

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 member Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly, Sean Askham, Elaine Lang and Cheryl Cook. Others in attendance included: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, Ed LaMontagne, Chairman of Aging and Disabilities Commission, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about a bumper sticker that was removed from her car bumper, a Town Manager form of government, several deaths in Simsbury and other items.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about privileges he feels are awarded by the Board of Selectmen, the war at Bunker Hill, and other items.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Proclamation – Autism Awareness**

Mr. LaMontagne, Chairman of the Aging & Disabilities Commission, thanked the Board of this Proclamation. He said autism exists throughout the world and needs to be recognized.

Ms. Cook read the following:

“PROCLAMATION AUTISM AWARENESS

WHEREAS, autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people, is an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; and,

WHEREAS, autism is the results of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the human brain, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS, symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual’s ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communications; and

WHEREAS, the effort to address autism continues, doctors, therapists, and educators can help persons with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education, intervention, and therapy that are vital to future growth and development; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring that persons living with autism have access to lifelong care and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and achieve their greatest potential; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Simsbury is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder; and,

THEREFORE, I, Lisa L. Heavner, First Selectman, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as **AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH** and April 2, 2016 as **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY** in Simsbury to raise public awareness of autism and the myriad of issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have placed my seal and the great seal of the Town of Simsbury.

Dated the 2nd day of April 2016.

Lisa L. Heavner, First Selectman”

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury was identified as the “Best Town in America” by the website <http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/connecticut/best-town-ct/>.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that the Board of Finance will hold a second Public Hearing Budget Hearing on April 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the main meeting room at Town Hall and the Town Referendum will likely be held on Tuesday, May 10th. Information on the budget can be found on the Town website at www.simsbury-ct.gov.

Ms. Heavner asked that everyone help Spring Cleaning in Simsbury. Clean-up of the bike trails around Town will be held on April 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She thanked the Farmington Valley Trails Council, Bruce Donald, and all the volunteers who help keep the trails in great shape.

Ms. Heavner said the Town is currently taking nominations for Hometown Heroes. Information can be found online at <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/home/news/nominate-a-2016-hometown-hero>.

Ms. Heavner said this is Autism Awareness Month. Eno Memorial Hall has a blue light/puzzle piece to help spread awareness and understanding of Autism.

Ms. Heavner said the Presidential Preference Primary is being held on April 26th in Connecticut. All four polling places will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/registrar-of-voters>.

Ms. Heavner said the Town, in conjunction with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Farmington, will be holding a Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, April 30th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For specific information, residents can call Public Works at 860-658-3222.

Ms. Heavner said the Innovation Fair is set for April 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with exhibits, activities and demonstrations at the Simsbury Public Library, the Historical Society and Simsbury High School. She thanked everyone who has worked so hard to bring this event to the Town.

Ms. Heavner said the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce will recognize the achievements of four individuals at its Annual Leadership Awards Luncheon and Meeting to be held on May 26th at The North House. Recipients include Bob Hensley, Peter Askham, Nicholas Mason and Bryan Forman. For further information, go to www.simsburycoc.org under Events.

SELECTMEN ACTION

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the agenda to move item g to number 1. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Authorize First Selectman to enter into an agreement with Eversource Energy to receive the Bright Ideas Grant Funding

Mr. Roy said the Clean Energy Task Force have been working since 2008 and they have now qualified for two Bright Idea Grants. This is the first grant is \$10,000.

Mr. Roy said there are six rental homes that need more insulation to meet current standards. The total cost for the work is \$8,183 and will be fully funded by the grant.

Mr. Roy also spoke about the Hazardous Waste Collection. He feels having it at Public Works is better as the interaction with the staff has been really good. There will be two collections in Simsbury and one will be in Farmington. They will also be looking at benefiting the athletic teams.

Ms. Lang made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with Eversource Energy to receive the Bright Ideas Grant funding. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$570.61 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Discuss participation in CT-Prime Stop Loss Program and possible action

Ms. Heavner said this item will be tabled so more information can be obtained.

c) Refer FY 2017 Capital Projects to the Planning Commission for CGS Section 8-24 referral

Mr. Paine made a motion to refer the capital projects previously approved by the Board of Selectmen to the Planning Commission in accordance with §8-24. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approve FY 2017 Town Wide Budget Mailer

Ms. Heavner said the only possible changes would be with photos or changes made during the budget process. This is a scripted mailer every year.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the FY 2017 Town Wide Budget Mailer as approved by Town Counsel. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Approve Public Gathering Permit Application for the Simsbury High School Graduation Ceremony at the Performing Arts Center on June 8, 2016

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the Public Gathering Permit Application for the 2016 Simsbury High School graduation ceremony to be held on June 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Approve Town of Simsbury Fair Housing Resolution and Equal Opportunity Policies

Ms. Heavner said the Town received a Small Cities Grant to repair the roof and roads at the Virginia Connolly and Owen Murphy Apartments. In recognition of April as Fair Housing Month, the Town is reviewing and reissuing its policies designed to protect discrimination. This will make sure the policies are up-to-date and meet the requirements of the Small Cities Grant.

Ms. Cook made a motion to adopt and authorize the First Selectman to execute and re-issue the following policies prohibiting discriminatory practices, which also provide procedures for enforcement:

- Fair Housing Resolution
- Fair Housing Policy Statement
- Title VI Equal Opportunity Statement
- Affirmative Action Policy Statement
- ADA Notice
- Municipal Grievance Procedure

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

Ms. Lang made a motion to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution – Town of Simsbury

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing- related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of Simsbury is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Simsbury hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of Simsbury or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Simsbury and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center,

Adopted by the Town of Simsbury on April 11, 2016

Lisa L Heavner

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business at this time.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

There were no appointments and resignations at this time.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of March 28, 2016

There was no action taken on the minutes of March 28th and therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel – Approval of Updated Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics Job Description

Mr. Kelly said there was a Personnel Sub-Committee meeting last week to review and approve an amended job description for Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics job description. There were some changes to language relative to certification requirements.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the revised Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital Statistics job description. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- 2. **Finance** – there was no report at this time.
- 3. **Welfare** – there was no report at this time.
- 4. **Public Safety** – there was no report at this time.
- 5. **Board of Education** – there was no report at this time.

Ms. Heavner said the Open Space Committee met on April 6th and voted to approve the Tariffville Water Storage Tank Replacement Project. This is step one of this project.

Ms. Cook thanked everyone for their great discussion for the Community for Care depression and anxiety. She said all the information is available on SCTV.

Ms. Lang said the Innovation Fair will be held on April 30th. This is a multi-locational event, which is free to everyone. This should be a great event.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk