

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00p.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, and Curtis Looney. Heather Goetz was absent. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Marc Nelson; Deputy Town Manager Tom Fitzgerald; and Library Director Lisa Miceli.

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@ct.gov by Wednesday, February 14, 2024, to register to address the Board of Selectmen live thru 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 January 22, 2024 meeting time constraints; the new rules and procedures at the Board meetings, stopping public audience at the Police Commission meetings; a Police Department well-being check; the Performing Arts Center issues; affordable housing/DEI Council, and other issues.

Lori Boyko, 15 Oakhurst, spoke about the treatment of public speakers, a book protest at the Library where some of the Selectmen attended; 1st Amendment Rights; Library books and other issues.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S 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.

Mr. Beal said he heard that the Lieutenant Governor was at Town Hall. Ms. Mackstutis said she was in Farmington and called asking to come to visit.

Mr. Beal asked about the complaints about the smell coming off the fields. Mr. Nelson said he received emails about this and it has since stopped. They are monitoring the farm, where the smell is coming from, and the contractual agreement with him.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Personnel** – Ms. Mackstutis said she has spoken to Ms. Munroe about unaffiliated voters being and Boards and Commissions.
- b) **Finance** – Ms. Mackstutis said this committee is on hold due to the budget process.
- c) **Public Safety** – Ms. Yeisley said they discussed the elevator renovation at Town Hall. She discussed this project with Tom Roy and they are looking at this project with accessibility for residents. They understand that residents need to have access to all departments and meetings in Town Hall and are working on those issues during this project.
- d) **Board of Education** – Ms. Yeisley said they are working on their budget before presenting it to the Board of Finance. Their latest budget increase figure is 6.93% so they know they have to work on this number.

Mr. Beal said there was a discussion on Black History at the Library which was very interesting and compelling from someone who lives here now.

Mr. Looney said the Planning Committee decided not to move forward with the proposed building project. They closed the public hearing and are awaiting a draft of denial for their next meeting.

He said he and Ms. Goetz went for a ride-a-long with the Highway Department. He thanked them for taking them with them. He also said they are asking that residents move their garbage bins to their lawns and not leave them in the street as it makes it easier for the Highway Department to do their jobs. Also, please do not shovel snow into the roads.

Ms. Yeisley said Aging and Disability is looking to have Super Thursday lunches again. They are desperately in need of funding before they can do this at least quarterly. Please donate.

Ms. Yeisley said Parks and Recreation has the summer work applications open. Camps are almost sold out and they need counselors. There was an AED installed at Simsbury Farms and they would like to install the next one at Rotary Park. The Rotary Club is wanting to sponsor an AED.

Ms. Yeisley said the Performing Arts Center is planning a presentation to the Board of Selectmen to tell them what they do and the projects they want to do.

Ms. Yeisley said the Youth Advisory Board said programs are needed especially when there are half days of school. Post COVID absenteeism is still an issue.

She said energy assistance is available through Social Services. Also, there will be a summer job fair on April 20th at the Library.

Mr. Antonio didn't have any reports at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA (27:45)

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to move item a tax refunds; item b donation; item h public gathering permit and items a, b and c under Appointments and Resignations to the consent agenda. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax Refund Requests

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

b) Donation from Carol and Keith McLean-Shinaman

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

c) Highway Safety Project High Risk Rural Roads Speed Enforcement Grant Application (33:11)

Mr. Fitzgerald said this is a grant where the DOT would provide funding for speed enforcement in certain areas that are in the packet. If awarded, it would be for \$15, 000. There is no Town match for this and it will occur from now until the end of May.

After discussion, Mr. Beal made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to submit a grant application to the Department of Transportation and to authorize Police Chief Nicholas Boulter, Town Manager Marc Nelson, and Finance Director Amy Meriwether to execute the grant application and to accept the grant and full reimbursement and to authorize the Town Manager, Marc Nelson to execute the documents related to the grant award. Further move, to appropriate the grant's funds and record said appropriation to the Board of Finance.

After discussion, Mr. Fitzgerald read the objective of the Grant. Mr. Nelson said he would ask the Police Chief to send a better explanation of the objective to all Board members. All were in favor after getting the explanation and the motion passed.

d) Simsbury Public Library Public Educational and Government Programs and Educational Technology Investment Act (PEGPETIA) Grant Application (43:48)

Ms. Mackstutis said this is a PEGPETIA grant that the Library Director would like to apply for. It is for \$110,000+, to cover technology improvements for the Library. She has some concerns about the CNR projects.

After discussion, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to submit a grant application to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and to authorize Town Manager, Marc Nelson, and Library Director Lisa Miceli to execute the grant application. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. Mr. Beal, Mr. Looney, Ms. Yeisley and Mr. Antonio were in favor, with Ms. Mackstutis voting no, and, therefore, the motion passed.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to accept the grant and to authorize Town Manager Marc Nelson and Library Director Lisa Miceli to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to appropriate the grant's funds and record said appropriation to the Board of Finance. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. Mr. Looney, Mr. Beal, Ms. Yeisley, and Mr. Antonio were in favor, with Ms. Mackstutis voting no, and, therefore, the motion passed.

e) Resolution to Create a Housing Policy Advisory Committee (48:27)

Ms. Mackstutis clarified that the attached resolution had some corrections that needed to be made. Those have now been done.

She said the plan is to create a committee with elected commissions, boards, policy makers and others related to housing. She said the Town Manager will be the administrative chair. They will look at housing for the community to see where changes can be made or recommended and then move them into a policy if needed. The Planning Commission and POCD asked for this.

After discussion, Mr. Beal made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to adopt a resolution creating the Housing Policy Advisory Committee as amended. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Proposed Revision to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council Statement of Purpose and Procedure (54:43)

Ms. Mackstutis said they are shifting it DEI under the Town Manager's office to help take care of administrative issues. They are recommending 15 members instead of 14 now.

After discussion, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to adopt the proposed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council statement of Purpose and Procedures as amended. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Schedule a Public Hearing for Proposed Amendments to the Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Person Ordinance (1:02:15)

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to set a Public Hearing to receive public comment concerning proposed amendments to Chapter 141 Article V of the Town Code for 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Selectmen regular meeting on Monday, February 26, 2024. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Proposed Public Gathering Permit: Rededication of George Washington Monument on Iron Horse Boulevard

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

i) Simsbury School Administrators and Supervisors Association (SASSA) Collective Bargaining Agreement (1:05:08)

Ms. Mackstutis said this is developed by Mr. Sullivan of the Board of Education, but it does need to come before this Board for approval.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion to approve the three-year contract between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury School Administrators and Supervisors Association as presented at the October 10, 2023 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Eno Memorial Hall HVAC Improvements and Role of the Public Building Committee (1:13:01)

Mr. Fitzgerald said Mr. Roy reached out as the Town Engineering staff would like to keep the HVAC project at Eno independent of the Public Building Committee process. This will help speed along the project while keeping the Committee informed of the project.

After discussion, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective February 14, 2024, to not use the Public Building Committee for the Eno Memorial HVAC Improvement Project. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

These items were moved to the Consent Agenda.

a) Reappointments and Appointments to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council

b) Resignation of Shannon Leary from the Aging and Disability Commission

c) Reappoint and Appointments to the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

REVIEW OF MINUTES (1:14:11)

a) January 22, 2024 Regular Meeting – Mr. Beal noted a typo – Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to approve the amended Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2024. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) January 22, 2024 Special Meeting – There were no changes to the minutes, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

c) January 29, 2024 Special Meeting – There were no changes to the minutes, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Memorandum from T. Monroe re: Notification of number of Electors and number of Polling Places, dated February 14, 2024 – there was no discussion at this time.

ADJOURN (1:14:55)

Mr. Beal made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk