

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 23, 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, Cheryl Cook, Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly and Chris Peterson. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether; Executive Director of SPAC Missy DiNunno; David Bush from Culture, Parks and Recreation, and other interested parties.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about objectivity, allegations, FOI complaints, Code Compliance Officer, Board of Finance, SPAC, Simsbury Farms, and other issues.

Maureen Fitzgerald, 29 Crestwood Road and Board Chair of Gifts of Love, spoke about the history of Gifts of Love, the dedication, their gratefulness for the volunteers and Boy Scout projects, and their stewardship.

**PRESENTATION**

**a) Kearns Community Center Project Proposal**

Mr. Wellman said this project is about an old elementary school in Granby which is trying to be changed into a shared community space. He introduced Alicia Newton from the Board of Directors and Elliot Altomare, the Executive Director of the project.

Ms. Newton and Mr. Altomare said the Kearns Community Center Project came about from discussions on Veterans and having a bridge between services and community. Their mission statement would be for the Center to empower people, building lasting relationships, strengthening communities and sharing their gifts.

They said the school is a 40,000 square foot space and they showed how the space would be used. It would be open to residents of Barkhamsted, Canton, East Granby, Granby, Hartland, New Hartford, Simsbury, Suffield, Windsor and Windsor Locks. The project started in January 2018

They are hoping for grant funding and to fundraise for 2.7 million dollars and their website is [www.kearnscommunitycenter.org](http://www.kearnscommunitycenter.org) for more information. Some of the programs would have a cost and others would be free.

After some discussion, the Board of Selectmen felt this is a great idea and would be willing to send a letter of support if wanted.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

First Selectman, Wellman, reviewed his First Selectman's report.

## **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

Town Manager, Capriola, reviewed her Town Manager’s report.

## **SELECTMEN ACTION**

### **a) Tax Refund Requests**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective September 23, 2019, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$6,108.45, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **b) Proposed Simsbury Main Street Partnership Donation**

Mr. Wellman said the Simsbury Main Street Partnership is providing the Simsbury Celebrates Organizing Committee with a donation of \$5,000.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective September 23, 2019, to accept the donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Simsbury Main Street Partnership, Inc., for the purpose of supporting the annual Simsbury Celebrates event. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **c) Proposed FY 19/20 Emergency Management Performance Grant**

Mr. Wellman said this Emergency Management Performance Grant is applied for each year. The Fire District applies, but the Town’s Municipal CEO is required to execute the application and award the documents.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective September 23, 2019, to apply for the 2019/2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented and, in the event the grant is awarded, to accept the grant and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, town Manager, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **d) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – Raise-A-Paw**

Mr. Wellman said the Public Gathering Committee approved the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, Raise the Paw Event.

Ms. Dinunno said there might be approximately 200-500 people at the event and there are food and dog vendors. The dog challenge course does come with a cost, but the rest of the event is free.

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective September 23, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for Simsbury Performing Arts Center Raise a Paw Event as presented and to authorize the issuance of a public gathering permit. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) Revisions to Golf Course Tee Sign Advertising Policy**

Mr. Wellman said the Town has an agreement with the Simsbury Farms Men's Club to allow the Club to sell tee signs at the golf course and to use the funds to fund projects on the course. The Men's Club has requested revisions to this policy.

Mr. Bush said the Men's Club has acted as the primary collector of advertising sponsors but they didn't have control of how the money was actually spent. The change would now give the Men's Club final ability as to how the money was spent using town rules and policies.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective September 23, 2019, to approve the proposed revisions to the Simsbury Farms Golf Course Tee Sign Advertising Policy. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**f) Fee Waiver Request for Connecticut Public Links Championship Golf Tournament**

Mr. Wellman said there is a request to waive the greens fees for the Connecticut State Golf Association's 2020 Public Links Golf Championship. The Golf Course would be closed to residents two weekdays for this Championship Tournament in August of 2020. The waiver would just be for the greens fees, not the carts.

Mr. Bush said this is great marketing for the Town. The event is advertised through the Golf Associations journals. This is a win win situation.

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective September 23, 2019, to approve the requested waiver of greens fees for the Connecticut State Golf Association's 2020 Public Links Gold Championship. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**g) FY 18/29 Year End Results and Transfer Requests**

Ms. Meriwether went through fiscal year 2018/19 general fund revenues and said they were budgeted at \$97,537,869. She said the receipts thru June 30, 2019 totaled \$99,609,161, which is an increase of \$2,071,292. She went thru the major drivers in the budget.

Ms. Meriwether went thru the general fund expenditures, which were budgeted at \$97,537,869. The actual expenditures thru June 30, 2019 totaled \$97,396,976, with savings to the Town of \$140,893. She went thru the savings.

Ms. Meriwether explained the Simsbury Farms Fund, Health Insurance Fund, and the Sewer Use Fund. Then she went thru the general fund transfer requests.

After some discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective September 23, 2019, to approve the year-end transfer requests as presented. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

#### **a) Resignation of Thomas Frank from the Simsbury Board of Education**

Ms. Cook made a motion to accept the resignation of Thomas E. Frank as a regular member of the Board of Education retroactive to September 11, 2019 with our thanks. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **b) Appointment of Sharon Thomas to the Simsbury Board of Education**

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve the appointment of Sharon Thomas (D) as a regular member of the Simsbury Board of Education effective September 23, 2019, with a term expiring November 5, 2019 and, to further move to appoint Sharon Thomas as a regular member of the Simsbury Board of Education effective November 6, 2019, with a term expiring December 6, 2021. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Thomas said she has lived in Town since about early 2000. She is excited to be on the Board of Education and hopes to serve them well.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

#### **a) Regular Meeting of September 9, 2019**

There were no changes to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2019, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

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

**a) Personnel** – no report at this time.

**b) Finance** – no report at this time.

**c) Welfare** – no report at this time.

**d) Public Safety** – Mr. Askham said Public Safety met last week and they discussed feeding of wildlife. They decided to create another sub-committee to discuss this issue. They should have a draft ordinance at the next Public Safety meeting. They will also be meeting with DEEP again.

**e) Board of Education** – no report at this time.

Ms. Cook said the Aging and Disability Commission is holding a Sensory-friendly Halloween Party on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Go to their website for more information.

Ms. Cook said the Community for Care Spirit Council will be meeting Thursday at the Library.

Mr. Askham said the Board of Finance Meeting was very important. There is in a good understanding between the two Boards with this Board being the final authority.

Mr. Askham asked everyone to lock their cars and take their keys inside as there is an increase in unlocked cars and things inside the cars being taken.

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Ms. Cook said for people who volunteer or would like to volunteer for the 350<sup>th</sup> Committee, there will be a Steering Committee meeting on November 3, 2019 at 6:30 in the Library. All are welcome.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) **Memo from M. Capriola and Board of Finance re: Business Incentive Policy (Tax Abatement) Recommendations, dated September 28, 2019 and August 24, 2019 – no discussion at this time.**
- b) **Memo from M. Capriola Re: Gift of Love Update, dated September 18, 2019 – no discussion at this time.**
- c) **Movie Night in the Park Flyer – no discussion at this time.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) **Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(E), Discussion of Correspondence Exempt from Disclosure: Attorney Client Privilege (Tobacco Valley Solar Stabilization Request)**
- b) **Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(D), Discussion of Possible Purchase and Sale of Real Property**
- c) **Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(E), Discussion of Correspondence Exempt from Disclosure: Attorney Client Privilege (Possible Lien Related Connecticut Uniform to Relocation Act)**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session as above, with Ms. Capriola, Ms. Appleby, and Attorney Bob DeCrescenzo to be included in all three discussions. Also to include Ms. Meriwether, and Francine Beland in item a discussion and Mr. Glidden in items a and b discussions at 7:26p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:15p.m., Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15p.m., Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk