

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly, Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook and Elaine Lang. Others in attendance included: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Jerome Shea, Town Engineer; Joseph Mancini Director of Finance; Gerry Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation, and other interested parties.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Heavner asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence for the anniversary of Sandy Hook.

Ms. Heavner mentioned the pictures of former Selectmen that were now on the wall. She thanked Tom Roy, Mary Glassman and Joyce Howard for their great job. She said they are looking for pictures of other previous Selectmen also.

### **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Dominique Avery, 12 Madison Lane, said she is a member of the SCTV Board, who broadcast this meeting live. She said the SCTV fund raising drive is now in progress. She read a letter from the Valley Press. She said Simsbury is a great place to live, great schools and open government.

Ms. Avery said SCTV is facing a crisis due to changes in broadcast and media technology. As technology grows funding gets less. She said their fundraising efforts are very important and she thanked everyone for their donations. The SCTV address is PO Box 767, Simsbury CT 06070.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, said the Charter Revision Commission will be holding a meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss and possibly voting on a change in the Town Charter to a professional town manager form of government.

Ms. Coe also spoke about SCTV, the Senior Center building, staff being on committees and being sure the Board of Ethics approves this, the swearing in meeting before the Board meeting, and her campaign.

Steve Mitchell, 165 Old Farms Road, spoke about someone spreading slander about him and his business. He said Mitchell Auto Group employees 259 people and he supports many other Farmington Valley businesses. He is not sure why they keep getting attacked, but he would like

it stopped. They are not perfect, but they do the best they can do while carrying about the community.

Mr. Mitchell also spoke about The Greenway. He has served 6 years on Board and he wants the Town to keep going with the great work they are doing on this project.

Diana Moody, 7 Elsie Way, said she has had numerous dealings with Mr. Mitchell and the Mitchell Dealership and they are truthful, straightforward people, who are a value of Simsbury. She feels Mr. Mitchell is so positive and a very kind person.

John Dragon, 432 Hopmeadow Street, Weatogue, said he is employed by the Mitchell Auto Group and also rents a home from them. He feels Mr. Mitchell always treats him fairly and the statement from last week affects his family and it couldn't be further from the truth.

Ed Swakowski, 18 Westledge Drive, said he worked at the Mitchell Auto Group when he was younger and they always treat everyone fairly. He said he appreciates all the tax revenue that they contribute to the Town.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, said he felt Mr. Mitchell shouldn't attack anyone. He wanted to know how much time Mr. Mitchell took also. He feels these attacks are just wrong. He said the State had called Mr. Mitchell several times about the tent that blocked the walkway.

Mr. Kalechman spoke about the appointment of a Commission member, and he thanked Ms. Veith from the Aging and Disabilities Committee for her many years of service. He said the Town will miss her.

Susan Mitchell, 165 Old Farms Road, spoke about the personal attacks on her husband. She said she isn't sure why this is happening to them, not sure why there is so much anger. She said Steve is such a wonderful person and has done so much for this Town. She wants all of this to stop. She thinks people need to do something positive with all of their negative energy.

Ms. Heavner said this is a fairly prescribed agenda which mostly follows Roberts Rules of Order. However, during public audience, the public has 5 minutes time to speak on any topic. The Board cannot, but law, limit what the public says.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Iron Horse Boulevard – Security Improvements**

Mr. Roy introduced Don Massey of 6 Elaine Drive. His group is looking into whether video

cameras can be used on Iron Horse Boulevard. He is hoping that the cameras can be included with the street light purchase.

Mr. Massey spoke about the tragic death on Iron Horse Boulevard. He said he had a meeting with the Chief of Police and discussed the security of Iron Horse Boulevard. They spoke about security cameras to enhance security. This would be done by a not-for-profit enterprise. Reed Hill Associates and helping with this idea. There are many people who have welcomed this idea and more information will be forthcoming. They have filed with the IRS as to eliminate the cost and maintenance of these cameras to the Town.

Ms. Heavner noted that there will be no voting tonight as this item is still evolving and more information is needed.

Ms. Cook asked if the cameras would be just for recording or for actually monitoring live. Mr. Massey said they do record for a certain period and then there is an automatic ride-over. These are also expandable units.

Ms. Lang asked about a call box being placed in certain spots. Mr. Massey said certain things should just be discussed in an executive session instead of in public for deterrent reasons.

- **Clean Energy Communities Award**

Mr. Roy spoke about the 20% by 2010 campaign. He said the Clean Energy Task Force has done a lot for the Town. Due to their efforts there are now 57 homes in Simsbury that are now solar. There is also the CPACE Program which allows for energy audits and low interest loans for businesses. Mr. Roy said the Clean Energy Task force has just received their second \$10,000 Bright Ideas Grant that can be used to improve energy efficiency in Simsbury.

Mr. Roy presented the Clean Energy Communities Award to the Clean Energy Task Force members in the audience. This award is presented by Energize Connecticut.

The Task Force said they will also be having workshops for small businesses soon.

### **FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Heavner thanked the Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion members for the wonderful wreath laying ceremony at Simsbury Cemetery on Plank Hill Road. The ceremony was to honor our veterans as part of National Wreaths Across America Day and she thanked all who participated in the ceremony.

Ms. Heavner said the Town of Simsbury’s offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the holidays. She also wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Ms. Heavner also congratulated those who were chosen to serve the Town. She said there are 38 newly elected Board and Commission members who were sworn in on Monday, December 7, 2015. She also thanked all of the residents who ran for office for their willingness to serve the Town.

### **SELECTMEN ACTION**

#### **a) Approve Tax Refunds**

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$20,427.77 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **b) Approval of Year End Entries for Capital Projects**

Mr. Mancini said bonding expenses are authorized for capital projects. These projects are long since passed. This is strictly an accounting adjustment. Mr. Mancini went through the changes.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve additional appropriations in the amount of \$132,085 for capital projects. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **c) Approve 2016 ground Licenses for various Town owned Agricultural Properties**

Ms. Heavner said Mr. Shea is asking for a one year extension of ground leases for Daren Hall, Anthony Napolitano and Tim Ryan.

Mr. Shea gave the Board further information and maps on these properties. He said they have been good to the land and feels the extensions are warranted.

Mr. Shea said there are two other properties that are not active and not offered for lease in the past. There are some issues that need to be overcome before offering leases.

Mr. Askham asked about the Flower Farm on Terry’s Plain and the possible land swap.

Ms. Heavner said the Open Space Committee is just about completing their analysis of open spaces. They have been cataloging all of the open space properties. They are also working on a stewardship policy and ordinance policy for open space.

Mr. Paine and the Board thanked the Open Space Committee and staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to authorize a one year extension of ground licenses for Daren P. Hall, Anthony Napolitano (dba Anthony's Family Farm) and Tim Ryan (dba The Ryan Family Flower Farm) and to consider possible agricultural uses on two other Town owned properties. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) Authorized the First Selectman to execute and submit application for Local Transportation Capital Improvement Grant Program, Bloomfield to Tariffville Multi-use Trail Connector (East Coast Greenway)**

Ms. Heavner said the Governor has been promoting bicycling transportation. This will not be on any homeowner's property. This basically connects Bloomfield to Tariffville.

Mr. Shea said they have been work with the Town of Bloomfield. He said Bloomfield has funding to do a 1.8 mile section of road from Day Hill Road to St. Andrews Church in Tariffville. It would be a .82 mile section within the Town of Simsbury. It would be a great project to do with the Town of Bloomfield. He said 100% of the design and a portion of the construction would be funded by Simsbury.

Mr. Shea said the funding is actually identified in capital projects for 2017. This is why they are asking the Board to submit the application and have the First Selectman sign it. Ms. Heavner said the grant application is due by January 5, 2016.

Mr. Roy said this is one of the places where cyclists really shouldn't ride as it is very dangerous as well.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize submission of a grant application and authorization to execute application to the Capital Region Council of Governments (CROG) to construct multi-purpose trail from Tariffville to the Town of Bloomfield adjacent to State Route 187. This application is a joint application with the Town of Bloomfield. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) Authorize the First Selectman to execute and submit application for Local Transportation Capital Improvement Grant Program, Pavement Rehabilitation of Nod Road from State Route 185 to Avon Town Line**

Ms. Heavner noted that this is a very complicated grant. She thanked Mr. Shea, Mr. Roy and Chief Ingvertsen for their hard work on it.

Mr. Shea said this is the same grant program but a different category. This grant only allows for one million dollars for construction. The Town would pay for design. Right now they are

redefining their estimates to make sure they have the right budget funding in mind. They are preparing a concept plan right now. There was discussion issues on different parts of the road.

Ms. Cook made a motion to authorize submission of a grant application and authorization to execute application to the Capital Regional Council of Governments (CRCOG) to complete pavement rehabilitation of a portion of Nod Road from State Route 185 up to the limits at the Avon Town line. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**f) Approve agreement between the Town of Simsbury and Sharon McHale, the Simsbury Triathlon Race Director**

Mr. Toner said the Triathlon has had two successful years. Mr. Toner said Bill Harnick has now moved out of the area and Ms. McHale would be a great race director moving forward.

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Simsbury and Sharon McHale, the Simsbury Triathlon Race Director, subject to final approval by Town Counsel. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner thanked all of the volunteers for a great event.

**g) Approve the appointment of the following members to the Friends of Simsbury Farms: Gerard Wetjen, Mark Deming, Arthur Emmons, and John Brighenti**

Ms. Heavner said this is similar appointment process to the Performing Arts Center. Mr. Toner said they are working on the 501 (3) process at this time.

Mr. Toner said the Committee will be matching donors with projects needed. They will also be talking and soliciting the Farms.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve the appointment of Gerard Wetjen, Mark Deming, Arthur Emmons and John Brighenti as board members to the Friends of Simsbury Farms. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Update on Senior Community Center Project**

Mr. Cooke said the architect and Mr. Shea are working on designs and discussing the sites and other concerns. He said there seems to be a consensus of the Performing Arts Center property. Mr. Cooke said they will soon have the final work of the program consultant over to the architect. Mr. Shea said it is a complicated, ongoing project.

**b) Update on The Hartford Property**

Ms. Heavner recused herself and turned the chair over to Mr. Kelly.

Mr. Cooke said the Hartford confirmed that they are still planning on closing by the end of this year.

Ms. Heavner rejoined the meeting.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to appoint Andrew T. Brazer, Jr. to the Board of Ethics. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Andrew T. Brazer, Jr. as a member of the Board of Ethics to fill the position vacated by Barbara A. Petijean. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**a) Acknowledge the resignation of Patrick S. Spaulding (R) as a regular member of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency effective December 7, 2015**

Mr. Askham made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Patrick Spaulding as a regular member of the Conservation Commission /Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency effective December 7, 2015 with our thanks. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Acknowledge the resignation of Lynn R. Veith (R) as a regular member of the Aging & Disability Commission effective January 1, 2016**

Ms. Cook made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Lynn Veith as a regular member of the Aging & Disability Commission effective January 1, 2016 with special thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**a) Regular Meeting of November 23, 2015**

No action was taken and therefore, the minutes were adopted.

**b) Special Meeting of December 7, 2015**

Ms. Heavner made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2015 as amended. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- Amendment to page 3, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph to change Ms. Long seconded the motion to Ms. Lang seconded the motion.

#### **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** - no report at this time.
5. **Board of Education** - no report at this time.

#### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk