

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 Selectwoman Lisa Heavner; Board members Cheryl Cook, Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly and Elaine Lang. Sean Askham was absent. Others in attendance included Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Tom Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Gerard Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation; Attorney Bob DeCrescenzo and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Eagle Scout Chris Reilly led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Herbert Neuhauser, 4 Owens Place, spoke about a non-operational street light issue on Owens Brook Boulevard and Owens Place. He said he was told this issue would be taken care of, but it is still an issue. This is a very important safety issue that needs to be taken care of now.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about hiring a new Town Manager, the changing of Police Commission minutes, moving SCTV to the Library, the brick Streetscape problems, and other issues.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, said he has been speaking about street light repairs and replacement for years. He also spoke about government corruption, running for office and not being included in the *Farmington Valley Press*, and other issues.

Tim Ryan, 64 Terry Plains Road, said he would appreciate a longer lease for the Ryan Family Flower Farm. If he knew he was staying longer than one year, it would help him purchase irrigation equipment that is needed for this property.

Ms. Neuhauser finished Mr. Neuhauser's information on the lighting issue on Owens Place and Owens Brook Boulevard. She said this is a very dangerous, dark area and the issue needs to be resolved now.

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the agenda to add the appointment of William Butler (R) to the Clean Energy Task Force, with the term ending 12/4/17 as item j) under Appointments and Resignations. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Paving Update and Snow Preparation – Tom Roy, Director of Public Works**

Mr. Roy did talk about the street light issue on Owens Brook Boulevard and Owens Place. He said there does seem to be some issues with the ownership of the light. He said he was told that the light was fixed by Eversource. Ms. Heavner said they will schedule a meeting with Eversource to get this issue fixed as soon as possible.

Mr. Roy gave a presentation on construction of 14.3 miles of roadways. He showed the methods they use on different roadways. They follow a pavement management system. They go and get the best bid for the asphalt. There is a video on SCTV that everyone can watch to see the job that is done.

Mr. Roy said there are 20 full time employees, one is retiring after 45 years of service. He explained the trucks and plowing systems they use. He showed the salt shed and said they have computer controlled spreaders and a liquid de-icing tank. He encouraged everyone over 18 to take the snow plow ride-along, which lasts 3 hours.

FIRST SELECTWOMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury is a Money Magazine *Top Ten* “Best Place to Live in America” due to the hard work of volunteers, elected officials and Town staff. She said Simsbury is a great place to live, work, learn and retire.

Ms. Heavner said January 2017 will kick off the budget season, beginning with discussions between the First Selectwoman, Department Heads and the Director of Finance about their priorities and goals. The First Selectwoman’s budget will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on February 27th.

Ms. Heavner said the budget evaluates the “must spends”, “should spends” and “want to spends.” The year’s budget has an additional challenge of a net loss in revenue of about \$900,000 from The Hartford building demolition and the State’s continued fiscal uncertainty.

Ms. Heavner said the Police Department is holding its annual “Stuff a Cruiser” event at Necker’s Toy Store on December 14 – 15 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Heavner said it is a good time to prepare for any winter emergencies. Make sure you have enough gas in the car, cash on hand, water, medications, food and other essentials on hand in case of any emergency.

Ms. Heavner encouraged everyone over the age of 18 to take a ride with the snow plow drivers, which is offered by the Department of Public Works. For more information go to: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/public-works/files/snow-plow-ride-along-program-information:application>.

Ms. Heavner said the Tariffville water tank is nearing completion with piping work to connect the new tank to the water main beginning in the next few weeks. To see the progress visit: www.Tariffvillewater.org.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that Connecticut residents and businesses are requested to voluntarily reduce water demand by 15% due to the drought conditions. For more information visit: <http://www.fvhd.org/>.

Ms. Heavner said revaluation of all real estate in Simsbury is now underway. Residents can see Town employees and contractors from *Municipal Valuation Services* to assist you. She said revaluation notices culminate the process and are expected to be mailed to taxpayers in December 2017.

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. For more information, please call (860) 658-3283.

Ms. Heavner spoke about the Simsbury Library Business Newsletter. This can help to start or improve a business and could be very helpful to all business people.

Ms. Heavner said the Business Resource Center at the Simsbury Public Library will highlight business news on their Facebook Page and other social media. For more information go to: sarahl@simsburylibrary.info or #splbusinessbuzz.

Ms. Heavner said Wednesday night is Business Night at the Simsbury Library. To register or for more information go to: <http://www.simsburylibrary.info/>.

Ms. Heavner welcomed *Khagan Mongolian Grill & Sushi*, *Town Line Liquors*, *Shred Fitness*, *Table 570 Asian Fusion*, *Illumina Skin Care/Massage* and *Benny's* to Town. She encouraged everyone to try these new establishments out.

Ms. Heavner said there are updates on the Silverman Group and Simscroft-Echo Farms in her report.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$13,442.28 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Set Public Hearing Date for proposed Sidewalk Policy

Ms. Heavner said there have been a number of questions raised about the Town’s policy and procedures for the maintenance and replacement of sidewalks in Town. She said assuming the Town Code is changed, the Town would be responsible for the Capital Costs for sidewalk resurfacing with a budgetary value of \$1.2M. These funds would be sufficient to fund the replacement of approximately 65% of the Town’s sidewalks.

Mr. Roy said this has been a long-standing issue. He went through information that gave an overview of the current maintenance and replacement practices and he provided alternative processes for consideration.

Mr. Roy said there needs to be a Public Hearing on this proposed Sidewalk Policy. He said they will go around and look at all sidewalks to evaluate them to see what needs to be done first.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to set the Public Hearing date of January 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to allow for modifications to Town Code Section 137 as it relates to maintenance and replacement of sidewalks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Solar Array Grant – Simsbury High School

a) Authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CT Green Bank, subject to review by Town Counsel

b) Accept Solar Array Grant in the amount of \$40,500

c) Recommend to the Board of Finance a FY17 Supplemental Appropriation pursuant to Charter Section 809(a) in the amount of \$57,074

Ms. Heavner said this project began as part of the 20% by2010 campaign and has continued through our Solarize Simsbury program and CPACE program. The Town has now earned a 9kWh system solar array with a value of \$40,500. She said the Town, Clean Energy Task Force and members of the Board of Education have been working on getting a solar project installed at the High School using these funds. The total cost of this system would be \$57,074.

Ms. Heavner said in order to move forward, the Town will need to execute the MOU with the CT Green Bank and request the Board of Finance make a supplemental appropriation for the full value of this project.

Ms. Cook made a motion to authorize the Town to receive the \$40,500 grant for a new solar array to be located at Simsbury High School. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the MOU with CT Green Bank, pending legal review, to allow for the receipt of the Grant Funding. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Lang made a motion to request that the Board of Finance create a supplemental appropriation pursuant to Charter Section 809(a) in the amount of \$57,074. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approve Eagle Scout Projects

Chris Reilly, from Troop 175, made his proposal for work to be done at the Skate Park. He said his materials for the repairs will be funded by the Culture, Parks & Recreation Department.

Akash Kaza made his proposal for work to be done at Simsbury Farms. He wants to construct and install benches at the playground/tennis court area.

Ms. Cook made a motion to authorize the Eagle Scout projects of Chris Reilly and Akash Kaza as proposed to be completed on Town owned property. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Approve Public Gathering Permit Application for 2017 Events

Ms. Heavner said there was a Public Gathering Permit application meeting was held on December 6, 2016. The officials of both organizations will coordinate with staff of the Performing Arts Center and the Farmington Valley Health District on their requirements for the events.

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve the Public Gathering applications for the 2017 Iron Horse Half Marathon 10k and 5k on June 4, 2017 and the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club River Run on April 30, 2017. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Accept Donation of \$200,000 for the Simsbury Veterans Memorial

Mr. Cooke asked that this donation item be done at this meeting as the members of the Committee need it addressed before the end of the year. In order to use the STEAP Grant money, the Town had to take responsibility for the entire project. He said we can use the original letter of understanding to approve this donation subject to confirmation by the Veterans.

Ms. Lang made a motion to accept, in accordance to the memo of understanding, the donation of \$200,000 from the Simsbury Veterans Memorial, Inc. for the construction of the Simsbury Veterans Memorial project subject to verification from the Simsbury Veterans Memorial, Inc. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Review proposed ordinance for Water Conservation and possibly set Public Hearing Date

Ms. Heavner noted that additional information was added on this issue as requested at the last Board meeting.

Attorney DeCrescenzo said he reviewed the draft ordinance. He is recommending this be referred back to the Conservation Commission and he will work with them to come up with a new proposal. He does think there is authority for a municipality to adopt a water shortage ordinance. He feels they can work it all out and come up with a new proposed ordinance.

Donald Rieger, Conservation Commission, explained why he felt this ordinance was necessary. He said he did give the Board more information that they were asking for.

Ms. Cook made motion to refer the proposed ordinance for Water Conservation to Town Counsel. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Approve 2017 Ground Licenses for various Town owned Agricultural Properties

Ms. Heavner said Mr. Shea wasn't available for this meeting and they need his advice on this issue. The Board can approve the licenses for one year and then come back at a later date and change it if necessary.

Mr. Paine made a motion to authorize a one year extension of ground licenses for various Town owned agricultural properties. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Contract Amendment for Neighborhood Facilities:

- a) Authorize Contract Amendment of the \$204,000 State Grant for funding of design services required for the Senior/Community Center Project**

b) Approve Resolution authorizing First Selectwoman to execute Contract Amendment extension with the State of Connecticut

Ms. Heavner said the Town has requested an amendment to the grant agreement for funding previously obtained for Senior/Community Center Design Services. We have secured \$204,000 from the State for design of the Senior/Community Center. The funds were approved by the State Bond Commission in January of 2014.

Ms. Heavner said a resolution from the Board of Selectmen is required to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the Contract Amendment.

Ms. Lang made a motion: “RESOLVED, that Lisa L Heavner, who is the First Selectwoman of the Town of Simsbury is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name, and on behalf of the Contractor with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut, for the Neighborhood Facilities program and to affix the corporate seal.

In Witness whereof, the undersigned has affixed her signature and the corporate seal of Contractor, this 12th day of December 2016.”

Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Approve the Tentative Agreement between the Town of Simsbury and UE Local 222, CILU/CIPU Local #41 (Dispatchers), and authorize the First Selectwoman to Execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement as modified

Ms. Heavner said the Town and the UE Local 222 have negotiated a successor contract to the 2011-2016 collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Cooke said the defined benefit plan will be closed to employees hired after the execution date of this agreement. She said participation to the defined contribution plan is mandatory to new hires. The PPO plan option will be discontinued effective July 1, 2018. Employees will be provided with an annual credit of \$2,000 for declination of the Town's health care plan. Over the five-year term of the prior agreement, the Town's competitive position in relation to comparator towns deteriorated significantly. A one-time adjustment to the contract steps and annual increases of 4% will be included. Mr. Cooke said the Union was very good to work with.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the Tentative Agreement between the Town of Simsbury and UE Local 222, CILU/CIPU, Local #41 (Dispatchers), and authorize the First Selectwoman to execute the collective bargaining agreement as modified. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Laurel Hennebury (D) as a regular member of the Technology Task Force effective December 4, 2016

Ms. Cook made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Laurel Hennebury as a regular member of the Technology Task Force effective December 4, 2016 with our thanks. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Appoint Thomas A. Kyzivat (D) as an alternate member of the Zoning Commission with an expiration date of December 2, 2019

Mr. Kelly made a motion to appoint Thomas Kyzivat as an alternate member of the Zoning Commission with an expiration date of December 2, 2019. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Appoint Derek Peterson (R) as a regular member of the Board of Finance with an expiration date of December 4, 2017

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Derek Peterson as a regular member of the Board of Finance with an expiration date of December 4, 2017. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Appoint Jan Losee (D) as a regular member of the Tourism Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017

This item was tabled.

e) Reappoint Michael Jennings (U) as a regular member of the Aging & Disability Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2021

Ms. Cook made a motion to reappoint Michael Jennings as a regular member of the Aging & Disability Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2021. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Reappoint Thomas Rechen (R) as a regular member of the Board of Ethics with an expiration date of January 1, 2021

Mr. Kelly made a motion to reappoint Thomas Rechen as a regular member of the Board of Ethics with an expiration date of January 1, 2021. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Reappoint Kristen Barnett (R) as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission with an expiration date of December 4, 2017

Ms. Lang made a motion to reappoint Kristen Barnett as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission with an expiration date of December 4, 2017. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Reappoint Elizabeth Woollacott (R) as a regular member of the Historic District with an expiration date of January 1, 2022

Mr. Kelly made a motion to reappoint Elizabeth Woollacott as a regular member of the Historic District with an expiration date of January 1, 2022. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Reappoint James Fleming (R) as a regular member of the Police Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2021

Ms. Cook made a motion to reappoint James Fleming as a regular member of the Police Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2021. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Reappoint William Butler (R) to the Clean Energy Task Force with an expiration date of December 4, 2017

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint William Butler to the Clean Energy Task Force with an expiration date of December 4, 2017. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of November 28 2016

No changes were made to the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2016, 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** - no report at this time.
- 5. Board of Education** – no report at this time.

ADJOURN

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk