

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 25, 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 Michael Paine, Cheryl Cook, Sean Askham, Chris Peterson and Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether, Police Chief Boulter, Lieutenant Fred Sifodaskalakakis, Fire Chief Kevin Kowalski, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Mike Long, 8 Arens Way, spoke about being called a liar from one of the commentators at the November 13th meeting, which he is not. This was a false attack on him, the Police Chief, and other members of the Simsbury Police Commission.

Mr. Long said at the Police Commission meeting today, they extended a full vote of confidence of the Police Chief and the Police Force. He feels this Town is totally protected by this Force.

Wooda McNevin, August Road, and an **SCTV volunteer**, spoke about starting at SCTV in 2005 and how he asked to cover the Board of Selectmen meetings. He joined the Board of Directors of SCTV in 2012. He learned in the Navy to always volunteer for the hardest job. He asked everyone to help SCVT raise revenues as there expenses will exceed their revenues. He made four appeals to help raise funds.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about a FOI she has asked for on the Police Chief and Zoning Enforcement salaries. She also spoke about low morale she feels is in Town Hall.

Michael Yenke, 626 First Avenue, NY, spoke about a commentator who gives inaccurate and false information on the Zoning Enforcement Officer. There were allegations that were false and he feels this speaker should not be able to attack other residents.

Robert Kalechman, 781 Hopmeadow Street, asked for a point of order about the person speaking in public audience who doesn't live in Town. He spoke about the 2nd amendment of the Constitution and firearms. He wants the 2nd Amendment protected.

Sarah Neilson, spoke about Black Friday and Small Business Saturday. She asked everyone to shop locally and showed flyers that went out with different prizes that can be earned.

Kevin Beal, Simsbury Republican Party, 12 Hampton Circle, thanked Ms. Cook for her service on the Board. He said she is a great example of leadership and grace while on the Board.

PRESENTATIONS

a) Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Mr. Wellman spoke about some of Ms. Cook's accomplishments in Town. He said he appreciated her voice for the residents.

Mr. Paine said Ms. Cook is a “classy lady”, a friend, who is just interested in making the community better.

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Mr. Askham said he appreciated her friendship and guidance throughout the years. She was able to hold the Board accountable to the benefit of the Town.

Mr. Peterson said she has had an impact on him by sitting next to him. She has changed people's lives and he hopes she stays engaged in the Town.

Mr. Kelly said Ms. Cook will leave a huge hole on the Board. He has appreciated her intellectual independence and advocacy.

Mr. Wellman presented a picture of Eno Hall, which he knows means something to her.

Ms. Cook said it was an honor to serve on the Board and feels this Board has worked very well together. She knows as she leaves this Board will continue to serve the community and give their contributions to the community.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to congratulate Selectwoman Chery Cook on her tenure on the Board of Selectmen since 2013, further move to express the Board's gratitude to Ms. Cook for her service to her community. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Wellman said Mr. Kelly has served the Town since 1983 and gave some accomplishments up to serving on the Board of Selectmen as Deputy First Selectman.

Mr. Peterson said Mr. Kelly has been very important to this Town. His very tempered, moderate approach to governance is good for all.

Mr. Paine said he has grown to appreciate his thoughtful discussions on all items. The challenge to those who follow in his footsteps will be to bring thoughtful discussions forward and continuing to do what is best for the Town.

Mr. Askham said Mr. Kelly is very focused on what is the best for this Town. He was never worried about the politics or vote counts. He just worried about the people in Town. Mr. Kelly has taught him a lot and he is thankful.

Mr. Wellman presented Mr. Kelly with a picture of the tobacco fields, which he knows mean a lot to him.

Mr. Kelly thanked everyone for their comments. He said working for the community has been an absolute inspiration. He has been so inspired by Board of Education staff and Town staff for their commitment to this Town. He feels this is a very unique Town to be a part of.

Mr. Wellman made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to congratulate Deputy First Selectman Chris Kelly on his tenure on the Board of Selectmen from 1989 through 1995 as well as most recently from 2015 to present, further move to express the Board's gratitude to Mr. Kelly for his service to the community. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Public Safety Radio System Project Update

Ms. Appleby said the current radio system used by the Police Department, Public Works, the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association and Board of Education is now 20 years old and having issues.

She said the consultants had offered two recommendations on this system back in January. She now has four options. Lieutenant Sifodaskalakis said they looked at the State of CT system as it could save the Town some money. The Town and State would have to enter into a five year MOU with a maintenance contract through Motorola.

They also looked at utilizing the Fire District System, which is already a proven system and paid for by the taxpayers.

After some discussion, the Board thanked everyone for their hard work on this project.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion on the Police Chief's performance at the end of the regular meeting. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$1,523.67, 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) Federal FY 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program

Mr. Wellman said this State Homeland Security Grant Program provides funding for emergency preparedness systems.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to approve the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program Memorandum of Agreement, which makes the Town of Simsbury eligible for regional allocations made through the Region 3 Regional Emergency Planning Team. Further move, effective November 25, 2019, to approve the attached resolution that authorizes the Town Manager to execute all documents related to the grant award. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Proposed Acceptance of Greater Hartford Transit District Dial-A-Ride Assistance Grant

Mr. Wellman said the Town contract with the Greater Hartford Transit District for assistance with funding the operating costs of the Dial-a-Ride program.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to accept the FY 19/20 grant funds from the Greater Hartford Transit District to support our Dial-a-Ride program and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E.

Capriola to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) EDC 2019-2020 Work Plan

Mr. Wellman said this Board gave the EDC a draft of a work plan with seven items on this plan. He said under Business Outreach that they might be able to get business feedback on wayfinding signs.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to adopt the Economic Development Commission 2019-2020 work plan as presented. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Budget Status Report

Ms. Meriwether went through the general funds overview. She said expenditures are proceeding in accordance with the budget as of September 30, 2019. She said the Simsbury Farms Fund revenue exceeded expenditures by \$268,619 as of September 30th. The majority of this is the accounting change that was made. The majority relates to the golf course. She said the Health Insurance fund balance increased from \$1,567,407 to \$2,805,948, which is mainly due to the \$850,000 contribution from the General Fund. We are right in the target range of where we want to be now. The Sewer Use Fund revenues exceed expenditures but this is mainly due to 75% of revenues being received while only 25% of expenditures have been incurred. The only item she is sure that will go over is legal.

f) Summary of Town Manager’s Performance Review and Compensation

Ms. Capriola stepped down.

Ms. Wellman said the Town Manager’s contract reflect an annual performance review and salary adjustment. There are six attributes that she is evaluated on and she was either at or above the expectations on all.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to accept the Town Manager’s performance review summary. Further move, retroactive to July 1, 2019, that the Town Manager’s salary be increased by 2.35%, 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.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Designation of Roles for Members of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Management Committee

Mr. Wellman said he received an email from a contact at the National Parks Service which told us that each Town/entity gets one vote through an official representative, but that all representatives and alternates are welcome at every meeting. The Personnel Sub-Committee recommends that Sally Rieger be appointed as the regular member and Stephen McDonnell and Mike Ryan be appointed alternates.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to appoint Sally Rieger as the official Simsbury representative to the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Management Committee. Further move to appoint Stephen McDonnell and Mike Ryan as Simsbury’s alternates to the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Management Committee. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Appointments to Short-term Rental Ordinance Work Group

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective November 25, 2019, to accept the recommended members for the Short-Term Rental Ordinance Workgroup:

Ron Jodice, Economic Development Commission

Bruce Elliott, Zoning Commission

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

c) Resignation of Joy Himmelfarb from the Aging and Disability Commission

Ms. Cook made a motion to accept the resignation of Joy Himmelfarb as a regular member of the Aging and Disability Commission retroactive to November 15, 2019 with our thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Resignation of Dennis Fallon from the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

Mr. Kelly made a motion to accept the resignation of Dennis Fallon as a regular member of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission effective December 6, 2019 with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of November 13, 2019

Ms. Cook made a motion to correct the Regular Meeting minutes of November 13, 2019 on page 3 under Liaison and Sub-Committee reports - Ms. Cook said the Sensory, not Century Friendly Santa. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Special meeting of November 16, 2019

There were no changes to the Special Meeting minutes of November 16, 2019 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.

Ms. Cook reminded everyone that Simsbury Celebrates is this Saturday and she showed some items that will be at the 350th Anniversary booth. Their table will be in front of Eno Memorial Hall.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss the performance of the Police Chief. Included in Executive Session will be Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby and Chief Boulter. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:45p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Board returned to the Main Meeting Room, and Mr. Wellman read the following statement:

Police officers have an incredibly difficult job and the Board of Selectmen has the highest respect for all of the sworn officers and staff in our police department. Through our hiring, training, and performance management process, the Town of Simsbury works to create a professional and motivating environment. We remain committed to supporting a police department that is of the highest quality to serve our residents.

There is a process, afforded by the union contract, that protects all of our officers. That process will take its course and the Board of Selectmen wants to afford the participants every remedy available to them. I ask that the public respect the process.

Chief Nick Boulter has served the Simsbury community for more than 20 years. In that time, he has developed a well-deserved reputation as a hard-working, honest, law-enforcement professional. The Chief has and continues to serve honorably and with the utmost integrity. He has the full support of the Town Manager, The Police Commission, and the Board of Selectmen.

ADJOURN

Ms. Cooke made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47p.m. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk