

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectwoman Lisa Heavner; Board members Sean Askham, Elaine Lang, Michael Paine, Cheryl Cook and Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works; Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Sarah Nielson, Chairman of Main Street Partnership and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by John Cody from Boy Scout Troop 76.

PUBLIC HEARING

To receive public comment concerning the proposed approval by the Board of Selectmen of the proposals of the Simsbury Grange for benefits under Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) as set forth in its completed Form NAA-01, Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program Proposals

Ms. Heavner recused herself from the Public Hearing and turned the meeting over to Deputy First Selectman Christopher Kelly.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, who spoke on behalf of the Simsbury Grange, said these applications are not for money but, they are for individuals to be able to make a donation to the Grange and get some level of tax credit for their donation. She said the Grange has been here since 1931. A few people got together a few years ago and have been trying to rehab the facility now. She handed out some new brochures on fairs in the State.

Ms. Masino said one of the applications is for energy conservation for new windows, etc. She said the other application is for job training. This would mean the Grange needs to be rehabbed inside and out. One of her goals is to make the Grange a special dietary facility for epilepsy.

Robert Kalechman, 781 Hopmeadow Street, said he feels the Grange should support themselves. He feels the budget is too high and the Town shouldn't be giving any more money out.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, feels the Grange does a great job, but the expenditures are inappropriate. She feels they can raise money in other ways.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner returned to the meeting.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to include an item to authorize the First Selectwoman to seek party status before the Connecticut Siting Council for the Tobacco Valley Solar Proposal. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Kris Barnett, 15 Ox Yoke Drive, spoke about her position on the Deep Water Wind Solar Farm proposal. She feels this farm would benefit Mass. and not our community in anyway. She wants the Board to take a strong position against this farm as this doesn't belong in a residential area. She said we need to maintain the character of our Town.

Stacey Flamini, 3 Kilbourne Farms, said the Solar Farm needs to be put in a brown field, landfill, or on an industrial site. She opposes this facility even though she is not against solar.

Mike Flamini, 3 Kilbourne Farms, is also against the Solar Farm. He thinks the application will be submitted soon. The citizens are organizing and getting all the facts, but this does not belong in a residential neighborhood.

A resident said this project would be paid by taxpayers and he wants the Board to represent the people and say no to this magnitude and location.

Laura Nigro, 4 Kilbourne Farms, said she is for green energy, but is against this Farm. She will be part of the solution to solve this issue and find a better place for this Farm. She asked that the Board help them with this fight. More people are needed to help find a better site.

Liz Schlansky, 44 Berkshire Way, said she does support green energy. She said she will join the siting council to help find a balance for this Farm. We need to fight against this in our residential area.

Linda Low, 8 Kilbourne Road, spoke about compatibility for this Farm. There is supposed to be a new law passed on 7/1 about closing the loophole for having this type of facility in a residential area.

Joe Tracy, 40 Berkshire Way, also supports green energy, but is against the Solar Farm in a residential area. This project is too big for this farmland. He thinks landfills, brown fields, or industrial sites need to be researched.

Tom Niver, 4 Kilbourne Farms, feels the Solar Farm is not in good character for the Town of Simsbury and he asked that the Board fight this.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, said she hopes that one of the outcomes for this proposal could be that Connecticut starts to think about what are the best/less best options for green energy. They are closing loopholes on farmlands, but more needs to be done.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the budget and told everyone to vote no at the referendum on June 13th. She also spoke about the State budget issues activities at the Performing Arts Center, speaking at public audience, and other issues.

Robert Kalechman, 781 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about solar panels. He remembers when the panels were opposed by the airport. He also spoke about green energy and other issues.

Mike Rinaldi, 32 Pinnacle Mountain Road, spoke about the budget and mil rate. He also spoke about the Volunteer Ambulance Association, the solar panels that are not wanted near the airport or on farmland, and other issues.

David Moore, 18 Bob White Way, spoke about the State budget, the Town budget, solar energy, the Siting Council, and other issues. He asked that once the solar application is filed that the Board move for party status so they will be able to sit and discuss the issues with the State.

PRESENTATIONS

- Parking Study – Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works

Ms. Neilson said this study was done to find out how to handle parking more efficiently and make it safe for all. She said they did walking tours of downtown and worked with the community before going to Desman Associates.

Mr. Roy said these parking issues have been going on for many years.

Norm Goldman and Andy Hill from Desman Hill from Desman Associates were at the meeting. Mr. Hill said parking is all they do. They looked at current parking conditions, to understand what future conditions will be, and provide some ideas on how to address these issues.

He went through his presentation which is about quantitative and qualitative issues. He discussed trailblazing signs, identifying signs, infrastructural signs, and directional signs. He noted that anything done on Hopmeadow Street has to involve the DOT as it is State owned. A lot of these issues can be very simply fixed.

The Board members agreed that there is a concern and appreciated this presentation.

Ms. Lang made a motion to amend the agenda to have item c) Approval of Eagle Scout Project before the First Selectwoman’s Report. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heaver said she would delay her First Selectwoman’s Report until the end of the action items.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approval of Eagle Scout Project – John Cody

Mr. Cody, from Troop 76, gave a presentation on refurbishing the basketball court at Town Forest Park. He showed the rusted backboard and broken hydraulic lift, tattered and vandalized net, minor cracks in the asphalt, paint spill near center court, an embedded PVC pipe post, and some overgrown small trees and brush that he would like to take care of.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout project, as proposed by John Cody, to renovate the outdoor basketball court at Town Forest Park contingent upon approval from Culture, Parks & Recreation and other Land Use Boards as needed. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve Simsbury Grange proposals for benefits under the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)

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

Mr. Kelly said the Board held the Public Hearing on these proposals tonight and now the Board has to approve the Grange moving forward on this to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve forwarding, to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services, the two Neighborhood Assistant Act proposals from the Simsbury Grange. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner returned to the meeting.

c) Tobacco Valley

Ms. Heavner said Deep Water Wind has not yet made an application for this Solar Farm. This Board will not be taking a position on this proposed proposal. However, she does want to seek party status so our voice can be heard at the proceedings after receiving an application.

Ms. Heavner said there will be a meeting on this issue on June 22, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for resident input. She asked that everyone have specific questions to ask at this meeting. Also, Deep Water Wind has said they will do a “walk through” with residents on this property.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the First Selectwoman to seek party status before the Connecticut Siting Council for the Tobacco Valley Solar Proposal once submitted. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$5,779.75 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Authorize the First Selectwoman to execute contract with Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Recycling Disposal

Mr. Paine recused himself.

Mr. Roy said the Town entered into an agreement with MIRA for the disposal of our residential municipal solid waste. This contract is now set to expire. As part of the Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) we took part in a bid process for these services last fall, where MIRA was the only respondent. He said MIRA will provide the best initial pricing and is projected to be the best option for the Town.

Ms. Lang made a motion to authorize the First Selectwoman to execute a 10-year agreement with MIRA for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and recycling disposal. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to set a public hearing for June 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to make modifications to the Town’s existing ordinances as they relate to collection and disposal of MSW and recycling. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine returned to the meeting.

f) Approve the request of Fiddler’s Green for Eno parking permission effective December 1, 2017

Mr. Askham made a motion to table this item. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTWOMAN’S REPORT

The First Selectwoman reviewed her report, which is part of the agenda packet.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Grace Comeau (R) as a regular member of the Aging and Disability Commission effective May 19, 2017

Mr. Paine made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Grace Comeau as a regular member of the Aging and Disability Commission effective May 19, 2017. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of May 22, 2017

There were no changes made to the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2017 and, therefore the minutes were adopted.

b) Special Meeting of May 24, 2017

There were no changes made to the Special Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2017 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.

Mr. Kelly said the Town Manager Search Committee proposed an ad for resumes with a deadline of 7/21/17. Advertisements have been posed throughout Connecticut and nationally. They will propose a community survey for resident feedback at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Radocchio, Clerk