

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Michael Paine, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly, Elaine Lang and Sean Askham. Others in attendance included: Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Ed LaMontagne, Chairman of Housing Authority; Colleen O'Connor, Tax Collector; Senator Kevin Witkos; State Representative John Hampton; Gerry Toner, Director of Parks and Recreation, members of the Fire Department, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the elections, the Town Manager form of government, sewer systems, successful events in Simsbury, increase in Police calls, and other issues.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about running for State Representative, corruption in the State, the Veteran's Monument, and other issues.

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the agenda to add item d) to accept a donation for the Simsbury Farms Golf Course toward the purchase of a memorial clock. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to amend the agenda under Appointments and Resignations to appoint two members of the Board of Finance to the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund Sub-committee. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the agenda under Appointments and Resignations to appoint Richard Jones to the Board of Ethics. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to add item e) waive fees at Eno Memorial Hall on October 2, 2016 for the community Rosh Hashanah event. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Proclamation – Mr. & Mrs. Tartaglia**

Dan Koppenger, V.P. of the Simsbury Fire District presented an award to Mr. & Mrs. Tartaglia, an awesome couple who did something to save the lives of a family whose house was on fire. They are just great neighbors to have. He hopes everyone follows the “See Something / Say Something” national program.

Mr. Askham also had the honor of reading a proclamation on behalf of the Town.

- **Tax Collection – Colleen O’Connor, Tax Collector**

Ms. O’Connor gave the Board some information on tax collections. She said the online payments have really increased just in one day. Through August she has collected \$8,751,487. They have also introduced “pay by text” and she can’t wait to see how this works next year.

Ms. O’Connor did remind everyone that the P.O. Box that receives the checks by mail is the Simsbury Bank Processing Center.

- **Simsbury Housing Authority – Ed LaMontagne**

Pastor Woody gave a slide show about who the Housing Authority is and what they do. The Housing Authority is comprised of the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments and the Virginia Connolly Residence for a total of 110 units. They help the elderly and people with disabilities. He said their revenues are derived from subsidies from the Department of Housing, rents, and private and civic organizations.

Pastor Woody said the Housing Authority is overseen by five commissioners, four full time staff and a number of part-time staff.

Pastor Woody said they do face challenges including health insurance coverage, funding for programs and many spending reductions. They did receive a small cities grant for a new roof, driveway and sidewalk work.

Pastor Woody invited everyone to come get a tour and to see all they have to offer. Mr. LaMontagne said applications are on the website at simsburyha.com or by calling (860) 658-1147.

- **Legislative Update – Representative John Hampton & Senator Kevin Witkos**

Representative Hampton said the State budgets were very challenging. He voted against the final budget due to the lack of long term structural reforms. He said he hears people saying they don't want to live here anymore due to high taxes and other issues. There will be a special session starting on Wednesday. He has worked on issues like elder abuse, domestic violence issues, Fire Fighter cancer relief fund, the Children's Committee, and other issues.

Senator Witkos said there will be another deficit in 2017. He said there have been a lot of layoffs, but they are working hard to keep Sikorsky in our State. He said this will be an investment in our State.

Senator Witkos said Simsbury will be receiving a superintendent cut of \$115,000. He said there is also some discussion on a mileage tax.

Ms. Heavner thanked both Senator Witkos and Representative Hampton for working so well with her and the Board, updating them on the issues as soon as they possible can. It has been very helpful for the Board when they have to do the Simsbury budget.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury Farms was voted the Farmington Valley's Favorite Golf Course by the Farmington Valley Visitors Association.

Ms. Heavner said safety is a top priority in the Town. All of the Highway and Buildings and Grounds staff have recently been re-certified in CPR by the Simsbury Ambulance Association. These lifesaving skills could potentially benefit both Town staff and the public during an emergency.

Ms. Heavner said there is a drought advisory in effect statewide. There are tips on how to conserve water from the State's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at http://www.ct.gov/deep/ewp/view.asp?a=2720&q=325664&deepNAV_GID=1654.

Ms. Heavner said Election Day is November 8th. The voter registration deadline for the Presidential Election is November 1st. Info can be read on <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/registrar-of-voters>.

Ms. Heavner said over the next 18 months each property in Town will be reassessed in-line with current market values.

The first phase is a pre-review, which includes comparisons between what is actually observed at the property and what is shown on the assessor's card. The next phase, beginning in

December, includes property questionnaires, updating records for work done under building permits inspection of recently sold properties and valuation.

Ms. Heavner said the Simsbury Social Services Department has been designated as an official intake site for residents wishing to apply for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. Please call Social Services at (860) 658-3283 for more information.

Ms. Heavner said the first playgroup for families affected by autism was held on September 16th. Playgroups will be held again on October 21st and December 16th at 10:30 a.m. in the Friends of Simsbury Library Program Room

Ms. Heavner thanked all the volunteers, first responders and Town staff who helped make the Arts and Crafts Festival, Septemberfest, the Grange Fair, the Book Sale, and the Fly-in so successful and fun.

Ms. Heavner said the Aging and Disabilities Commission will be holding free presentations and discussions, led by healthcare experts, regarding emerging trends across all healthcare settings. The programs will be held at the Simsbury Public Library from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. on October 25th and November 29th.

Ms. Heavner invited everyone to join students, staff, and parents for Walk/Bike to school in Simsbury. These events are part of a national *Safe Route to School* initiative that promotes health and wellness. Latimer Lane will be held on September 29th, Tootin’ Hills is October 5th and Squadron Line is on October 7th.

Ms. Heavner said “Trunk or Treat” is back on October 29th starting at 12:00 p.m. at Simsbury Farms. Pre-registration for parking is required and can be done on www.simsburyrec.com. or by contacting Simsbury Farms at (860) 658-3836.

Ms. Heavner said the Simsbury *Spooktacular* Chili Challenge will be held on October 29th from noon to 5:00 p.m. For more details visit: simsburychili.com or simsburycoc.org.

Ms. Heavner said the Tariffville Water Storage Tank is now under construction. She thanked all that were involved in this project and said she looks forward to many years of continued excellent water quality in Tariffville.

Ms. Heavner said The Library is hosting a program on October 17th at 9:30 a.m. on Grant Writing for Business. For more information go to the website:
<http://libraryinsight.com/calendare.asp?xc=1&dp=&sm&jx=scp&nMonth=10&nYear=2-16&x=3>.

Ms. Heavner said Wednesday night is Business Night at the Simsbury Library. The first event will be on September 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Other events will be October 5th and October 26th.

Ms. Heavner said *Best Cleaners* will be holding a ribbon cutting on October 11th at 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Heavner said *The Silverman Group* continues to press forward on their plans to develop/redevelop the site located at 200 Hopmeadow Street.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$3,825.97 as approved and requested by the Tax Collector. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Acknowledge FY 2017 Historic Documents Preservation Grant Application

Ms. Heavner said the Town is expected to receive \$4,000, which will be used to attach land record images to our Electronic Land Record Index.

Mr. Askham made a motion approve and sign the Town Clerk's Application for the Targeted Grant FY 2017 Historic Documents Preservation Program. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Consider Request for Waiver of Fees for Event at Eno Memorial Hall

Sutton Kaylor and Jacob Goodwin gave a presentation about a Middle School Semi-Formal Dance on December 9th 2016, to benefit Simsbury Social Services. They said sponsors will be solicited to help with expenses. They are asking for 15-20 parent volunteers. A certificate of insurance will be provided by Re/Max Communities.

Mr. Roy said there are certain rules in place for the use of Eno Memorial Hall and he will meet with them to discuss this.

Ms. Lang made a motion to waive the Eno Hall weekend rental fee of \$750.00 for the Middle School Semi-formal Dance on December 9th. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Accept the donation of \$3,200 from members of the various golf leagues at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course toward the purchase of a memorial clock

Mr. Toner said Don Warner was a long-time golfer and starter at Simsbury Farms. He was a great, admired, and respected person there. Unfortunately, he passed away last year. The Golf leagues have decided to take the \$3,200 to purchase a clock, which the starter uses, in honor of Mr. Warner.

Ms. Cook made a motion to accept the donation of \$3,200 from members of various golf leagues at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course and use it towards the purchase of a memorial clock in honor of Donald Warner. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner recused herself and turned the meeting over to Mr. Kelly, Deputy First Selectman.

e) Approve usage and waiver of fee at Eno Memorial Hall for a Rosh Hashanah Event

Mr. Kelly said there was a request to waive the fee, not including the custodial component, from the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation for October 2, 2016 for their Rosh Hashanah Event in case of inclement weather, where they can't have the event at The Simsbury Meadows Bandshell.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the waiving of the fee at Eno Memorial Hall on October 2, 2016 if needed. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner rejoined the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business at this time.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Andrew O'Connor (R) as a regular member of the Conservation Commission effective September 7, 2016

Mr. Askham made a motion acknowledge the resignation of Andrew O'Connor as a regular member of the Conservation Commission effective September 7, 2016 with our thanks. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Appoint Jane Kimball (D) as a regular member of the Community for Care Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Jane Kimball as a regular member of the Community for Care Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Appoint Richard Jones (U) to the Board of Ethics with an expiration date of January 1, 2017

Mr. Kelly made a motion to appoint Richard Jones to the Board of Ethics with an expiration date of January 1, 2017. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Appoint Linda Schofield and Robert Pomeroy to the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund Sub-Committee

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Linda Schofield and Robert Pomeroy to the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund Sub-Committee. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of September 12, 2016

No changes were made to the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2016 and therefore, they were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel:

a. Approval of Library Head of Children’s Services Job Description

Mr. Kelly said this is an update of the Library Head of Children’s Services job description as it was last updated in 2001. There will be no financial impact on this change.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the revised Head of Children’s Services job description. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Approval of Project Administrator – Public Works Job Description

Mr. Kelly said the job description change mostly reflects the updated hours of work. This does reflect a salary grade change from \$55,626-\$66,479 to 63,394 - \$75,764 and from A1 to A3.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the updated Projector Administrator – Public Works job description. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c. Approval Unaffiliated Compensation for Fiscal Year 2017

Mr. Kelly said these recommendations are made as part of the annual compensation review process for full-time employees who are not represented by one of the Town’s unions. These recommendations are made consistent with the FY2017 budget.

Mr. Kelly made a motion for a salary increase of 2.5%, retroactive to July 1, 2016, for the following unaffiliated positions:

- Chief of Police
- Police Captain
- Deputy Director of Administrative Services
- Director of Administrative Services
- Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation
- Director of Finance
- Director of the Library
- Director of Public Works
- Director of Planning and Community Development
- Executive Assistant to the First Selectman
- Benefits and Human Resources Coordinator
- Town Engineer

Mr. Kelly said the Director of Finance and Town Clerk are not eligible.

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

Mr. Kelly made a motion for two Market Reference Range Adjustments – a 2.5% increase for the Chief of Police and a 2.5 % increase for the Police Captain retroactive to July 1, 2016. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to give a special increase of 7.5% for the position of Executive Assistant to the First Selectman and a 2.5% increase for the Benefits and Human Resources Coordinator retroactive to July 1, 2016. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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.

Mr. Askham spoke about the retirement program and the defined benefit program for new hires. This plan should be done away with as an option for new employees. There needs to be more study on benefit programs.

Mr. Askham said he and Mr. Kelly attended a Long Range Planning meeting. He feels they are doing a good job on building new metrics. Data is needed for future budget decisions.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pursuant to Conn. General Statutes §1-200(6)(B) pending litigation: Town of Simsbury v. Timothy Martin**
- b) Pursuant to Conn. General Statutes §1-200(6)(D) to discuss letter received concerning 894 Hopmeadow Street**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Conn. General Statutes §1-200(6)(B) pending litigation and §1-200(6)(D) at 8:34 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

In attendance were First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Michael Paine, Cheryl Cook, Sean Askham, Elaine Lang. Also in attendance were Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo and James Rabbit, Town Planner.

ADJOURN

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn from the Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen at 8:20 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk