

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on ZOOM due to COVID-19. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman, Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham; Board members Jackie Battos, Wendy Mackstutis, Mike Paine and Chris Peterson. Others in attendance included Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether, Director of Planning and Community Development Mike Glidden, Police Chief Nicholas Boulter, Chairman of the Planning Commission William Rice and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wellman said it was brought to our attention that the Town could apply for Federal money to support an IT program.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to amend the agenda, after Public Audience, to add a congressionally directed spending program item after public audience. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- Email written comments to ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 P.M. on Monday, May 24, 2021 to be read into the record; or
- Email tfitzgerald@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 P.M. on Monday, May 24, 2021 to register to address the Board of Selectmen live through ZOOM

Mr. Wellman read an email from Joan Coe, who spoke about a FOI request, Police Department issues, a Police Commission letter about no public audience and other issues.

Mr. Wellman said the Town can apply for a Congressional Spending Program and the staff is recommending that the Police Department apply for funding for investment in the Police Department IT infrastructure. Chief Boulter said this would be used for upgrading or enhancing the ability to have a record management system and all information in the cruisers. This would also allow enhanced Town Hall security.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 24, 2021, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to submit an application to Senator Blumenthal for the Congressionally Directed Spending request in the amount of \$70,000 for technology upgrades for the Simsbury Police Department and also to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute documents related to the award if we receive it. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PRESENTATION

- a) Affordable Housing Plan Presentation

Mr. Wellman said under State statute the Town needs to develop an affordable housing plan under CSG 8-30g. It applies a certain definition to “affordable.”

Mr. Rice, Chairman of the Planning Commission, and Mike Glidden, the Planning Director, spoke about the housing plan components of the program in State Statute 8-30j. The State target is 10% of housing in Simsbury.

There was discussion on housing prices and what is needed to obtain the 10% target. The Town would have to create 481 new units, which are considered “affordable.” There was also discussion on creating an ordinance and the SPIRIT sub-committee, which is going to be looking into this issue as well.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Wellman, First Selectman, reviewed his First Selectman’s Report.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

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

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Aging and Disability Commission Social Media (Facebook) Request

Diana Yeisley, Chairperson of Aging and Disability Commission, said they would like to share information on events, programs, and other information residents may need.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective May 24, 2021, to approve the creation of an Aging and Disability Commission Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to be used by the Commission to publicize their efforts and related content, of which Town staff will have oversight. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Tax Refund Requests

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective May 24, 2021, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$1,108.86, 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.

c) Quarterly Budget Status Report

Ms. Meriwether went through the March 31, 2021 budget report. She said the general fund revenues are good at 97% of the budget. She said the building department will probably exceed budget with the finance department being under budget. Expenses are 73% of budget but there should be some savings at the end of the year. Ms. Meriwether spoke about the Simsbury Farms Fund and their special

programs and camps. She said golf was up from last year and the health insurance fund claims are down slightly.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Proposed Appointment of Alan Bradford to the Insurance Committee

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective May 24, 2021, to appoint Alan Bradford (D) as regular member of the Insurance Committee, with a term expiring December 2, 2021. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed Appointment of Robert Mule' to the Board of Ethics

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 24, 2021, to appoint Robert Mule (R) as a regular member of the Board of Ethics with a term expiring January 1, 2023. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of May 10, 2021

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2021, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) **Personnel** – there was no report at this time.

b) **Finance** – Mr. Askham said the Board of Finance met last week. They discussed the mill rate and budget referendum. They discussed an off-season capital workgroup. They are interested in long range planning between the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education, which should be valuable. Everyone is trying to do what is best for the Town.

Ms. Mackstutis likes the idea of a capital sub-committee so information is obtained earlier.

c) **Welfare** – there was no report at this time.

d) **Public Safety** – there was no report at this time.

e) **Board of Education** – Ms. Mackstutis said the Board of Education will be meeting tomorrow night at the Tariffville School. There is a suggested proposal to change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Ms. Mackstutis said Aging and Disability is looking into different transportation needs for the disabled.

There was some discussion about in-person meetings or extending ZOOM meetings. There will be more information coming.

COMMUNICATIONS

- a) **Memo from M. Capriola, re: Update from Staff Regarding Public Meetings, dated May 20, 2021**
- b) **Memo from M. Capriola, re: Public Gathering Permit Administrative Approvals, dated May 19, 2021**

ADJOURN

Following adjournment, the Board of Selectmen and staff will meet to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining for the units represented by CSEA and IBPO.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Radocchio, Clerk