating the benefit for residents who live in Simsbury but provide service to another community.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to adopt the proposed revisions to the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Personnel Tax Abatement Ordinance (Article V, Chapter 141) as presented, which shall be effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation within the Town of Simsbury. Further move to authorize a summary of the adopted ordinance to be published. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Proposed Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant (BVP)

Mr. Wellman said the Police Department applied for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant through the U.S. Department of Justice. This grant provides 50 percent of the cost for each vest purchased. The FY 19/20 grant funding supports the purchase of 20 vests.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to submit the FY19/20 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant application, and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute the grant application, and to accept the FY 19/20 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Proposed Donation from Simsbury Bank for Cadet Program

Mr. Wellman said this a proposed \$4,000 donation from Simsbury Bank for the Cadet Program. This program allows students to observe how the Simsbury Police Department operates and well as the functions and duties of the Police.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to accept a donation from Simsbury Bank, in the amount of \$4,000, to be used for the Simsbury Police Cadet Program in the Simsbury Police Department. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposals

Mr. Wellman said the Neighborhood Assistance Act provides a tax credit to businesses that make cash investments in things like energy, conservation, job training, educations, etc. The Town Manager's office received two proposals – one from the Simsbury Grange and one from the Housing Authority. A Public Hearing is required before approval of the applications.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to set a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposals submitted by the Simsbury Grange and Simsbury Housing Authority pursuant to the 2019 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2019. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Accept Donation – SMPAC Barn Storage Improvements

Mr. Wellman said the Simsbury Performing Arts Center is looking to build a roof structure at their existing barn. This structure would provide for their 1300 chairs, which are currently under tarps. The Conservation Commission did grant placement of the structure on the west side of the barn.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to accept the donation of erecting a roof structure addition to the existing storage barn. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Proposed Easement – 87 Riverside Road

Mr. Wellman said Culture, Parks and Recreation has moved the area east of the Flower Bridge along Riverside Road for many years even though some of the property is privately owned.

Ms. Capriola said her office was contacted and this section of privately owned land would still be maintained by the Town. We do have some flower beds and a bench there as well. This easement is permanent and will remain with the property if ownership changes.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to refer the proposed recreational area easement for the parcel at 87 Riverside Road as presented to the Planning Commission pursuant to CGS §8-24. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Town Manager Salary Increase

Ms. Capriola recused herself from the table.

Mr. Wellman said the Town Manager’s contract reflects an annual performance review and salary adjustment process in which the salary of the Town Manager could be increased upon a satisfactory performance review. This would be 2.25%. At the last meeting of the Personnel Sub-committee, they approved a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that an increase be provided to the Town Manager.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, the Town Manager’s salary be increased by 2.25% consistent with the performance review process stipulated in the Town Manager’s contract. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Capriola returned to the table.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Recommended Nomination of Phil Schulz to the Retirement Plan Sub-Committee

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to nominate Phil Schulz (D) for appointment by the Board of Finance to the Retirement Plan Sub-Committee as a community member at-large for a three year term. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Resignation of Paul McAlenney from Retirement Plan Sub-Committee

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Mr. Paine made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to accept the resignation of Paul McAllenney (U) as a member of the Retirement Plan Sub-Committee retroactive to April 30, 2019 with our thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Proposed Appointments to the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to appoint the following people to the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee:

Diana Moody, representing the Simsbury Land Trust

Jean Summer, representing the Simsbury Woman's Club

Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Resignation of Dennis Kearns from the Technology Task Force

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 13, 2019, to accept the resignation of Dennis Kearns (R) as a member of the Technology Task Force retroactive to April 18, 2019. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of April 22, 2019

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2019, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) Special Meeting of April 26, 2019

There were no changes to the Special Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2019, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Cook said there will be a Community for Care “book read” on May 15, 2019. The book is Hate You Give, which is a young adult novel. The book is for mature middle school kids and high school kids.

Ms. Cook said the Aging and Disability Commission will be presenting a program on Aging Well on Thursday. This program will be held at the Library, Program Room 2.

Mr. Askham spoke about the budget mailer. He said this mailer has to be very specific and a long explanation would not be appropriate. This budget was discussed in public and substantial information was provided. There are many challenges in the budget. He said people can still reach out to anyone on the Board if they have questions on the budget. He asked everyone to attend the Budget Referendum.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Letter to J. Hampton and K. Witkos from M. Capriola and E. Wellman, re: Teachers Retirement System Contribution, dated May 6, 2019

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There was no discussion at this time.

b) FY 19/20 Budget Mailer

There was no discussion at this time.

c) FY 19/20 Budget Fact Sheet

There was no discussion at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(E), discussion of correspondence exempt from disclosure: Attorney-Client Privilege

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. and to include Attorney DeCrescenzo, Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Tax Collector Colleen OConnor, and Assessor David Gardner. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session. Mr. Paine seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Executive Session adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Paine seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk