

### **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. Mr. Askham was absent. Others in attendance included: Tom Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Sean Kimball, Director of Finance/Treasurer; James Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development, and other interested parties.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mike Doyle, from Troop 174, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about hiring a Town Manager, moving SCTV to the Library, the walkway at the new War Memorial, and other issues.

Mike Rinaldi, 32 Pinnacle Mountain Road, spoke about changing the form of government, the budget and tax concerns, non-transparency, and other issues.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- **Capitol Region Council of Governments Proposed Local Assessment for FY-17-18 – Lyle Wray**

Ms. Heavner said CRCOG is a voluntary council of governments for regional programs, which is guided by chief elected officials.

Mr. Wray said CRCOG covers 38 Towns of which Simsbury is very active member. He said there are a lot of regional services provided by CRCOG. He said they are the metropolitan planning organization for this region.

Mr. Wray said Simsbury is in line to receive \$2.6 million for future projects on Route 10/Route 185/Nod Road and for the Route 189 corridor multi-use trail. He went through some of the accomplishments and projects that CRCOG implemented.

Mr. Wray went through the reasons why Simsbury pays CRCOG over \$18,000 in dues. He said they do serve the Town in many different ways, including public safety and hope to continue to work with the Town.

Mr. Wray said CRCOG will be holding a forum on February 2, 2017. They have a lot more to look at and get done and the future potential looks great.

- **Prospective Development – James Rabbitt, Director of Planning & Community Development**

Mr. Rabbitt went through the residential development trends in Town. He said Simsbury's population is likely to increase by almost 12% by FY23 over the 2010 census data figures. Simsbury can also estimate an anticipated increase in the grand list of over \$131,000,000 from FY17 to FY23.

Mr. Rabbit said his report indicates that the revenue lost from the demolition of The Hartford will be replaced over the next two years. He went through population and development trends. He went through current projects and possible new developments.

Ms. Heavner said this report is to be used as a planning tool only. She hopes this will help during the budget process.

Mr. Paine said there needs to be a balance of having enough revenues for additional services.

- **Quarterly Financial Update – Sean Kimball, Director of Finance**

Mr. Kimball said the Building Department fees are down significantly compared to last year, but they are anticipating an increase during the upcoming Spring building season. He said conveyance tax collections are tracking favorably.

Mr. Kimball said the State announced a \$145,729 reduction in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding for the current fiscal year. This loss impacts the general fund revenue and is used to fund the operating expenses of the Town and Board of Education.

Mr. Kimball said the State's FY17 Municipal Revenue Sharing grants received are projected to be higher than were estimated at the time FY17 budget was passed. The Property Tax collection rate is slightly ahead from the same time last year.

Mr. Kimball said he did not include an announcement by the State of a freeze on applications for reimbursement through the State's Local Capital Improvement Program, for which the Town was entitled to apply for \$157,504 in the current fiscal year. He will continue to monitor the status of this program.

Mr. Kimball went through FY17 expenditures. He said the general government budget accounts include some large one-time July payments and they are projected to finish closer to 95% of budget by year end.

Mr. Kimball said he is anticipating a budget overage of approximately \$50,000 in the Streetlight electricity account due to unforeseen delays in closing on the purchase of the Town streetlights. The Town's major medical insurance line is also being monitored closely and are currently tracking unfavorably by approximately \$95,000.

Mr. Kimball said the Town’s FY16 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has been completed and published. The Town’s Fiduciary Funds both experienced increases in their net position. These increases were not due to investment performance, but rather due to employer and employee contributions.

Ms. Heavner spoke about Cyber security issues and said this will be discussed further in the Executive Session.

Mr. Cooke said the Town has taken initiatives on disaster recovery. There are extensive passwords and changes in employee access for added security. The Blume Shapiro has a lot information to go through and this will be discussed further in Executive Session.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to amend the agenda to address the Eagle Scout project prior to the First Selectwoman’s report. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Eagle Scout, Mike Doyle, went through his proposed building of a loafing shed at Simsbury Community Farms. He said the sheep, cows and alpaca have minimal shade in the paddock area and he wants to build this shed to give them relief from the sun. This will also cover the hay, which gets ruined by rain and dampness when just left on the ground.

Mr. Doyle said the loafing shed would be a three walled structure that will be 10’ x 10’ with a slanted roof that is 8’ tall in the front and 6’ tall in the back with an overhang in the front. The estimated cost is \$1,650. He will build this with the help of family and volunteers. Most of his building supplies will come from an uncle who is a building contractor.

Mr. Doyle said he will be asking family, the Rotary Club, Home Depot, Lowes and the Troop for donations to build this loafing shed.

Mr. Paine made a motion to refer the Eagle Scout project, to construct a loafing shed, to the Planning Commission pursuant to CGS §8-24 and to approve the project. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **FIRST SELECTWOMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Heavner invited everyone to come see her with their concerns and questions during her open office hours on January 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 p.m. in her office.

Ms. Heavner said the Simsbury Public Library and the Senior Center are offering a Lunch and Learn event in the Program Room at the Library on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 12-1:30 p.m. This will help residents learn about captioned phones. For more information follow the link: <http://www.libraryinsight.com/eventdetails.asp?jx=scp&lmx=897391&v=3>.

Ms. Heavner said the Planning Commission invites everyone to participate in a discussion on *Services or Facilities that Simsbury Should Have – Infrastructure Strategies*. This will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Henry James Memorial cafeteria.

Ms. Heavner said the Police Department is hosting its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizens’ Policy Academy. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. beginning in February and ending in April. For more information or to sign up visit: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/police-emergency/news/2017-citizens-police-academy>.

Ms. Heavner thanked the Conservation Commission for their successful advocacy on behalf of the residents of Simsbury. She said the Commission submitted comments suggesting that the existing Farmington River and Salmon Brook Conservation Partnership Area be expanded to include the remainder of Simsbury’s portion of the Farmington River basin and Simsbury’s portion of the West Branch Salmon Brook basin. Those suggestions were taken.

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury Public Works and SCTV made a great video about snow plowing. Go to <http://simsburytv.org/v/NlgKthZAEVY>.

Ms. Heavner said residents can also take a ride with an outstanding plow driver if they are over 18 years old. There is a sign-up link on the Public Works page of the Town’s website: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/public-works/files/snow-plow-ride-along-program-information-application>.

Ms. Heavner thanked everyone who worked so hard to bring the Martin Luther King evens to Simsbury. If you want to see the event visit SCTV:<http://simsburytv.org/v/nKMVG7sOf8Q>. She said the performances were outstanding.

Ms. Heavner said February 1<sup>st</sup> is the last day to pay taxes without penalty. Payments can be made online – free with an electronic check or a 2.95% convenience fee for debit/credit card payments. Visit: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/tax-office>.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that *All Waste* customers can have their Christmas trees picked up on their trash day the week of January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone to clear fire hydrants of snow. A new Town ordinance requires that fire hydrants be kept clear of any obstructions that would impede the use or maintenance of a hydrant. The ordinance can be found on <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/public-safety-subcommittee/files/fire-hydrant-maintenance>.

Ms. Heaver said volunteers of AARP are available to assist residents with their federal and state taxes from February 2 – April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273 for an appointment.

Mr. Heavner said everyone should be preparing for weather emergencies. You can sign up for emergency alerts on <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/alerts>. Also, if power goes out at your

house, please contact Eversource directly by calling (860) 286-2000 or at <https://www.eversource.com/nstar/reportanoutage>.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone of the ongoing severe drought. Everyone in Connecticut is requested to voluntarily reduce water demand by 15%. For more information and tips to conserve water go to: <http://www.fvhd.org>.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that the revaluation of real estate is underway. The first phase is a pre-review. The next phase will begin in March or April, which will include questionnaires, updating records, and inspection of recently sold properties and valuation. For more information contact the Director of Finance Sean Kimball at [skimball@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:skimball@simsbury-ct.gov) or (860) 658-3244 or Tax Assessor David Gardner at [dgardner@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:dgardner@simsbury-ct.gov) or (860) 658-3251.

Ms. Heavner said the Simsbury Social Services Department has been designed as an official intake site for residents wishing to apply for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. For further information or to schedule an appointment call Social Services at (860) 658-3283.

Ms. Heavner Wednesday night is Business Night at the Simsbury Library. *Leveraging the Strength of LinkedIn*, is on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 p.m. and *Managing Workplace Stress* is on February 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. For more information go to <http://www.simsburylibrary.info>.

Ms. Heavner said there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at 14 Station Street for *KR Styles*. She congratulated them on their new location. Their website is <http://www.krstyles.com>.

Ms. Heavner *Shred Fitness* will have a ribbon cutting on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at 17C Herman Drive. Their website is: <http://shredfitnessct.com>.

Ms. Heavner said *Benny's* has completed a new dining room expansion, package store improvements, and parking and landscape improvements. A grand re-opening and ribbon cutting will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. Their website is: <http://bennysofsimsbury.com>.

Ms. Heavner congratulated Dana Kosior, the new owner of *Farmers Insurance – The Kosior Agency*. Their ribbon cutting will be on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 – 5:30p.m. at 522 Hopmeadow Street.

## **SELECTMEN ACTION**

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

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$9,826.99 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Approved listing 23 Mountain Road Property with the Realtor and Issuance of RFP**

Ms. Heavner said the Town became the owner of the property on 23 Mountain Road as a result of a tax foreclosure on the property in 2015. Town staff, including the Tax Collector, the Assessor and the Director of Administrative Services, recommend sale of the property.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the listing of 23 Mountain Road property for sale by the Town of Simsbury and to issue a RFP for a realtor for the sale. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business at this time.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

**a) Acknowledge the resignation of Chris Meile (R) as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission effective November 2, 2016**

Ms. Cook made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Chris Meile as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission effective November 2, 2016 with our thanks. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Acknowledge the resignation of Louis George (R) as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission effective January 11, 2017**

Mr. Kelly made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Louis George as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission effective January 11, 2017 with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**c) Acknowledge the resignation of Todd Burrick (D) as a regular member of the Insurance Committee effective January 5, 2017**

Ms. Lang made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Todd Burrick as a regular member of the Insurance Committee effective January 5, 2017 with our thanks. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Jan Losee as a regular member of the Tourism Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- e) Appoint Thomas Gilmore (D) as a regular member of the Insurance Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017**

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Thomas Gilmore as a regular member of the Insurance Committee 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 January 9, 2017**

No changes were made to the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2017, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

### **SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1. Personnel** – Mr. Kelly said the Personnel Sub-Committee is finalizing the schedule for starting the process of the RFP for an executive search for a Town Manager.
- 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.

Ms. Cook reminded everyone that the Aging & Disabilities Commission is holding a special meeting January 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the Senior Center at Eno Memorial Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Lang said the Martin Luther King events become better and better every year and she encouraged everyone to watch the events on SCTV.

Ms. Heavner said there is a MPR presentation on the uniqueness of the Town of Simsbury.

### **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(D) and (E) concerning the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate in connection with the redesign of the Senior Center and related protected records**

Ms. Cook made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(D) and (E) concerning the selection of the site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate in connection with the redesign of the Senior Center and related protected records and pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(C) to discuss matters concerning security strategy at 7:31 p.m. Mr. Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Mr. Kimball, Director of Finance/Treasurer, and Rick Bazzano, IT Manager will be joining the meeting. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Cooke and Mr. Kimball were present. Mr. Bazzano was not present.

**b) Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(C) to Discuss Matters Concerning Security Strategy**

Mr. Bazzano joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

No action was taken.

**ADJOURN**

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk