

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectwoman Lisa Heavner; Board members Cheryl Cook, Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly, and Elaine Lang. Absent was Sean Askham. Others in attendance included Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Sean Kimball, Director of Finance/Treasurer; Melissa Appleby, Deputy Director of Administrative Services; Senator Kevin Witkos; State Representative John Hampton; Jeff Shea, Town Engineer; Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Heavner spoke about the upsetting and disturbing incident in Charlottesville, Virginia. She read a quote from Nelson Mandela.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joe Pozzato, 16 County Road, spoke about his opposition to the solar farm proposal. He wants Simsbury to stand strong against this project. He said there is beautiful land there that could be developed for the Town.

April Pozzato, 16 County Road, spoke about her opposition to the solar farm proposal also. She said this will also affect her two sons and they don't want them there either. She is also worried about the health hazards of solar panels.

Christine Kilbourne-James, Hoskins Road, spoke about the ramifications the proposed solar farm would have on the Town. She isn't against solar, but doesn't think this is the place for such a huge solar farm.

Alan Koslow, an energy/environmental attorney who represents a number of residents, said he is also against this proposed project. He said he would work with the Town to stop this project at this location.

Steven Sutton, 45 Berkshire Way, spoke about the scope and size of the proposed solar farm. He said it will interfere with the quality of life in this residential area.

Steve Angeloff, 42 Berkshire Way, said this proposal goes against the character of the Town. He urged everyone to make a call to the State and express their concerns.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the Blues Concert, Board of Ethics, Simsbury Farms Golf Course, professional management, the proposed solar farm, shared parking between Eno and Fiddler's, and other issues.

Chris Barnett, 15 Oxshire Drive, also spoke about the proposed solar farms. She spoke about the plan of development for Simsbury and the current zoning regulations and how they are used.

Jessica Parise, 102 North Saddle Ridge Drive, spoke about the proposed solar farm being on prime agricultural land. She said the 100,000 panels on 35 acres of land would definitely change the character of the Town. She also spoke about property values.

Liz Schlanski, 44 Berkshire Way, spoke about the proposed chain-link fence that is being proposed for this solar project. She is not against solar, but is against it in this area.

Laura Nigro, 4 Kilbourne Farms, wants the Town to make a decision on this project. The placement of the project is the issue and the size. The residents need the Boards help to keep this project from this area in Simsbury.

Ed Carroll, 28 Garden Street, also spoke about the solar issue. He feels if this property is going to be drilled for this solar project, there will be a bigger issue as there are chemicals there. He urged the Board and residents to say no to this proposal.

Linda Low, 8 Kilbourne Road, thanked the Board for all their hard work on the solar issue. She feels a more in depth review needs to be done on this property. She also spoke about Senate bill 943.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about the proposed solar farm and getting an attorney to help fight against it. He also spoke about corruption and the three-day festival being approved.

Jason Polayes asked that the Board and Deepwater share as much as they know with the residents. He wants to know what the demands of the Town would be on this project. He wants what is best for Simsbury if this project goes forward.

PRESENTATIONS

- **GFOA Certificate of Achievement – Sean Kimball, Director of Finance/Treasurer**

Mr. Kimball said this is the 18th year that the Town has received this GFOA Certificate of Achievement for excellent financial reporting.

- **Quarterly Financials Update – Sean Kimball, Director of Finance/Treasurer**

Mr. Kimball said they are still rapping-up fiscal 2017 adjustments and transfers. He gave the Board pre-audit numbers and gave some highlights. He said the Board will be about \$166,000 under budget. He said revenues on Building Department fees were down quite a bit this year. He also went through the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund. The Board of Education numbers are not final yet. Mr. Kimball said the Town's General Fund should finish the year at approximately \$11,635,000 or 12.4% of the approved fiscal year 2017 budget. The State budget

has still not been decided for this year. Mr. Kimball said he is confident they have planned properly for the fiscal year 2018 budget.

• **State Budget Update – Representative John Hampton & Senator Kevin Witkos**

Representative Hampton said it has been 45+days without a State budget. He said there are five budgets out there right now to look at. Hopefully there will be a session on September 11th.

Senator Witkos spoke about the SEABAC Agreement. He thinks the motor vehicle mil rate will go back up to 37. There were some closings being looked at. The Senate Republicans are going back to draft a budget based on the passage of the SEABAC agreement. He doesn't see a budget passing until the end of September. They will keep the Town informed.

Ms. Heavner said time is of the essence so the Town can complete their budget process as well.

• **State Water Plan – Representative John Hampton**

Representative Hampton spoke about UConn diverting water from the Farmington River. He said there will most likely be a Public Hearing in Simsbury in September or October on the Water Plan. He said this issue will be taken up in the State in their February session.

FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

The First Selectwoman reviewed her report, which is part of the agenda packet.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$32,877.05 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine recused himself.

b) Authorize the First Selectwoman to enter into an agreement for shared parking and other services between Eno Hall and Fiddler's Green subject to approval by Town Counsel

Ms. Heavner said the Town and Fiddler's Green have been working together for over a decade to address challenges associated with limited parking and relatively tight sites.

Mr. Roy said there is an opportunity for both facilities to benefit from a shared parking/services arrangement for the most use for each site to rarely compete with each other. He went through the arrangement which will increase the efficiency of all resources and provide better

management for both properties and to serve as a model for other downtown facilities. It’s all about communication.

Ms. Cook made a motion to authorize the First Selectwoman to enter into an agreement, prepared by Town Counsel, for shared parking and other services between Eno Hall and Fiddler’s Green as outlined in the attached memo. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine returned to the meeting.

c) Approve Resolution delegating oversight of Simsbury Farms Pool and Rink Improvements Project Phase 2 to the Public Building Committee

Ms. Heavner said at the Referendum in June 2017, voters approved improvements to the Simsbury Farms Pool and Rink Facility in the amount of \$950,000.00. Under the provision of Section 612 of the Simsbury Town Charter, the project is recommended to be assigned to the Simsbury Public Building Committee.

Mr. Shea said the Building Committee is doing some informal work on this project as it is more complex than Phase 1. There is a tight timeline for getting the project underway. They have contracted an architect and spoken to a contractor about this project.

Mr. Paine made a motion “Resolved, that, in accordance with Section 612 of the Simsbury Town Charter, as amended, the Board of Selectmen hereby charges the Public Building Committee with the responsibility for carrying out the design and construction oversight for the Simsbury Farms Pool and Rink Improvements – Phase 2 project.” Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approve Resolution delegating oversight of the Eno Memorial Hall Renovations Project to the Public Building Committee

Ms. Cook, liaison to Aging and Disability, said they are asking to be involved with this project to discuss ADA regulations. Mr. Shea will make sure they get all the information on this project.

Ms. Lang made a motion “Resolved, that, in accordance with Section 612 of the Simsbury Town Charter, as amended, the Board of Selectmen hereby charges the Public Building Committee with the responsibility for carrying out the design and construction oversight for the Eno Memorial Hall Renovations project.” Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Authorize Town Staff to Negotiate Construction with Simscroft-Echo Farms, Inc. for Town Forest Park improvements

Ms. Heavner said the Capital Improvements Budget of FY 16 allocated \$145,000.00 for improvements to Town Forest Park. This is for the first phase of improvements consistent with the Ethel Walker Woods Master Plan.

Mr. Shea said eight bids were received. They did sit down with the lowest bidder and changed some materials and aspects of the bid for better savings. He said the reductions still posed good value. They don't think it would be productive to go back to bid at this time.

Ms. Cook made a motion to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with Simscroft-Echo Farms, Inc. for a reduced scope of work and associated cost for the Town Forest Park project. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Simsbury Public Library State Construction Grant:

- 1) Adoption of a resolution empowering the First Selectwoman to file an application for a State Public Library Construction Grant for the lower level remodeling project of the Simsbury Public Library.**
- 2) Adoption of a resolution that if the Town of Simsbury is awarded a State Public Library Construction Grant for the Simsbury Public Library in support of the lower level remodeling project that the Town of Simsbury will have local matching funds to place within three (3) years of the grant approval date, and intends to initiate this project within eighteen (18) months following State Bond Commission approval of the grant award.**

Ms. Heavner said this project was discussed in the budget process involving State and Town monies.

Lisa Karim, Library Director, said they are working under the impression that the Public Library State Construction Grants will still be available.

Ms. Cook made a motion “RESOLVED, that the Town of Simsbury’s First Selectwoman, Lisa L. Heavner, is empowered to apply for a State Public Library Construction Grant for the Lower Level Remodeling Project of the Simsbury Public Library (the “Project”); and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event the Town of Simsbury is awarded a State Public Library Construction Grant for the Project, the Town of Simsbury will have local matching funds in place within three (3) year of the grant approval date and will initiate the Project within eighteen (18) months following State Bond Commission approval on the grant award.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, the undersigned has affixed her signature and the corporate seal of the Town of Simsbury this 14th day of August 2017.

Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Approve Eno Hall Auditorium Waiver of Fee in the amount of \$1,000 for Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra event on December 16, 2017

Ms. Heavner said the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra is asking that the Board waive the rental fee only for their Family Holiday Pops Concert.

Mike Galluzzo, President of the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra Board, said they reserved Eno Memorial Hall to conduct a concert on December 16, 2017. They are a non-profit organization and they are asking for the rental fee to be waived for their event.

Mr. Roy said they would still pay for custodial fees.

Ms. Lang made a motion to waive the Rental fee for Eno Hall for the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra event on December 16, 2017, excluding the custodian fees. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Update of Deepwater Wind Proposed Solar Project and Possible Action

Ms. Heavner gave an update on the Deepwater Wind proposed Solar Project. She said this Board has not decided if they are for or against this project. She feels everyone is concerned about this proposed project and there is a lot of information out there that needs to be looked in to. More information is also needed. She urged everyone to get as much information as they can.

If the project goes through, the Town wants to be sure that the best is done for the Town including the landscaping, etc. at the project site. There will be several meetings on this issue in September. The Siting Council is also trying to be very informative.

Ms. Heavner said the Town did file an extension of the discovery period, which is still pending. The Department of Agriculture has also filed an extension of the discovery period.

There was a lot of discussion on this issue, but no action was taken at this time. The Board will have to make their decision within the next few weeks. A special meeting will be held for this.

i) Discussion of possible Mission Statement Letter to the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, Inc. and Possible Action

Ms. Heavner said the Performing Arts Center, Inc. is working on their Mission Statement. This will come before this Board for approval.

Ms. Heavner said there should be a liaison from this Board to their Board. This will help with their decision making.

Everyone was in agreement that a letter be sent to the Performing Arts Center, Inc. Board on their Mission Statement ideas. No action was taken at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business at this time.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Thomas Rechen (R) as a regular member of the Board of Ethics effective August 7, 2017

Ms. Cook made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Thomas Rechen as a regular member of the Board of Ethics effective August 7, 2017 with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Acknowledge the resignation of William Butler (R) as a regular member of the Clean Energy Task Force effective August 4, 2017

Mr. Paine made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of William Butler as a regular member of the Clean Energy Task Force effective August 4, 2017 with our thanks. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Special Meeting of July 27, 2017

Mr. Paine made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2017 with correction on page 1. (last paragraph under, First Selectwoman's Report, to correct Frist to First). Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel:

a. Approval of Director of Community and Social Services Job Description

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the revised Director of Community and Social Services job description. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Kelly noted that this job description had not been changed since 1990 and the new description defines the role in totality.

Mr. Kelly gave an update on the Town Manager process. The consulting firm has received a “pool” of candidates. They will be asked to respond to an essay question. He said the

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“Subject to Approval”

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Committee will be interviewing candidates on October 19th. There are some options on hiring a candidate.

Ms. Cook said Aging and Disabilities will be sponsoring “Picnic in the Park” on August 26th at St. Catherine of Siena Church. This event is free to all.

Ms. Heavner noted that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Silverman Group on September 11th.

ADJOURN

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Sincerely,
Kathi Radocchio
Clerk