

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2024
“ D r a f t ”

Page | 1

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 Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Steven Antonio; Board members Kevin Beal; Diana Yeisley; Heather Goetz; and Curtis Looney. Others in attendance included Town Manager Marc Nelson; Acting Deputy Town Manager Tom Fitzgerald; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski; and Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Tom Roy 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 8, 2024, to register to address the Board of Selectmen live 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**

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the December 18, 2023, meeting and the rules of decorum. She feels these rules violate the Constitution’s First Amendment. She also spoke about possible conflicts of interest from Attorney DeCrescenzo. Ms. Coe also spoke about Chief Boulter’s rebuttal in the December 18, 2023, meeting, the Ambulance Association, and other issues.

Sally Reiger, 9 Stodmore Road, said she is a representative of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Scenic Committee, which was established in 2019. She said they are part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. She said their mission is to protect and enhance the outstanding resource for which streams were originally designated. She went through the two important aspects of their committee and how they can be of help to the Town. She also handed out their annual report and told the Town to take advantage of their committee.

FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT

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

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Town Manager, Marc Nelson, reviewed his Town Manager’s report.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Personnel** – Ms. Mackstutis said they hope to meet this week depending on information received and schedules.
- b) **Finance** – Ms. Mackstutis said the Committee is waiting for her to set the date.
- c) **Public Safety** – there was no report at this time.

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2024
“ D r a f t ”**

Page | 2

d) Board of Education – Ms. Yeisley said there will be a Special Education presentation tomorrow and she will have the report at the next meeting.

Ms. Yeisley also said she met with the Performing Arts Center Chairman and that will be a great working relationship. There will be further discussion on the State bond that was received.

Mr. Beal noted that there is an American Revolutionary Exhibit at the Library for everyone to enjoy. There is a personal connection to this remembrance.

Mr. Antonio had no reports at this time.

Ms. Mackstutis said the Hometown Heroes invitations went out. She needed to choose someone from the opposite party to be on that committee so Ms. Goetz will take the place of Mr. Looney.

Ms. Goetz had no reports at this time.

Mr. Looney said he attended the Zoning meeting where there was discussion on the changes in the zoning rules. Public input needs to be in by January 22nd, and they then have 65 days to make a decision.

Mr. Looney said the Police Commission said they are down 8 officers and that is why their overtime is high. They elected a new Chair and new Clerk and increased the part-time records clerk hours.

Mr. Looney also noted that the ABC House is having their 50th Anniversary celebration on April 20th from 6-9 p.m. at the High School.

Mr. Looney said the Simsbury High School inducted Tom Vincent to their Hall of Fame.

CONSENT AGENDA

After Ms. Mackstutis noted the changes in the new agenda rules, Mr. Antonio made a motion to move items a – d and Appointments and Resignations into the Consent Agenda and out of Selectmen Action. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

a) Donation from the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Axillary

b) Donation from Archdiocese of Hartford

c) Donation from Garrity Reclaiming, Inc.

d) Tax Refund Requests

a) Appointments and Resignations to Various Boards and Commissions

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) 2024 Simsbury Farms Golf Course Fee Schedule

There was some discussion on resident and non-resident fees. Mr. Tyburski noted that they are trying to generate profit for their budget items. There was also some discussion on numbers of players before COVID, during COVID and now. Mr. Tyburski noted that COVID actually re-introduced golf to the community, and they are trying to keep those numbers up. There was also discussion on wages and supplies. They are always trying to make improvements at the course. They can also use the Simsbury Farms Revenue Fund if need to.

Ms. Goetz made a motion, effective January 8, 2024, to approve the 2024 fee schedule for the Simsbury Farms Golf Course as presented. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) 2024 Aquatic Facility and Day Camp Fee Schedule

Mr. Tyburski said the biggest driver for Aquatics is seasonal workers. Also, there is an increase in minimum wages. There was discussion on having enough staff and how they obtain them. There was discussion on passes also. The lifeguards need to be certified and need to be 15 years old by the time they take the exam.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective January 8, 2024, to approve the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department 2024 fee schedule for the Aquatic Facilities and Day Camp Programs as presented. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Donation from Dial-a-Ride Bus to the Fire District

Mr. Roy said this bus has 161,000 miles on it. The best bid at auction was \$3,200. The Fire District said they have a use for this bus and would like it. This would save us a lot of effort in trying to sell the bus, so his recommendation is to donate it to them so it can be of service to them and the community.

After some discussion, Mr. Beal made a motion, effective January 8, 2024, to accept the transfer and donate a decommissioned shuttle bus from the Department of Public Works to the Simsbury Fire District. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) American Rescue Plan Act Grant Application for Senior Center Improvements

Mr. Roy said this grant would be a little under \$60,000. We already have the large HVAC project at Eno Memorial Hall on the books which was going to be funded with cash. We would apply for the grant but then use it other priorities from Social Services.

Mr. Beal made a motion to submit the grant application to the Department of Aging and Disability Services and to authorize Town Manager, Marc Nelson to execute the grant application. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

After discussion, Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective January 8, 2024, to submit a grant application to the Department of Aging and Disability is awarded, the following motion is in order: To accept the grant and to authorize Town Manager, Marc Nelson, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Discussion of Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association Presentation from December 18, 2023

Ms. Mackstutis said there was a meeting between the Board of Finance, Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association and the Board of Selectmen on December 19th to discuss options and solutions for the future of the

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 8, 2024
“ D r a f t ”**

Page | 4

Ambulance Association. She said the Board of Selectmen approved \$150,000 from ARPA funding for 2022-23 to supplement the second ambulance.

After discussion, Ms. Mackstutis said she would like Mr. Nelson and Mr. Fitzgerald to come up with a list of questions to present to the SVAA.

There was no motion at this time.

Ms. Mackstutis said there will not be Executive Session tonight as the Town Attorney is unable to attend.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2023

Mr. Beal made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2023 for discussion. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion.

Mr. Beal said Public Audience was omitted from the format. Also, on page 2 under Liaison reports: take out the word rule and change it with support a sustainability coordinator position to bridge the gap.

Ms. Mackstutis had a correction on page 4 under the vote for Ford Harrison. The vote was Mr. Beal and Ms. Mackstutis were for and Ms. Yeisley, Mr. Antonio, Ms. Goetz and Mr. Looney were against.

With no further changes, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

b) Special Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 19, 2023 for discussion. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

There were no changes to the Special Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Memorandum from K. Formanek re: Energy Assistance and Keep Simsbury Warm, dated January 4, 2024 – there was no discussion at this time.

ADJOURN

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective January 8, 2024, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk