

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2011

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 Mary Glassman; Board members Gerald Post, Moira Wertheimer, John Hampton, Lisa Heavner and Robert Hensley. Others in attendance included: Hiram Peck, Gerry Toner, Tom Cooke, Sean Kimball and other interested parties.

Mrs. Glassman asked for a moment of silence for victims of the shooting in Tucson.

FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT

Mr. Hampton gave an explanation of the Martin Luther King celebration to be held at Eno Memorial Hall on Monday, January 17, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. and is free to all who wish to attend. A documentary film of Dr. King's two summers in Simsbury has been produced by Simsbury High School students and will be shown at this program. Additionally, there will be a black-tie gala at the Hartford Marriott on January 15, 2011 marking the 25th anniversary of our nation's official recognition of the Martin Luther King Holiday, at which the documentary will be shown and Simsbury's high school students will be honored.

Mr. Hampton will invite the SHS students to the next Board of Selectmen meeting to honor them for their participation in this venture.

Ms. Glassman expressed thanks to Chief Ingvertsen and the Simsbury Police Department along with the Police Chiefs in the towns of Canton and Avon for their participation in a drug take back day on Saturday, January 8th. 300 types of Rx medication were turned in; therefore none ended up in the water supply, etc.

Ms. Glassman announced that the Town received a \$132,000 grant from the DEP as reimbursement for costs expended for the Greenway Trail along the Dyno Nobel property.

Ms. Glassman announced the presentation of a matching gift challenge from the Chairman of Ensign-Bickford Industries, Inc. of \$175,000 for a senior center; she expressed thanks to Ed LaMontagne, Joe Loewy and Mona Martinik for their participation in the process. A Committee is being formed to work on this project; Mr. Hampton will be chairing the task of identifying a location and doing an assessment. All residents are welcome to participate in this open process.

Mr. Hampton informed the Board that there is a Senior Center program with AARP tax trained volunteers that offers personal tax aide to the seniors. This program will take place at the Simsbury Public Library from February 3rd through April 15th and is open to all regardless of age.

Tom Cooke introduced Sean Kimball as the new Human Resources/Risk Manager in the First Selectman's Office.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street. Mr. Kalechman addressed the board regarding charter revision. He urged more representation for unaffiliated voters.

John Lucker, 88 Blue Ridge. He expressed two concerns: first, that at the same time the Board of Ethics was considering issues about the land use commissioners' review of work product prepared by Town Counsel Robert DeCrescenzo of the firm of Updike, Kelly and Spellacy, Board of Ethics Chairman Richard Order was in the process of becoming a partner with the law firm. Mr. Lucker stated that Mr. Order should have disclosed this publicly or recused himself from the matter. Mr. Lucker also expressed concern that Barbara Petitjean was being considered by the Simsbury Republican Town Committee for a spot on the Board of Finance and that this might have influenced her willingness to investigate issues pertaining to elected Republican officials. Mr. Lucker recommended that members of the Board of Ethics be barred from serving on other Boards or joining other Boards immediately after serving on the Board of Ethics.

Mr. Lucker is disappointed with how the Board of Ethics handled his concerns; Ms. Glassman stated that she will consider his recommendations.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Hampton made motion, seconded by Mr. Hensley to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$17,553.99 as requested by the Tax Collector. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Accept a financial donation in the amount of \$71,474.51 from the estate of Theodore S. Gellert to the Department of Social Services to be added to the funds in place for a new Senior Center pursuant to the Town's Gift Ordinance

Ms. Heavner made motion, seconded by Ms. Wertheimer to accept a financial donation in the amount of \$71,474.51 from the estate of Theodore S. Gellert to the Department of Social Services to be added to the funds in place for a new Senior Center pursuant to the Town's Gift Ordinance. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hensley asked that there be no restrictions on the funds; they could be used for other purposes if issues arose.

c) Accept a financial donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc. to the Department of Social Services pursuant to the Town's Gift Ordinance

Mr. Hampton made motion, seconded by Mr. Hensley with gratitude, to accept a financial donation in the amount of \$5,000 from Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc. to the Department of Social Services pursuant to the Town's Gift Ordinance. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Accept a donation to the Department of Social Services pursuant to the Town's Gift Ordinance of ten certificates for 100 gallons of oil from Tower Energy to be used for any needy resident of the Town of Simsbury

Ms. Heavner made motion, seconded by Ms. Wertheimer, to accept a donation to the Department of Social Services pursuant to the Town's Gift Ordinance of ten certificates for 100 gallons of oil from Tower Energy to be used for any needy resident of the Town of Simsbury. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Authorize establishment of a Special Revenue Fund for the Clean Energy Task Force

Mr. Hampton made motion, seconded by Ms. Wertheimer to forward this request to the Board of Finance for the creation of this Special Revenue Fund. This topic was previously approved by the

Board of Selectmen but was never forwarded to the Board of Finance. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Update on Griffin Land request for restrictions on land east of Barn Door Hill Road

Hiram Peck gave an update on Griffin Land. There is no recommendation at this time; all information has not been received. Griffin Land has been asked to clarify some information with respect to the value – the Town feels that there is a higher value than they offered. This will come for a vote on January 24, 2011.

g) Route 10 Corridor Study Update

There has been one meeting so far, and all meeting notices will be posted on web site. Hiram Peck will keep the Board posted on timeframe. Another meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on January 13th in the Main Meeting Room to again review the study and the role of the public. A Charrette will be held the week of February 7th at the Simsbury Public Library.

Mr. Peck advised that a Steering Committee was established on information from CRCOG to staff. There was a meeting on December 7th and they will meet again on February 3rd as a web meeting to define roles and responsibilities. They also plan to meet on January 13th and possibly on January 19th. Info on SCTV has been very helpful and professional. It is important that the town residents participate. Stakeholder's meetings will be part of the process as well. This process should be as open as possible and it should not in any way try to limit any particular group along the corridor.

The Town website has a link to CRCOG, and updates will continuously be posted.

Ms. Wertheimer asked what kinds of things the steering committee needs to address. Hiram Peck stated that the Steering Committee's job is to listen to constituents' concerns, plug into the study and keep the consultant on track. The Route 10 Corridor Study is being done by the State – we as a Town are participating to make sure they hear our opinions and receive our input. The Town is the caretaker of the process and we will make sure that correct information will be filtered to the State.

h) 2011/2012 Budget Workshop Dates

Tom Cooke distributed a memo with potential dates for Budget Workshops: Monday, February 14th at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting; Tuesday, February 15th, Wednesday, February 16th and Thursday, February 17th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Motion to approve the dates was made by Mr. Hampton, seconded by Mr. Post. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner requested a list of monies received by the Town of Simsbury from the State of Connecticut.

i) Authorize the First Selectman to execute an agreement with the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)

Mr. Hampton made motion, seconded by Mr. Hensley for the First Selectman to execute an agreement with CREC to use the parking area at 125 Latimer Lane (site of the former KinderCare building) and to protect the Town of Simsbury from any liability arising out of this use. This agreement will terminate on June 1, 2011. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Ms. Heavner recommended the appointment of Ron Zappile (R) as a full member of the Housing Authority replacing the vacancy of Melvin Cote with an expiration date of April 1, 2012, seconded by Mr. Hampton. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hensley recommended the appointment of Sean Askham (R) as a full member of the Planning Commission replacing the vacancy of John Loomis with an expiration date of December 5, 2011, seconded by Ms. Wertheimer. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hampton recommended to accept the resignation of Thomas Doran (R) as an alternate member of the Aging and Disability Commission effective January 1, 2011, seconded by Ms. Wertheimer. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Bob Hensley and Lisa Heavner volunteered to serve on the Pension Sub-Committee. A motion to amend the agenda to approve their appointment to the Pension Sub-Committee was made by Mr. Post and seconded by Mr. Hampton. All were in favor and the motion passed. A motion to appoint Mr. Hensley and Ms. Heavner was subsequently made by Mr. Hampton and seconded by Ms. Wertheimer. The motion was passed unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Ms. Heavner made motion to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2010 regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Hensley. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN LIAISON & SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Heavner reported that on Thursday, January 20th students from Simsbury High and some of the seniors from the Senior Center are co-sponsoring a basketball game. Free admission to senior citizens. There will be a pre game chat by the coach of the boy's basketball team. After pizza dinner all are invited to attend the game between Simsbury and Farmington. If this venture proves successful we will eventually alternate between the boys and girls teams.

Ms. Heavner also noted that one of our SHS students, Courtney Drummey, sang the National Anthem at Governor's inauguration. She has the voice of an angel and we are proud of her

Mr. Hampton announced that on January 20th he will be sponsoring another Gifford Green's Conversation – "All you Ever Wanted to Know About Recycling But Were Afraid to Ask"

Mr. Hensley commented on the tours/open house at Simsbury Farms which were very informative for public in connection with proposed capital improvements. During the tour Tom West spoke of different aspects of the building and its needs. The process is moving forward steadily. Mr. Hensley thanked Mr. Toner for conducting the tours.

ADJOURN

Mr. Hensley made motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hampton. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman