

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 23, 2023
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The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Hall. Present were: First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Amber Abbuhl; Board members Heather Goetz, Sean Askham, Eric Wellman and Chris Peterson. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Tom Roy; Director of Parks and Recreation Tom Tyburski; Deputy Town Engineer Adam Kessler; Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo (by Zoom); Director of Finance/Treasurer Amy Meriwether, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- **Participants can address the Board of Selectmen in person at the meeting**
- **email townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov by noon on Monday, January 9, 2023 to register to address the Board of Selectmen through Zoom**
- **Written comments can be emailed to townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov. Written comments will not be read into the record, but will be forwarded to all Selectmen via email**

Lori Boyko, 15 Ocris Road, said she had some confusion about the joint meeting of Board of Selectmen and Police Commission meeting as she never got the update that the meeting was changed to the main meeting room instead of upstairs. There should be a way to update people about the changes. She cares very much about the opioid and other drug crisis and knows a lot about it. She said we are encouraged to label our kids with ADD and other issues and get them a prescription of Adderall, which is also very addictive. We seem to normalize this. She read a quote from James Baldwin. She wants to know what role models we want to be for our children.

Dr. Mike Rinaldi, Pinnacle Mountain Road, spoke about medical marijuana and recreational marijuana. He said he went to Zoning Commission meetings and they don't know the difference between the two marijuana's. He feels it is the Board of Selectmen's decision to make on the sale on marijuana in Town, not the Zoning Commissions. He said a regular MD with a DEA license cannot prescribe marijuana, you need a special license. He doesn't feel a referendum is needed as this Board should make the decision now.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane said the annual Environmental Summit is tomorrow, where she will be the lead person on the lead panel on nature's habitat. She will advocate for some of the policies they have been working on. She said there was a legislative bill on old and old-growth forests.

She said Open Space is working on some policies, a mowing schedule, native plants, pollution. They have an opportunity to co-brand with a National Organization Home Grown National Parks.

Ms. Masino said there will be an event at the Grange for seed give away/seed swapping and a Lego building project on February 26th from 2-4 p.m.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about her concerns about her December 12th and January 23rd postings being removed from the Simsbury Patch. She also spoke about the positions of the Board members on the

Town Manager; Simsbury Meadow issues, articles in The Hartford Courant, Zoning issues on cannabis and passing the buck, Police incidents, and other issues.

PRESENTATIONS

a) Farmington Valley Health District update/Community Health Assessment Findings

Jennifer Kertanis, Director of Health, said before the pandemic they started their health assessment review. They are discussing mental health/community health and how to improve it. They are trying to better understand the health of the Farmington Valley. She spoke about obesity and morbid obesity.

Olivia Morris, Health Associate, spoke about what community health assessment is. She said it is a collaborative, systematic, data-driven report that describes health status and behaviors of residents. When they understand the health of the population they can inform the prioritization strategies and interventions that can improve the community. She also went through the Advisory Board's roles, topical areas, and data sources.

Kristen Carew, Epidemiologist, went through the data sources, adult mental health and youth mental health, radon levels, and affordable housing, falls, substance abuse and overdose deaths. She said their next steps are broadly disseminating the findings, establishing work groups by priority topics and developing community health improvement plans. She said people can help by recommending organizations, groups and community members that should be involved in community health. Just try to get the word out.

After some discussion, no motion was made at this time.

b) Simsbury Multi-Use Path Development and Maintenance Update

Mr. Roy said they are trying to recap everything that is going on in Town with the bike paths, sidewalks, along with maintenance.

Mr. Kessler spoke about the Tariffville to Bloomfield trail and the ongoing construction. They hope to finish this project in September or October 2024. He said the design project from Hopmeadow to Curtis Park is 90% complete. They are awaiting a grant approval and anticipate the start of construction in 2024.

Mr. Roy said the design project for Curtis Park to Tariffville has funding for the survey and preliminary design work in FY 23 budget. The survey work is underway.

He said new sidewalk projects include Rt. 10, Hoskins to Wolcott. This is LOTCIP funded which includes sidewalks and decorative lighting and utility relocations. He spoke about the sidewalk project on Firetown Road, West Street to Plank Hill which is LOTCIP funded, with additional funding from CTDOT and construction is anticipated in 2024.

Mr. Tyburski spoke about the Multi-Use Trail maintenance. He said Culture, Parks and Recreation staff are currently knocking back trailside brush and removing debris. They have removed and installed new railings on the trail and replaced signage and removed deteriorating fencing.

He spoke about upcoming projects like removing old fencing and installing new fencing from Latimer Lane to Winslow Place. He said they will continue pruning on Iron Horse to the Avon line during 2023-2025. They will also be removing deteriorating fencing and installing new fencing from Hazel Meadow to the Granby line between 2023-2025. They are requesting funding for a Ventrac Tractor with boom attachment in the budget.

Mr. Roy said the Sidewalk Rehab Program was initiated in FY 19 with \$200,000/yr. They completed sidewalk replacements with over 3 miles of sidewalks and 62 curb ramps brought into ADA compliance.

After some discussion, no motion was made at this time.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

First Selectman, Wendy Mackstutis, reviewed her First Selectman’s report.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

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

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) **Public Safety** – there was no report at this time.
- d) **Board of Education** – there was no report at this time.

Ms. Abbuhl said there will be a tailgate party on February 5th at the Library from 11 – 3 for UConn basketball. People need to register for this activity by February 2nd.

Mr. Wellman said the DEI Council will be having an event for Black History Month on February 9th at 6 p.m. at the Library.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to table item (e) as further information is needed and to add it back to the next meeting agenda. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax Refund Requests

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 23, 2023, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$15,654.71, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Truck Driver/Technician Classification

Ms. Capriola said there was a request for a truck driver/technician brought to the Personnel Sub-Committee. There is a tentative agreement for this position with the union.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the creation of the Truck Driver/Technician job classification and job description as presented. Further move, to establish the position at grade T7 of the AFSCME employees pay plan. Further move, to endorse authorization of the Town Manager to enter into memorandum of agreement codifying the terms of the tentative agreement in the matter with the union and the incumbent. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Budget Director Classification

Ms. Capriola said this position, due to a retirement in Central Office, would be a shared position with the Board of Education and was discussed with Ms. Meriwether and Superintendent Matt Curtis. This would bring shared services positions up to four. The pay scale would be \$93,500 – 114,565 and the workload would be shared.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 23, 2023, to endorse the creation of the position and classification of Budget Director and the job description as presented. Further move to endorse, effective July 1, 2022 a salary range of \$93,500 – \$114,565 for this position. Further move to endorse the amendments to the shared services agreement with the Simsbury Board of Education. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the Town of Simsbury and Dispatchers, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Ms. Capriola said this successor collective bargaining agreement was negotiated in good faith, and reviewed the highlights of the settlement. They looked at other wage increase averages and this is very comparable. She went through the options for the Board to discuss.

After discussion, Mr. Wellman made a motion, effective January 23, 2023, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the proposed Successor Collective Bargaining between the Town of Simsbury and UE Local 222, CILU/CIPU, CILU Local 41 in which shall enter into effect retroactively from July 1, 2022 and expire on June 30, 2025.

e) Local Emergency Medical Services Plan Agreement

This item was tabled until the next Board meeting.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Resignation of Gene Ott from the DEI Council

Mr. Wellman made a motion, effective January 23, 2023, to accept the resignation of Gene Ott from the DEI Council with our thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Reappointment of Anne Erickson to the Aging and Disability Commission

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective January 23, 2023, to reappoint Anne Erickson to the Aging and Disability Commission with a term ending January 1, 2027. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of January 9, 2023

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting minutes of January 9, 2023, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) Special Meeting of January 9, 2023

There were no changes to the Special Meeting minutes of January 9, 2023, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Proposed Ordinance of Temporarily Prohibiting the Retail Sale of Cannabis in Simsbury

After some discussion, no motion was made. This proposed draft ordinance can be read online and can be seen with the legal notice.

b) Memo from T. Munroe re: Notification of the Number of Electors and Number of Polling Places, dated January 23, 2023

There was no discussion at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Executive Session Pursuant of General Statutes 1-200(6)(d), Discussion of Gifts of Love Lease of Town Owned Property

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes 1-200(6)(d), discussion of Gifts of Love Lease of Town Owned Property at 7:30 p.m. and to include the Town Attorney, Mr. Roy, and Ms. Capriola. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:39 p.m. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm; Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk