

### **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, Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly and Elaine Lang. Others in attendance included: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Sean Kimball, Director of Finance; Chief Jim Baldis, and other interested parties.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**To receive public comment concerning the proposed Amendment to the Simsbury Code of Ordinances, Chapter 141, concerning tax abatements for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel**

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, said he supports the ordinance and resolution on the tax abatement and also on hypertension laws and pensions.

Gary Wilcox, President of the Simsbury Fire District, had a memo from Kevin Kowalski, Deputy Chief of the Fire Company and Chief Administrative Officer of the Fire District. Ms. Heavner said the Board members have a copy of that memo.

Mr. Wilcox said Mr. Kowalski spoke about the two-year increment abatement. With this amendment to the ordinance, the increase will be \$500 after 2 years and \$1000 after 5 years. There is also a technical change allowing them to define their members in good standing.

Peter Tedone, Board of Director of the Simsbury Ambulance, said he supports this Amendment. It is a very fair Amendment and feels it is a very important jester and important recruiting tool to bring new people into the Ambulance Association. It shows the appreciation of the residents of the Town.

Jim Baldis, Fire Chief, thanked the Board of Selectmen for their support on this change. This abatement recognizes the value and services from the firefighters and ambulance personnel. This will also make it easier to get new members. This will not change the challenges we face when trying to get new members, it will enhance the component of benefits that they try to provide.

Mr. Askham made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m. after no further public comment. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about her bumper sticker issues again, furniture being donated to the Town, the Town Manager’s salary and other issues.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about privileged groups in Town, the marijuana factory and drug abuse, and other issues.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to move item b in Other Business, discussion on Fiscal Year 2017 Budget after item b under Selectmen Action, CT-Prime Stop Loss Program. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- **May 2016 Bike Month Proclamation**

Ms. Jacobus, 22 Harvest Hill, said there are a lot of upcoming bike activities. There is a calendar on the Town’s website and also on their Facebook page. She noted that the Board of Selectmen Ride will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. There will also be a lot of information on Biking in Simsbury at the Innovation Fair on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Thibodeau encouraged everyone to join the Simsbury Bike Challenge. You can log your miles from 5/1 – 9/30 on the national website. She also reminded everyone about Simsbury Free Bike. More biking information can be read on [www.simsbury.bike](http://www.simsbury.bike).

Mr. Roy said we will be participating in a CT DOT program where they will conduct a roadway safety audit, where the six most critical intersections on the trails will be reviewed. Also, the trail grant was approved today for the trail from Tariffville to Bloomfield.

Ms. Lang read the following:

**PROCLAMATION  
MAY 2016  
Is Bike Month in Simsbury, CT**

Whereas, for more than a century the bicycle has been an utilitarian, economical, environmentally sound and effective means of personal transportation, recreation and fitness;

Whereas, the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut encourages the use of bicycles as a means of transportation; and

Whereas, the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut recognizes bicyclists as legitimate roadway users and therefore are entitled to legal and responsible use of all public roadway facilities in Simsbury; and

Whereas, the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut encourages the increased use of the bicycle, benefiting all citizens of Simsbury improving air quality, reducing traffic congestion and noise, decreasing the use of and dependence upon finite energy sources, and fostering exercise; and

Whereas, the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut recognizing the use of bicycles as a viable mode of transportation, endeavors to promote safe and responsible bicycling and is committed to incorporating the development of bicycle facilities in the vision for a vibrant downtown Simsbury; and

Whereas, the League of American Bicyclists has established May as National Bicycle Month, and the First Selectman establishes May as Bicycle Month in Simsbury, Connecticut’s first town to be designated as a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community; and

Whereas, the Simsbury Bicycle Advisory Committee and the First Selectman encourage all citizens to ride their bicycles to work, to the store, to the park, around their neighborhoods and with friends and family to promote the personal and societal benefits achieved from bicycling.

Now, therefore, I, Lisa Heavner, First Selectman of Simsbury, Connecticut, do hereby proclaim May 2016 to be Bike Month in Simsbury. Connecticut.

#### **FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Heavner said on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Town’s emergency personnel conducted a training exercise involving police, fire, ambulance, hazmat personnel, numerous volunteers, Town and Board of Education staff. This drill took extensive planning and involved more than 175 people and was very successful.

Ms. Heavner thanked the Farmington Valley Trails Council, President Bruce Donald, and the many volunteers who cleaned up the bike trails around town and along the Greenway. She asked that everyone keep the trails clean now.

Ms. Heavner said the Town of Simsbury, along with Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Farmington will be holding a Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, call Public Works 860-675-2550.

Ms. Heavner said the Innovation Fair is all set for April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with activities, exhibits and demonstrations at the Public Library, Historical Society, and High School. For complete details go to: [Simsburyideas.com](http://Simsburyideas.com).

Ms. Heavner thanked the Simsbury Grange for co-sponsoring the Green Monster E-Cycling event on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Andy's Market. A \$10 donation is suggested. More information can be found on <http://www.GreenMonsterEcycling.com> or by phone 860-231-1426.

Ms. Heavner said the Police Department has established the Police Department lobby as a “safe exchange zone.” The lobby is open to the public and under video surveillance twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The goal is to provide a sense of security for those who may want it.

Ms. Heavner said the 2016 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program provides a tax credit to business firms that make cash investments in qualifying community programs conducted by municipal or tax exempt agencies. For more information: visit the Department of Revenue Services website at [www.ct.gov/DRS](http://www.ct.gov/DRS) and search for “Neighborhood Assistance Act.”

Ms. Heavner said the Board of Finance has delayed the budget referendum and tentatively scheduled its final Public Hearing on the budget for May 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, go to the Town's website at [www.simsbury-ct.gov](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov).

Ms. Heavner said May is Bike Month in Simsbury and there are a lot of events for everyone. For more information, visit [www.simsbury.bike](http://www.simsbury.bike).

### **SELECTMEN ACTION**

#### **a) Possible Action on Amendment to the Simsbury Code of Ordinances, Chapter 141, concerning tax abatements for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel**

Ms. Heavner said the requested Tax Abatement ordinance would allow Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance personnel to receive the full amount available to them in 5 years versus 10 years. Additionally, this would allow for changes to the requirements to conform to the Bylaws of their specific organizations.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the requested amendment to Town Code of Ordinances, Chapter, 141, Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance personnel as proposed. 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 discussion had been tabled as more information was needed. She said the anticipated future rate stability is the primary objective. The Board has all the information in their packets.

Bob Lindberg from A.J. Gallaher & Co., gave some background and more information on this issue. He said CT Prime is a member owned organization.

Mr. Kelly made a motion:     **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SIMSBURY**  
  **Participation in the CT Prime, Inc. Stop-Loss Insurance Captive**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Simsbury maintains a self-insurance program for health insurance coverage of Town and Board of Education employees; and

**WHEREAS**, it is determined that it is in the interests of the Town of Simsbury to procure a stop loss policy to mitigate the Town’s exposure to large loss claims, and that savings may be achieved by becoming a member, with a number of other participating municipal entities, of CT Prime, Inc., a new Connecticut-domiciled captive insurer.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

- a) that the Town of Simsbury hereby approves the procurement of a stop loss policy to mitigate the Town’s exposure to large loss claims through CT Prime, Inc., a new Connecticut-domiciled captive insurer (the “Captive”);
- b) that the First Selectman is authorized, on behalf of the Town of Simsbury, to contract with the Captive for the procurement of such insurance and to enter into a participation agreement, a membership agreement, or such other agreements as may be necessary to procure such insurance; and
- c) that the First Selectman and other proper officers and officials of the Town of Simsbury are authorized to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to procure the insurance as described above.

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

**c) Discussion on Fiscal Year 2017 Budget**

Ms. Heavner said the Board of Finance voted to postpone the Budget Referendum. The tentative date for the Public Hearing is May 18<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. They are trying to get more information from the Legislature before moving forward.

Ms. Heavner said the Board of Finance is also awaiting the quarterly update from the Board of Education. They might ask for more reductions in the budget figures after updates are received.

After some discussion, Ms. Heavner said the Board of Selectmen budget is lean and they have worked hard to keep it that way. It is the State that can't get their house in order.

**d) Approve Tax Refunds**

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$2,678.52 as recommended and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) Acceptance of Gift of Furniture from The Hartford**

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

Ms. Kelly went through what The Hartford wishes to donate and they asked that the Town expedite the donations.

Mr. Askham said The Hartford is making the donations and no materials are going to individuals, but just to the Town.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the acceptance of a gift of furniture from The Hartford valued at approximately \$7,400. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner rejoined the meeting.

**f) Approve the request of Fiddlers Green for Eno parking permission effective June 1, 2016 to December 1 2016**

Ms. Heavner said this has been done for several years now. This will not interfere with any events at Eno Memorial Hall.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve the request of Fiddlers Green to use Eno parking lot effective June 1, 2016 to December 1, 2016. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**g) Designate Personnel Sub-Committee to Hear Appeal Under Terms of Defined Benefit Plan**

Mr. Askham recused himself.

Ms. Heavner said a retired employee has asserted a claim for retroactive monthly pension benefits which predate his application for those benefits. The claim was denied and the employee wishes to appeal this decision. Under the terms of the Town's Retirement Income Plan, the appeal can be heard by the plan administrator or the Board of Selectmen acting as the plan administrator. The Board of Selectmen, acting as the plan administrator, can designate a representative to hear the appeal and that representative can be a committee of the Board of Selectmen. They have asked to designate the Personnel Sub-Committee to hear this appeal.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to designate the Personnel Sub-Committee to hear a former employee's appeal of the denial of a claim for retroactive monthly pension benefits. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham rejoined the meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Discussion regarding updates from Boards and Commissions**

Ms. Cook feels it would be helpful to invite appointed Boards and Commissions to come before the Board of Selectmen to give an update on their goals, issues and what they are working on. They can also let the Board of Selectmen know how they can help them.

After some discussion, the Board decided to invite the Economic Development Commission to the next Board of Selectmen meeting. This Board should give Ms. Askham any questions they might have for EDC. Also, Ms. Cook will check with Aging & Disabilities Commission to see when they can come before the Board.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

**a) Appoint Susan Krinsky (R) as an alternate member of the Aging & Disability Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2018**

Mr. Paine made a motion to appoint Susan Krinsky as an alternate member of the Aging & Disability Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2018. Ms. Lang seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Also, the Board thanked Mary Lou Patrina for service.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

#### **a) Regular Meeting of April 11, 2016**

There was no action taken on the minutes of April 11, 2016 and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

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

1. **Personnel** – Mr. Kelly said at the last Personnel meeting they updated the Town Clerk’s position description. They also had a conversation about priorities that are value added from now to 2017. He began to distribute the potential project plan today and went through them at the meeting.
2. **Finance** – no report at this time.
3. **Welfare** – no report at this time.
4. **Public Safety** – Mr. Askham said we had great volunteers for our emergency training exercise. It was a great drill for all and he appreciated all the planning and effort that went into this. It went very well.
5. **Board of Education** –  
Ms. Cook spoke about Community for Care. She said they had to postpone their 6/18 event as it is graduation night. They will resume their programs in September.

Mr. Paine reminded everyone that tomorrow is Primary Day and everyone should exercise their right to vote.

Ms. Lang reminded everyone about the Innovation Fair on April 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information go to: [Simsburyideas.com](http://Simsburyideas.com)

### **ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk