

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

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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 Selectwoman Lisa Heavner; Board members Sean Askham, Michael Paine, Cheryl Cook and Elaine Lang. Absent was Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included Jerome Shea, Town Engineer; Gerard Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation; Melissa Appleby, Deputy Director of Administrative Services; Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; David Gardner, Assessor; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the agenda to:

- 1) Move up Kristen Formanek’s update on MSP and the Renters’ Rebate Program from Other Business to the end of Presentations and
- 2) To add the authorization of the First Selectwoman to submit an application for a Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant through the State Historic Preservation Office for a study to determine the viability of a multi-property submission for inclusion on the State Registry of Historic Places before Tax Refunds. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about changing to the Town Manager form of government, the Red Stone Pub, businesses in Town, the mil rate, the War Memorial, gun permits, Probate Court security, and other issues.

Rev. David Chase spoke about consideration of an Old Growth Designation for one or more of Simsbury’s forests. He feels this Designation should be supported unanimously as it will add another dimension to forest management.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, congratulated those who won in the election. He spoke about Simsbury TV, the War on Terror, the mil rate, police positions, and other issues.

PRESENTATIONS

• Annual Recycling Award

Mary Turner, Chairman of the Recycling Committee, said the Annual Recycling Award is being presented to the Simsbury Public Library – Susan Ray, the Adult Program Director, for the Repair Café concept. This award is given to those who provide education and assistance in conserving resources by repairing and returning devices to the public.

- **Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association Operational Review**

Melissa Appleby, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, gave a presentation on the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association. She said their second ambulance began running in 2014. This was due to the increased in call volume during weekday, daytime hours.

Ms. Appleby said in March or April of 2017, the Board of Selectmen recommended an interim appropriation of \$50,000 to support the operational expenses with the understanding that the Town staff would conduct a more comprehensive analysis of the resources required to meet their EMS needs. The Board of Finance approved this appropriation.

Ms. Appleby gave some history of the EMS; their roles and responsibilities; their staffing structure; number of calls and responses, etc. She also did some comparisons of Towns near Simsbury.

The Board will be looking at the most minimal invasive solution for the Ambulance Association.

- **Riverside Road Status Report – Jerome Shea, Town Engineer**

Mr. Shea gave a presentation on the Riverside Road/Drake Hill Road Bridge improvement. He said this project was funded in 2012. They have been working with our engineering consultant and the State DOT for possible solutions for increasing the elevation of Riverside Road in the area immediately north and south of the Drake Hill Road Bridge.

Mr. Shea said he is planning to schedule a meeting with abutting property owners to inform them of the status and proposed plans for this project.

OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **MSP and Renters’ Rebate – Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services**

Ms. Formanek said there has been two significant programmatic changes that are being made in the new State budget. These changes will be detrimental to the Town, our most vulnerable seniors, and disabled individuals.

Ms. Formanek said the Social Services Department completes the applications and submits them to OPM, which administers the rebates. With the budget changes, the administration of the rebate would be a Town responsibility and would significantly impact our staff. The shifting of funding to the Town would cause significant impact to our budget.

Ms. Formanek said the budget also proposes cutting the income threshold by more than half for the Medicare Savings Program. This program provides financial assistance related to medical

and prescription drug coverage. The Part D coverage would eliminate the donut hole, or gap in Part D coverage.

Ms. Formanek said most of the seniors and disabled who are on this program will not be able to absorb this amount.

The Board will be watching this issue closely.

FIRST SELECTWOMAN’S REPORT

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

Ms. Heavner said there is increasing information suggesting that Simsbury’s tobacco industry played a major role in the formation of Dr. Martin Luther King’s decision to enter the ministry, she recommended that grant funding be sought for an analysis to determine whether other sites on the remaining farmland would qualify for a multi-purpose submission to the State Registry of Historic Places.

Ms. Lang said the Historic Society will give whatever information they can to support this application.

Ms. Cook made a motion to authorize the First Selectwoman to submit an application for a Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant through the State Historic Preservation Office for a study to determine the viability of a multi-property submission for inclusion on the State Registry of Historic Places. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$14,179.63 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve FY17 Supplemental Appropriation to close Capital Projects

Ms. Heavner said the following three capital projects, exceeded their total prior appropriations as detailed in the report:

Enno Hall Improvements (FY 2009)	\$4,657
Simsbury Farms Renovations (FY 2012)	6,614
Highway Pavement Management (FY 2015)	<u>4,575</u>
	\$15,846

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Ms. Heavner said by closing out all of the outstanding capital projects listed, we will free up \$176,622 in cash that the Finance Director/Treasurer is recommending be used to partially fund a previously approved capital project (Squadron Line boiler replacement) reducing the amount needed to borrow.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve and recommend FY17 supplemental appropriations totaling \$15,846 pursuant to Section 809(c) of the Simsbury Town Charter to close three completed capital projects as attached. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. Ms. Heavner, Ms. Lang, Ms. Cook and Mr. Paine were in favor, with Mr. Askham not in favor. Therefore, the motion passed.

c) Approve recruitment of Board of Assessment Appeal member for the 2017 Assessment Year

After some discussion, the Personnel Sub-Committee will take on this issue on recruiting new members to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Ms. Cook made a motion to recruit and appoint two members of the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) to serve for the 2017 assessment year ending September 30, 2018, thereby expanding the board to five members and to recruit and appoint two alternate members of the Board of Assessment Appeals for the term expiring December 2, 2019 and one for the term expiring December 6, 2021, a total of three alternates for the Board of Assessment Appeals. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approve supplemental appropriation from the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to cover the “close-vote” recount

Mr. Paine recused himself.

Ms. Heavner said subject to Connecticut Statutes Section 9-445, a Close Vote Re-canvass of the November 7, 2017 Simsbury Municipal Election must be held to re-canvass all the votes. This will include the recall of the Head Moderator and not less than six other election officials who will examine and reprocess all ballots. The estimated cost is about \$3,000 - \$5,000. Only the funds necessary will be expended.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to cover the costs associated with a statutorily-mandated “close-vote” re-canvass of the November 7, 2017 municipal election and recommend such appropriation to the Board of Finance for its approval. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine returned to the meeting.

e) Multi-Use Trail Connector Grant – Bloomfield to Tariffville:

- 1) Authorize acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$1,020,000**
- 2) Authorization to execute a Commitment to Fund memorandum with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation to construct a multi-purpose trail from Tariffville to the Town of Bloomfield adjacent to State Route 187**
- 3) Authorization to execute an agreement with the Town of Bloomfield for cost sharing relative to the project**

Ms. Heavner said the Town of Simsbury and the Town of Bloomfield were notified of the approval of a joint grant application under LOTCIP in the amount of \$1,020,000 for a portion of this multi-use path from Main Street in Tariffville to a multi-use pathway in the Town of Bloomfield that is currently funded and is anticipated to be under construction next year. Bloomfield is still reviewing this application.

Ms. Lang made a motion to:

1. Authorize acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$1,020,000.00 for the multi-use trail connector from Bloomfield to Tariffville.
2. Authorize the First Selectwoman to execute a Commitment to Fund memorandum with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation to construct a multi-purpose trail from Tariffville to the Town of Bloomfield adjacent to State Route 187. This project is being completed in cooperation of the Town of Bloomfield.
3. Authorize the First Selectwoman to execute an agreement with the Town of Bloomfield for cost sharing relative to the project subject to Town Council approval.

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

f) Approve Auction of Park Maintenance Vehicles

Mr. Toner said these auctions have been done in the past with good results. They would like to auction off:

1979 Ford F600 Dump Truck
1997 GMC 3500 Dump Truck
1997 Ford F350 Dump Truck
2000 Chevy Cavalier

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the auction of park maintenance vehicles to the public. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Approve the recommendations of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission to revise the existing Program Cancellation Policy

Mr. Toner said the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to approve changes to the Department Program Cancellation Policy. It is an upgrade/update of their current policy.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission to revise the existing program cancellation policy. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Accept donation in the amount of \$3,680 from the Friends of Simsbury Farms

Mr. Toner said the Friends of the Simsbury Farms has solicited proposed projects for funding, since their inception, that would enhance and/or improve various areas of the facility. The two scoreboards at the rink are 12 and 19 years old.

Mr. Askham made a motion to accept the donation of \$3,680.00 from the Friends of Simsbury Farms, which will go toward the purchase and installation of a wireless upgrade package for the operation of the two scoreboards at the Simsbury Farms Ice Rink with our thanks. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Authorize the potential construction of basketball court(s) and refer to the Planning Commission for CGS § 8-24 referral

Ms. Heavner said the Simsbury Farms Master Plan, completed in 1998, recommended the construction of a basketball court(s) at the Complex. Due to budget constraints, etc. the project was never completed. This project was included in the FY 17/18 Park Improvement appropriation, but will not be done unless funds are available.

Ms. Lang made a motion authorize the potential construction of a basketball court(s) at Simsbury Farms to be submitted to the Planning Commission for 8-24 approval. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Authorize the Simsbury Performing Arts Center to raise funds for the Ticket Book walkway bricks

Ms. Heavner said these bricks would be consistent with the other bricks on other properties.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the selling of engraved bricks to raise funds for the ticket booth project and walkway provided there are no material changes in design previously approved. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

k) Accept donation in the amount of \$4,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to support Social Services Department programs

Ms. Lang made a motion to accept the donation of \$4,000 from The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for the Simsbury Cheese Day, Bread Day and Food Closet Programs. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

I) Simsbury Regional Probate Court FY18 Capital Request

Ms. Heavner said the Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Simsbury will share the proportionate cost of the security upgrade valued at \$6,000. Simsbury’s contribution will be funded from Simsbury’s available fund balance in the Probate Court Special Revenue Fund.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$6,000 pursuant to Section 809(c) of the Simsbury Town Charter for security upgrades to the Regional Probate Court. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Darren P. Cunningham (R) as a regular member of the Conservation Commission effective October 20, 2017

Ms. Cook made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Darren P. Cunningham as a regular member of the Conservation Commission effective October 20, 2017 with thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Acknowledge the resignation of Margaret C. Diachenko (R) as a regular member of the Aging and Disability Commission effective October 19, 2017

Mr. Askham made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Margaret C. Diachenko as a regular member of the Aging and Disability Commission effective October 19, 2017 with thanks. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Acknowledge the resignation of J. Paul Lanza (D) as a regular member of the Design Review Board effective October 16, 2017

Ms. Cook made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of J. Paul Lanza as a regular member of the Design Review Board effective October 16, 2017 with thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Appoint Ronald Anastasio (D) as a regular member of the Housing Authority with an expiration date of April 1, 2022

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Ronald Anastasio as a regular member of the Housing Authority with an expiration date of April 2, 2022. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e) Appoint Mary Sandra Fleet (R) as a regular member of the Housing Authority with an expiration date of April 1, 2022**

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Mary Sandra Fleet as a regular member of the Housing Authority with an expiration date on April 1, 2022. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- f) Appoint Mary Sandra Fleet (R) as a regular member of the Aging and Disability Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2019**

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Mary Sandra Fleet as a regular member of the Aging and Disability Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2019. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- g) Appoint Jennifer Batchelar (R) as a regular member of the Board of Education with an expiration date of December 2, 2019**

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Jennifer Batchelar as a regular member of the Board of Education with an expiration date of December 2, 2019. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a) Regular Meeting of October 11, 2017**

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting minutes of October 11, 2017, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

- b) Special Meeting of November 8, 2017**

There were no changes to the Special Meeting minutes of November 8, 2017, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

Ms. Heavner said there was a closed hearing on November 2, 2017 on the Deep Water Wind Project. They are now working on final briefs, which are due on December 2, 2017.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel:

- a) Possible Action on Proposed Cost of Living Adjustment for Unaffiliated Employees**

Mr. Askham said the Personnel Sub-Committee approved a 2% cost of living adjustment for Fiscal Year 2017-18 for unaffiliated full-time employees. This increase is consistent with

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increases recently negotiated with the Town’s three CSEA bargaining units and the police officer’s bargaining unit. The change will be retroactive to July 1, 2017.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve a two percent (2%) cost of living increase for the Town of Simsbury’s unaffiliated full-time employees for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as recommended by the Personnel Sub-Committee. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2. **Finance** – no report at this time.
3. **Welfare** – no report at this time.
4. **Public Safety** – no report at this time.
5. **Board of Education** – no report at this time.

Ms. Cook said the Community for Care had to postpone the LGBTQ program, but hope to reschedule it in January. Also, there will be a presentation on Domestic Violence with a taping on SCTV. Regular programming will continue in the spring.

ADJOURN

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk