

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Sean Askham, Nancy Haase, Christopher Kelly and Michael Paine. Absent was Cheryl Cook. Others in attendance included Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Hiram Peck, Director of Community Planning and Development, Richard Sawitzke, P.E., Engineering Project Manager, Jerome Shea, Town Engineer, Burke LaClair, Business Manager of Simsbury Public Schools, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, said she has contributed to the Town for over 40 years. She spoke again about going to a Town Manager form of government. Ms. Coe also spoke about the survey and the new Senior Center. She feels a new center will add more burden to the taxpayers.

Ms. Coe also spoke about the personnel agenda items, tailgating before concerts, a truck billboard at the park and ride, arrests in Town and dumping on Town property.

Robert Kalechman, 781 Hopmeadow Street, felt he had been treated rudely at the last Board meeting. He feels certain people are allowed to speak over the 5 minutes allowed in Public Audience and that isn't right.

Mr. Kalechman gave his condolences to the families of Joseph and Arthur Spada.

Mr. Kalechman quoted Samuel Adams about fundamental rights. He feels the State and Federal governments are lying to people and wants it to stop.

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Heavner said there were no presentations at this time.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Heavner said she was pleased to announce that the Town of Simsbury received an “Inter-town Cooperation Award” from the Capitol Region Council of Governments for working with Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, Granby and Farmington to make a joint capital

equipment purchase for the benefit of all participants. She thanked Tom Roy for his part in working to minimize costs and maximize benefits for the residents of Simsbury.

Ms. Heavner said the Town has maintained its AAA rating from Moody's investors Service in connection with its issuance of \$9.1 million General Obligation Bonds. They have also affirmed the AAA rating on \$14.1 million of outstanding parity debt. This rating is a credit to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and to the administrative team that worked so hard to keep Simsbury in a strong financial position.

Ms. Heavner asked everyone to join her at the Business Community Meeting on June 23, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. at the Simsbury Inn. This meeting is being jointly sponsored by the Town of Simsbury, Simsbury Main Street Partnership and the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce. Everyone will learn about signage and zoning regulations. There will be ample time for questions and answers on these and other topics.

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury and the towns of Avon, Granby and Canton held a hazardous waste collection event on June 13th, which allowed 373 Farmington Valley residents to safely dispose of their household hazardous waste. This was a big success.

Ms. Heavner congratulated the finance team on the excellent job they do in preparing the comprehensive annual finance report. Once again the Town received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Ms. Heavner told everyone to take advantage of the Simsbury Farmer's Market on Thursdays at Simsmore Square between 3 and 6 p.m.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Haase made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$76.13 as recommended and requested by the Tax Collector. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve submittal of Connecticut Recreation Trails Program Grant in the amount of \$305,000

Ms. Heavner said we have applied for this Grant many times in the past. She has been told that there might actually be funding for this Grant now.

Mr. Sawitzke said this Grant is for the multi-use trail connection from the Farmington Valley Greenway (at routes 10/202 & 315) to Curtiss Park/Pattison Park. The total estimated connection cost would be \$385,000.00. He said the Town is requesting a grant for \$305,000.00. Therefore, the Town’s share would be \$85,000.00. He said parts of the Town share may be in-kind services, design funds already in place, and additional funds as programmed in a future year CIP.

After further discussion, Ms. Heavner asked the Board if they had general interest in the concept of completing the bike path. The Board did support the concept of eventually completing bike route from the East Coast Greenway through Tariffville, but more information is needed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to pursue the Connecticut DEEP Grant for the Connecticut Recreation Trails Program. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Authorize Board of Education Resolutions for the following:

- 1) Submit an application for a Connecticut School Construction Grant for partial roof replacement at Central School**
- 2) Referral of the project to Public Building Committee**
- 3) Authorize preparation of schematic drawings and specifications**

Mr. LaClair said this was approved in the CIP for the 2016 year. These projects have been put out for a number of years already. Due to the State grant process, we need to select an architect.

Ms. Haase made a motion: **“RESOLVED**, that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the Town of Simsbury Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Central School Partial Roof Replacement Project.”

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby establishes the permanent Public Building Committee as the building committee for the proposed Central School Partial Roof Replacement Project.”

“RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed Central School Partial Roof Replacement Project.”

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

d) Action on revised Business Development Incentive Program

Ms. Heavner thanked everyone who worked on this Business Development Incentive Program. This Program was created in accordance with Connecticut State Statutes 12-65b and 12-65h. The Program allows the Town to enter into written agreements with owners and/or lessees of certain property where targeted businesses are located or could be properly located in accordance with adopted plans in certain locations in Town. This Business Incentive Program is completely separate from the statutorily required local and land use approval processes.

Ms. Haase said there was a Public Hearing on this issue for public comments. She said the Task Force has heard a lot of other comments on this issue.

Mr. Kelly feels the Program shows good intent and the draft does show more clarity, but it does need more work to finalize the Program.

After much discussion, Ms. Heavner would also like to have further review of this draft as well.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the draft Business Development Incentive Policy. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. Ms. Haase, Mr. Askham and Mr. Paine voted in favor, with Ms. Heavner and Mr. Kelly voting against. Therefore, the motion passed.

e) Authorize the Gifts of Love/Community Farm of Simsbury to distribute eggs to Food Pantry Clients

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

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Update on Senior Community Center Project

Ms. Heavner said the Town has hired a professor, who will be coming out in the next few weeks, to meet with Social Services, the Senior Center community, the Library, Performing Arts Center, etc. They will be looking at what programming the Town has and evaluating what is needed.

Ms. Heavner said the Architect Selection Committee will be meeting and will announce their choice shortly.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Accept the Resignation of Michael T. Wade (D) as a regular member of the Board of Education effective June 30, 2015

Mr. Askham made a motion to accept the resignation of Michael T. Wade as a regular member of the Board of Education effective June 30, 2015 with our thanks. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of June 8, 2015

No action was taken and therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Heavner said there was a joint meeting of the Open Space Committee to discuss two projects. One project was the Betty Hudson property and a recommendation will be made soon.

The other project was the Ethel Walker Stewardship. This was a very productive meeting with great presentations. The report is being forwarded to Ethel Walker Woods. No action was taken.

1. Personnel

- a) Action on Vacation Time Carry-over for Richard Bazzano**
- b) Action on Vacation Time Carry-over for Hiram Peck**

Mr. Kelly said there are rules granting 10 days of extension of vacation time. He said the Personnel Sub-Committee did review both Mr. Bazzano and Mr. Peck's requests for extension of more time.

Mr. Kelly said there are extenuating circumstances for having so much carry-over time. The Committee did approve carrying over the extra time. However, he does feel the best policy would be for the extension of 10 days.

Ms. Haase made a motion to approve the carryover excess vacation time, as outlined, for Hiram Peck and Rick Bazzano. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Action on Proposed Charge to Charter Revision Commission

Mr. Kelly spoke about the recommended charge of the Commission, the make-up of the Committee, and the timing of the draft revisions. They want the Charter Revision recommendations submitted in a time for the Referendum in the November election. The Town Attorney recommended a deadline of March 15, 2016 for the draft recommendations.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to charge the Charter Revision Commission as identified with the addition to look at gender relevant to titles. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Haase made a motion for the makeup of the Charter Revision Commission to be 4 Democrats, 4 Republicans, and 1 Unaffiliated, as recommended by the Personnel Sub-Committee. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the draft reporting date of the Charter Revision Commission to be March 15, 2016. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Haase made a motion to appoint Mr. Askham and Mr. Kelly to select the Unaffiliated member of the Charter Revision Commission and report back to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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

Ms. Haase said the Economic Development Task Force met and the Marketing Sub-Committee was tasked by the First Selectman with the Main Street Partnership to coordinate at a workshop for businesses in regards to the Town website. That meeting will take place on Thursday, June 25, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the Program Room at the Library.

Ms. Haase said the Task Force did decide to change the remainder of their meetings to the second Tuesdays of the month. This would create a better flow of meetings.

Mr. Askham thanked Ms. Heavner for organizing a Finance meeting tonight. Ms. Haase was also appreciative of the meeting and looking forward to more meetings to come.

Ms. Heavner said this is helpful in discussing the budget process.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk