

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:02p.m.on ZOOM due to COVID 19. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham; Board members Mike Paine, Chris Peterson, Jackie Battos and Wendy Mackstutis. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Zoning Compliance Officer Tom Hazel; Library Director Lisa Karim; Director of Planning and Community Services Mike Glidden, Director of Finance/Treasurer Amy Meriwether; Management Specialist Tom Fitzgerald and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Askham made a motion to add an Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss the bike path easement along Rte. 315. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a) Neighborhood Assistance Act

There were no comments at this time. Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on the Neighborhood Assistance Act at 6:04 p.m. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed Amendments to Historic District Commission Ordinance

There were no comments at this time. Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the Historic District Commission Ordinance at 6:05. Ms. Mackstutis 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, June 14, 2021, to be read into the records; or
- email tfitzgerald@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 P.M. on Monday, June 14, 2021, to address the Board of Selectmen through ZOOM

Mr. Askham read an email from Joan Coe, who spoke about Mr. Wellman not running for First Selectman again, diversity, payroll information requests, appropriations, intimidation issues, Police body cameras, alcohol and suicide problems and other issues.

Marguerite Carnell read a statement about the proposed changes to the Historic District Commission Ordinance. She has spent the last 25 years of her career researching and documenting and preserving historic buildings. She does support some of the proposed changes, but does not support the reduction of quorum requirements of the Commissioner. She said since 1992 the Town has had certified local governments from the National Park Service. However, we do not meet their standards now. She spoke about the historic tobacco barns and other historic properties. The Town needs a strong commissioner or another historic preservation advocate to provide effective leadership.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations at this time.

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) Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposals

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program applications 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 as the municipal liaison. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Tax Refund Requests

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the presented tax refunds, in the amount of \$1,183.57, and to authorize Town Manager Maria E. Capriola to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Simsbury Public Library American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Grant

Mr. Wellman said this is grant money that is available under the American Recovery Plan Act and it is specific to museums and libraries. The Library would like to purchase a book bike and lockers.

Ms. Karim said the Library has been dreaming about this since 2014. She said this bike would be a display piece and is a great resource for the Library. They would like the bike to be out in to community at least once a week.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the Library’s application for an American Recovery Plan Act Grant in the amount of \$19,401 to fund a boo bike which will be used for outreach activities throughout the community, as well as a contactless pickup locker system which will allow library users to pick up reserved material 24/7. Further, in the event the grant is awarded, to accept the American Recovery Plan Act grant and authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Donation from Elinor and Wayne Hoffman

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to accept a donation from Elinor and Wayne Hoffman in the amount of \$2,000 for the purpose of Supporting Simsbury Community and Social Services Department programs with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Donation from Mark and Dianne Orenstein

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to accept a donation from Mark and Diane Orenstein in the amount of \$1,765 for the purpose of supporting Simsbury Community and Social Services Department programs, to help residents affected by the COVID pandemic, and other purposes at the discretion of the Department with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Donation from Trinity Episcopal Church

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to accept a donation from Trinity Episcopal Church in the amount of \$3,383.73 for the purpose of supporting Simsbury Community and Social Services Department's Food Pantry, which assists residents in need with our thanks. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Donation of Two Speed Display Signs

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to accept a donation from the CT Training and Technical Assistance Center (T2 Center) at the University of Connecticut of two speed display signs with our thanks. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Public Gathering Permit – Pride Events

Mr. Wellman said June is LGBTQ Pride Month and there are two events planned.

Aliya Vandal said a lot of people in the LGBTQ community feel afraid and lonely. Pride wants them to feel that they are not alone and should be celebrated and respected.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the public gathering application on behalf of the Simsbury LGBTQ community to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit for a flag raising ceremony at Town Hall on June 16th and a picnic event at Schultz Park and ribbon tying display at Rotary Park on June 26th. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Proposed Parks Facility Maintenance Technician Classification

Mr. Wellman said the July 1st budget includes this job description and classification. The Personnel Subcommittee also approved this description and classification.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the creation of the position classification of Parks Facility Maintenance Technician and the job description and pay grade as presented. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Resolution – Meadowood

Mr. Wellman said the Town has been awarded a grant of \$400,000 from the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program. This supports the purchase of the Meadowood open space parcel. Ms. Capriola reminded the Board that they did approve the application last year.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program Resolution as presented. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

k) Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Supplemental Appropriation – Meadowood

Ms. Capriola said that now that the grant number is firm this motion needs to be made.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the supplemental appropriation for the Meadowood purchase as presented and recommended its approval to the Board of Finance. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

l) Supplemental Appropriation for Repairs to Simsbury Public Library Boiler and HVAC Controls

Mr. Wellman said there are repairs to the Library boiler and HVAC control requiring a supplemental appropriation of \$25,000.

Ms. Capriola said this money will come out of year-end savings.

After some discussion, Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the supplemental appropriation request of \$25,000 for the repair of the boiler and HVAC controllers at the Simsbury Public Library and recommend its approval to the Board of Finance. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

m) Supplemental Appropriation Request for Economic Development

Mr. Peterson made a motion to table this discussion on the supplemental appropriation request for Economic Development as the information on this new project was not ready. Mr. Paine second the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

n) Supplemental Appropriation Request for Simsbury SPIRIT Council

Mr. Wellman said the SPIRIT Council, which is the committee that focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion has requested funds for a data collection project, which was originally slated to be part of the budget.

Nicole Kodak said the Board of Finance moved this project forward as they are waiting on the contract and to get it started on the work.

After discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 4, 2021, to approve the supplemental appropriation for additional funding for the Simsbury SPIRIT Council in the amount of \$22,000 to support data collection and analysis efforts. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

o) American Rescue Plan Act – Uses for Recovery Funds

Mr. Wellman said this item is just for discussion. This act was passed by Congress to support State and local governments to support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Meriwether said the Town will receive 50% of the funding this year and 50% next year of the 7.5 million dollars. There are certain guidance restrictions that need to be met to spend the money. We need to qualify for certain items on their list. We don't qualify for a lot of their restrictions. This is an issue for a lot of other communities as well.

Ms. Capriola went through the spreadsheet of potential uses with the Board. She said there is one potential use that could be a large scale project/use of the funds, which is HVAC and ventilation improvements at town and school buildings. The funds need to be committed by 2024 and spent by 2026. Staff explained that we do not have any qualified census tracts (QCT's) in town.

After further discussion on how to handle this money, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to form a workgroup of the Board of Selectmen to provide recommendations to the full Board on both process and potential uses of the ARPA Fund. Mr. Askham and Ms. Mackstutis will represent the Board of Selectmen and recommend other members to the workgroup. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

p) Proposed Revisions to Personnel Rules and Regulations Section 9.10 Vacations C. Carry Over of Vacation

Ms. Capriola said there are going to be new technology transitions and the vacation process needs to be updated. It is hard to get vacation carryovers done by July 1st so they are asking that the carryovers be done by November 1st.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to approve the proposed changes to the Personnel Rules and Regulations vacation carryover section. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Reappointment of Rick Jones to Board of Ethics

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to reappoint Richard Jones (U) as a regular member of the Board of Ethics, with a term expiring January 1, 2025. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Resignation from Various Boards and Commissions

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective June 14, 2021, to accept the resignations of Ram Kaza as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals retroactive to May 10, 2021; Mr. Kaza's term was to expire December 4 2023; accept the resignation of Umikka Chopra as a regular member (student rep. slot) of the SPIRIT Council effective June 14 2021 with our thanks; and to accept the resignation of Lori Wagner as a regular member of the

Economic Development Commission retroactive to June 7, 2021 with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of May 24, 2021

There were no changes to the minutes of May 24, 2021, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

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) Welfare** – there was no report at this time.
- d) Public Safety** – Mr. Askham said there will be a Public Safety Committee meeting on Thursday, June 17th. He had a meeting with the Ambulance people about call volume and staffing after COVID.
- e) Board of Education** – Ms. Mackstutis said the Board of Education ARPA’s money is also pre-structured. The Equity Council did a great presentation of their data from K – 12 who has special needs. Also, the Board of Education meetings have been cancelled through August 24th.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Memo re: FY 20/21 Town Manager Performance Review Process and Timeline, dated June 10, 2021

There was no discussion at this time.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:40 to discuss the acquisition/disposition of Town property on the bike path easement and Holcomb parcel and to include Maria E. Capriola, Attorney Bob DeCrescenzo and Mike Glidden. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 7:51. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk