

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:06 p.m. at Town Hall. Present were: First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Amber Abbuhl; Board members Chris Peterson, Eric Wellman, Sean Askham, and Heather Goetz. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Public Works Director Tom Roy; Town Attorney Bob Decrescenzo, and other interested parties.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

- a) Proposed Repeal of Fair Rent Commission Ordinance
  - Participants can address the Board of Selectmen in person at the meeting
  - Written comments can be emailed to [townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov). Written comments will be read into the record

There were no participants in attendance. Mr. Wellman made a motion to close the public hearing. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

## **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

- Participants can address the Board of Selectmen in person at the meeting
- Written comments can be emailed to [townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov). Written comments will not be read into the record, but forwarded to all Selectmen via email.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about comments made during the 12/6/21 Board of Selectmen meeting regarding Chief Boulter, and the recent police investigation in Town.

## **PRESENTATION**

- a) Town of Simsbury Dam Safety and Improvement Program

Mr. Shea and Mr. Gannon presented. Mr. Shea stated that in 2014 Town staff proactively completed inspections of all town-owned dams and those inspections revealed some maintenance and improvements required for each of the dams for compliance with the DEEP Dam Safety Regulatory Program. In 2017, DEEP issued a Request for Engineering and Maintenance Work with several recommendations for the dams. The dams owned by the Town were discussed along with their Hazard Classification. The projects completed to date with the available funding was also discussed. The Stoddard Reservoir Dam Investigation Findings were discussed along with the cost alternatives.

Mr. Peterson asked about potential funding from either the DEEP, state or federal government based on the conservation program that runs out of that facility. Mr. Shea stated that there are so many dams that are in bad condition that are owned by the state and private entities that there's practically no money for these types of projects at the state or federal level. Ms. Goetz what would be the advantages to the different Stoddard Reservoir Dam Design alternatives and what are the costs after the project is complete. Mr. Shea stated that with the 100 ft

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dam you have more concrete to maintain, also the permits may drive them to one alternative over the other based on modifications to downstream flows. The Lake Basile Dam project costs were discussed. Mr. Shea stated that Alternative 2 has lower maintenance costs because on the fiberglass Truss there's no corrosion to be concerned about, however, it is a new technology so long term they don't really know how it is going to perform.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

Ms. Mackstutis, First Selectman, reviewed her First Selectman's Report.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Capriola, Town Manager, reviewed her Town Manager's Report.

**LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) **Personnel** – no report at this time.
- b) **Finance** – no report at this time.
- c) **Public Safety** – Mr. Askham reported that they are working on scheduling a special meeting to be held before the January Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss the ambulance response service overall and the staffing of the second ambulance.
- d) **Board of Education** – Mr. Wellman shared that at the last Board of Education meeting, they provided an update on the Latimer project. They are creating a separate gym and cafeteria space that will still be connected to the school but will have its own entrance. They are also making the roof solar ready. The Clean Energy Task is engaged with Tecton Architecture in this work. Mr. Wellman stated that the school enrollment projects between now and 2023 are that there could be more than 500 more kids in the schools so the next school likely to be discussed for significant renovation is Squadron.

**SELECTMEN ACTION**

**a) Tax Refund Requests**

Ms. Goetz made a motion, effective December 20, 2021, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$3,452.96, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Donation from Trinity Episcopal Church**

Ms. Capriola shared that this donation is to the Community & Social Services Department in the amount of \$3,000 to assist with the purchase of holiday gift items for local families in need.

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective December 20, 2021, to accept a donation from Trinity Episcopal Church in the amount of \$3,000 for the purpose of supporting Simsbury Community and Social Services Department's Holiday Program, which assists residents in need. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**c) Healthy Living Collective Grant**

Ms. Capriola stated that this is a grant opportunity that came across the Senior Center Coordinator's desk for them to train an instructor in a particular form of tai chi and then be able to offer that program.

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Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 20, 2021 to submit the Healthy Living Collective Grant (Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance® program and instructor training grant) application and further move, to accept the Healthy Living Collective Grant (Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance® program and instructor training grant) and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute application and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**d) Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) heather/sean**

Ms. Goetz made a motion, effective December 20, 2021, to apply for the 2021/2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented and in the event that the grant is awarded, further move, to accept the 2021/2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

**a) Resignations from Community for Care-**

Mr. Wellman made a motion to accept the resignation of Community for Care members Hannah Reynolds retroactive to January 2, 2021, Karen Gallagher retroactive to December 10, 2021, and Marc Lehman retroactive to December 10, 2021. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**b) Resignations from and Appointment to the SPIRIT Council**

Mr. Askham made a motion to accept the resignations of Annalise Febus-Barlow and Chris Kelly as regular members of the SP/ RIT Council retroactive to December 6, 2021 and move, effective December 20, 2021 to appoint Salvador Sanchez as a regular member of the SPIRIT Council with a term expiring December 4, 2023. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**a) December 6, 2021 Regular Meeting**

**b) December 11, 2021 Special Meeting**

Mr. Wellman asked that there be two corrections to the minutes of December 6, 2021. Items (e) and (h) the First Selectmen's stipend was called out twice so item (h) can be stricken. On item (e) Mr. Wellman made the motion not Mr. Peterson. Mr. Askham made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D): Possible Purchase of a Parcel of Land (56 Wolcott Road) and Consideration of Offer to Sell Land to the Town– Hopmeadow Street, at 6:57 p.m. and to include Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Public Works Director Tom Roy; Town Attorney Bob Decrescenzo, and all Board members. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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- a) Pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D): Possible Purchase of a Parcel of Land (56 Wolcott Road)
- b) Pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D): Consideration of Offer to Sell Land to the Town–Hopmeadow Street

Mr. Roy left Executive Session at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**SELECTMEN ACTION**

- f) Authorize the Town Manager to Execute an Option Agreement for the Potential Purchase of 56 Wolcott Road

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign the option agreement for 56 Wolcott Road. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor  
Clerk