

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2017**

“Subject to Approval”

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CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Sean Askham, Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly, Cheryl Cook and Chris Peterson. Others in attendance included: Sean Kimball, Interim Town Manager; Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo; Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works, Gerard Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation; Kristen Formanek, Director of Community and Social Services; James Rabbit, Director of Planning and Community Development; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Wooda McNiver, August Road, spoke about SCTV. He has been volunteering with them since 2004. He was asking for everyone to donate to their fund raiser, as SCTV is a very important resource for the community.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the transition to the Town Management form of government, checks and balances, the Performing Arts Center events, the Iron Horse Marathon, the Deep Water Solar project, and other issues.

Kris Barnett, Chairman of the former Economic Development Commission encouraged the Board to form a new Economic Development Commission. She would like them to look at the presentation she did in September.

Diane Tracey, 40 Berkshire Way, spoke about the solar farm project. She asked that the Board of Selectmen continue to protect Simsbury and to appeal to the siting council if they approve the project.

Joe Tracey, 40 Berkshire Way, also spoke about the solar project. He is also concerned about the project being approved. His concerns include water quality, safety and a buffering plan. He also asked the Board to be vigilant and appeal when necessary.

Maria Ecke, 8 Glenwood, spoke about the budget, spending issues and the First Selectman's stipend. She also spoke about residents being more involved in the budget process.

PRESENTATIONS

- Proposed Deepwater Wind Solar Project Update – Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo

Attorney DeCrescenzo said the application was filed in late June and several Public Hearings were held. Briefs were filed on December 1, 2017 and the Council held an informal review on December 7, 2017. A straw poll was done with a majority of members in favor of the application. However, no decision has been rendered yet. The vote will be taking place on December 21, 2017.

Attorney DeCrescenzo said he is working on several issues that could possibly help our case, such as the area being a historic parcel due to Martin Luther King.

Attorney DeCrescenzo said he will have to look at the actual decision to see if an appeal should be made.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S UPDATE

Mr. Wellman provided an update on various items. Mr. Kimball as Interim Town Manager provide an update on various items per Mr. Wellman’s request.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,009.90 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve Public Gathering Permits for 2018 Events

Mr. Wellman said the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club River Run is held on April 29, 2018 and The Iron Horse Half Marathon is held on June 3, 2018.

Mr. Toner said these events have been long standing. They did change the Marathon time to accommodate resident concerns.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the Public Gathering Applications for the 2018 Iron Horse Half Marathon, 10k and 5k and the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club River Run. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Authorize the Town Manager to execute contract for Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) Grant

Mr. Wellman said the Social Services Department applies to the Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) for a grant to provide funds for substance abuse prevention each year. Ms. Formanek said the money is used to support the Police Department's Narcan program.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to execute the CASAC Grant Contract for funds to support local prevention activities. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Bright Ideas Grants:

Mr. Wellman said there is a fee that Eversource Energy collects whenever we pay an electric bill.

The project selected by the Clean Energy Task Force is the installation of 11 autonomous energy monitoring Tiles across six Town facilities.

Mr. Roy said these Tiles will be used to track our energy usage, in real time, with a level of accuracy that will allow us to develop short and long range plans to reduce energy consumption and demand costs.

1) Accept Bright Ideas Grant and authorize Town Manager to execute agreement with Eversource Energy, subject to review by Town Counsel

Ms. Cook made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Eversource Energy to receive the Bright Ideas Grant funding with a value up to \$10,000, subject to Town Counsel. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2) Authorize submission and acceptance for a third Bright Ideas Grant in the amount of \$10,000 in December, 2017, subject to review by Town Counsel

Mr. Kelly made a motion to authorize submission and acceptance for a third Bright Ideas Grant in the amount of \$10,000 in December, subject to review by Town Counsel. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Authorize Disposal of 2006 Ford Econoline Dial-A-Ride Van

Mr. Wellman said the van has been out of commission for three years now and it doesn't have any value at this point. Ms. Formanek said the owner would like this old van off of his property.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the Public Works Department to dispose of a 2006 Ford Econoline van to a scrap dealer willing to take the vehicle from its current location at Martel Transportation, Powder Mill Road, Canton, Connecticut. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Discussion regarding Electronic Packets

Mr. Wellman spoke about the Town moving to Electronic Packets to save staff time and paper expense.

The Board felt this was a good idea as it was more convenient, and will help reduce stress due to staff time needed to put together the packets.

Mr. Kimball said this issue was looked at before and he will gather more information on options for the change to Electronic Packets.

b) Discussion regarding Meeting Room Setup

Mr. Wellman wanted to discuss the meeting room setup and where the Town Manager and staff should sit.

The Board feels that the room should be set up for easy, comfortable interactions, with a sense of connection from the Town Manager and Board.

Mr. Kimball said he would work on some options for the Board.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Diane Madigan (R) as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective November 30, 2017

b) Acknowledge the resignation of Craig K. MacCormac (R) as a Regular Member of the Conservation Commission & Inland Wetlands Agency effective December 1, 2017

c) Acknowledge the resignation of Joseph Campolieta (D) as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective December 4, 2017

d) Acknowledge the resignation of Donna Beinstein (D) as an Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission effective December 4, 2017

Mr. Askham made a motion to acknowledge the resignations of Diane Madigan as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Craig K. MacCormac as a regular member of the Conservation Commission & Inland Wetlands Agency, Joseph Campolieta as an Alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Donna Beinstein as an Alternate member of the Conservation Commission with the board's thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

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a) Regular Meeting of November 27, 2017

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting minutes of November 27, 2017, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) Special Meeting of December 4, 2017

There were no changes to the Special Meeting minutes of December 4, 2017, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Personnel** – there was no report at this time.
- 2. Finance** – there was no report at this time.
- 3. Welfare** – there was no report at this time.
- 4. Public Safety** – there we no report at this time.
- 5. Board of Education** – there was no report at this time.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk