

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, Mike Paine, Chris Peterson and Wendy Mackstutis. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, Social Service Director Kristen Formanek; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski, Director of Planning and Community Development Mike Glidden, Tom Fitzgerald and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

a) Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposals

Mr. Wellman said this is a Public Hearing to receive public comments on the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program for the Simsbury Grange. He read a letter received by Susan Masino, Vice President of the Simsbury Grange, which said this program doesn't cost the Town anything. It is for improvements to the building. They usually receive about 20% of what they request.

After no further comment, Ms. Battos made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. Mr. Askham second the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

a) Hidden Heroes Cities

Kim Brown, a volunteer from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation gave a presentation on what Hidden Heroes Cities is all about. She gave some history of the foundation, their mission and vision. She said she herself is a military caregiver for her husband.

Ms. Brown said the Foundation passed a resolution to pledge support to military caregivers. The Foundation identifies the military caregivers and help educate community leaders about the organization and connect them with resources. Their website is hiddenheroes.org.

Yazmin Alfonso, also from the Foundation, said they organize support groups, share resources, and honor military caregivers.

After discussion, Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to approve the following resolution:

HIDDEN HEROES RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SIMSBURY'S MILITARY AND VETERAN CAREGIVERS

WHEREAS, the series of wars and conflicts in which our nation has been engaged over time, since World War II, has resulted in 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers who are parents, spouses, siblings and friends,

caring for those wounded, ill or injured who have served our nation, as documented by the 2014 RAND study commissioned by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the daily tasks of these military and veteran caregivers can include bathing, feeding, dressing and caring for the grievous injuries of wounded warriors, administering medications, provided emotional support, caring for the family and the home, and working outside the home to earn essential income; and

WHEREAS, the nation provides multi-faceted support to our wounded, ill and injured veterans and service members through public, private and philanthropic resources, but their caregivers receive little support or acknowledgement; and

WHEREAS, most military and veteran caregivers consider the challenging work they do as simply carrying out their civic and patriotic duty, without realizing they are, in fact, caregivers and do not identify themselves as such; and

WHEREAS, an alarming number of military and veteran caregivers, according to research, are suffering numerous debilitating mental, physical and emotional effects as a result of their caregiving duties; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Simsbury desires to recognize and support those who are serving in these vital roles in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Selectmen:

- I. That the Town of Simsbury become a Hidden Heroes Town in support of military and veteran caregivers.
- II. That the Town of Simsbury seek to identify military and veteran caregivers residing in our community.
- III. That the Town of Simsbury work to ensure that our government, organizations, employers and non-profits are aware of the unique challenges of military and veteran caregivers and are encouraged to create supportive environments and opportunities for assistance.
- IV. That the Town of Simsbury plan an annual observance, ideally in May for Military Appreciation Month and Month of the Military Caregivers, to honor and recognize the community's military and veteran caregivers in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's National Hidden Heroes campaign.
- V. That the Town of Simsbury encourage all who care for and support veterans and service members to extend that support to their caregivers.
- VI. That the Town of Simsbury designate a point of contact for our community, from the public or private sector, for citizens and organizations wanting to offer support and caregivers who need that support.

Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Adopted by the Town of Simsbury on this 27th day of May, 2020.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Mr. Wellman said if residents would like to be heard in Public Audience at the next Board of Selectmen meeting, please email Ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov.

Danielle D’Ermo, 3 Crestwood Drive; Steward & Cyndi Fridlich, 59 Fernwood Drive; David Galt, 41 Madison Lane; Ken & Ruth Jacobsen, 17 Merrywood Drive; Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane; Diane Nash, 5 Merrywood Drive; and Lindsay Owens, 5 Crestwood Drive said the Board should vote no and not refer the sale of Town open space to a Public Hearing. They all supposed open space, bike paths, farms, etc. There are multiple ways to move forward that better keep the legacy of the Town and public good.

Karyn & Bill Cordner, 65 Highridge Road, said the Board should vote no on the sale for 133 Holcomb Street. Leasing is the right solution.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the budget approval, COVID-19 and hiring new employees and increasing salaries. She also spoke about pension plans, the Police Commission, Workmen’s Compensation claims, and other issues.

Steven & Lisa Antonio said the Town owns one out of every three acres of land in Simsbury. These properties do not provide any tax revenues to the Town and actually costs the Town money. The Town needs to think more productively, logically, and businesslike in regards to “orphaned” land.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

First Selectman, Wellman, reviewed his First Selectman’s report.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

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

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposals

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective May 27, 2020, to approve the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program application as presented and to authorize Town Manager Maria E. Capriola to submit the application to the Department of Revenue Services. Further move to designate Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby and Tom Fitzgerald as the municipal liaison. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Tax Refund Requests

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective May 27, 2020, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$1, 478.86, and to authorize Town Manager Maria E. Capriola to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Temporary Suspension of Acceptance of Cash Payments

Mr. Wellman said in the Town’s efforts to keep residents and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Manager is recommending the suspension of cash payments through September 14th. She is also recommending that some exceptions for exigent circumstances could be authorized by the Town Manager or Finance Director. She also recommends temporarily waiving transactions of \$5 or less if check or electronic payment is not practicable.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 27, 2020, to suspend the acceptance of cash payments through September 14, 2020. Exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager or Finance Director.

Further move to waive transactions of \$5 or less through September 14, 2020 if check or electronic payment is not practicable. Aquatics fees, food concession transactions and all golf course fees and purchases valued at \$5 or less should not be waived. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Summer 2020 Pool Season Proposal and Revised Aquatics Fee Schedule

Mr. Wellman said Mr. Tyburski and staff having been looking at the opening of the Simsbury Farms pool, if the State allows us to do so. They have also been looking at the financial impact of opening the pool.

Mr. Tyburski discussed some options of opening the pool and the financial impact of doing so. The Board of Finance discussed opening the pool as well. They are in support of the pool opening if the Health Department approves it. Mr. Tyburski said he is still awaiting the final guidelines from the Department of Public Health.

After discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 27, 2020, to support operating the Simsbury Farms pool for the 2020 season if public health and safety permits doing so.

Further move to retain the 2020 aquatics fee schedule as previously adopted with the exception of eliminating the in-season rates for season passes. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Review Referrals Regarding the Disposition of Open Space Property Abutting 133 Holcomb Street and Schedule a Public Hearing Regarding the Disposition of Open Space Property Abutting 133 Holcomb Street

Mr. Wellman said the property owner of 133 Holcomb Street approached the Town with the hopes of purchasing a portion of the open space that abuts his property. There is no public access to this parcel. The Board received feedback from Open Space, Planning and Conservation Commission.

A Public Hearing is required for this Board to consider disposition of open space.

Mr. Wellman said the Town has been interested in building a bike/walking trail along Rte. 315 from Hopmeadow to Curtiss Park.

After discussion, Ms. Battos made a motion, effective May 27, 2020, to schedule a Public Hearing for June 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. concerning the disposition/sale of a portion of open space located along the rear/eastern property line for 133 Holcomb Street. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. Mr. Wellman, Mr. Paine, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Battos and Mr. Askham were in favor with Ms. Mackstutis opposing. Therefore the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of May 11, 2020

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2020, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Personnel** – no report at this time.
2. **Finance** – no report at this time.
3. **Welfare** – no report at this time.
4. **Public Safety** – Mr. Askham said there will not be a Public Safety meeting tomorrow morning. They will be going back to every two weeks.
5. **Board of Education** – Ms. Mackstutis said the Board of Education is moving forward with Techton for the addition at Henry James School and renovate Latimer Lane School. Mr. Wellman said the next public meeting is July 26th.

COMMUNICATIONS

- a) **CCM Fiscal Support Letter** - no discussion at this time.
- b) **Letter from J. Shea, re: Drake Hill Road Bridge Rehabilitation, dated May 8, 2020** – no discussion at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) **Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B), Pending Claims Regarding R. Newton/CSEA (MPP-33825, MPP-33831, Triple AAA Case 01-19-0004-1876)**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. This meeting will include Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, and Mike Arrington. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham moved, seconded by Ms. Battos to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:04pm. Motion passed unanimously.

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Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk