

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members Sean Askham, Lisa Heaver, John Hampton, Moira Wertheimer and Nancy Haase. Others in attendance included Tom Cooke, Sarah Nielsen, Hiram Peck and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive urged all residents to vote no on the Charter Revision question on November 6th. She feels the Charter has structural flaws. She feels The Charter should give the public a choice to choose between a Professional Town Manager and/or a First Selectman form of government.

Ms. Coe also spoke about four vacancies at Eno Farms and said CHFA cannot sell the property. She said the Eno Trust was for the poor of Simsbury and the Town must oversee the property. This property should not be sold for profit.

Ms. Coe said the contract at the restaurant at Simsbury Farms has expired and the present owner will not be renewing the contract. She feels this is the perfect time for the golf course to be sold or contracted to a private company.

Ms. Coe said the minutes of August 26, 2012 of the Parks and Recreation Committee stated they would like to fund a master plan for the Simsbury Golf Course. The Men's Club donated \$5,000.00 towards this effort. She quoted a line from the minutes stating that the First Selectman made a verbal commitment of \$5,000.00, of the Town's budget, to be set aside to match this donation. Why are more tax dollars being spent?

Ms. Coe spoke again about the Performing Arts Center Commission. She feels this Center is a failure and the Town should not be in the Performing Arts business.

Ms. Coe said the business on 730 Hopmeadow Street has a temporary handicapped ramp, but no handicapped parking places to use, which is in violation of State law. This owner should be fined until he conforms to State and Town regulations.

Ms. Coe asked when the report on Septemberfest will be ready. She said the First Selectman authorized the use of a tent according to the August 22, 2012 minutes. She wants to know where this money came from.

Ms. Coe is also questioning expenses paid to Imagineers.

Ms. Coe wants to know why the Ethel Walker School doesn't give the Town money like the

Westminster School did. They gave \$99,000.00

Robert Wise spoke again about his affidavit and the disqualification of the Town Attorney. He wants to extend the deadline to October 11, 2012, which is the day after the next Board meeting.

Mr. Wise wants the Board to read all the material and take action. If no action is taken, he wants a Public Hearing to be held.

Sue Benarczyk, 119 E. Weatogue said the Town was not in Money Magazine this year. She said she looked at Weston, Virginia and noted that there are large companies with large offices there. She read part of an article, dated September 7, 2012, in The Hartford Courant about supermarkets closing. She said she went to the hearing on Big Y and now it is coming in.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, said there is now a State Representative choice in Town to vote for. A lot of issues in Town and in the State have to be corrected.

Mr. Kalechman noted that he saw the Towns in the Valley are receiving \$165,000.00 from the Hartford Foundation, which he is very grateful for.

Mr. Kalechman said that \$90,000.00 was put in this years budget for the maintenance for the bike path. This is a walking path & shouldn't be used now for just bikes; 'Bikes belong in the road'. He is afraid that Simsbury's portion of the \$165,000.00 will help to maintain the bike paths. There are more important things to do with this money. He wrote a letter to the Board about this matter.

Ms. Glassman said they are trying to identify who received the grant as that is not money coming to the Town.

PRESENTATION

- Proclamation - Westminster School 125th Anniversary

Mr. Askham read the following Proclamation:

Town of Simsbury
Proclamation

WHEREAS, Westminster School was founded by William Lee Cushing in Dobbs Ferry, New York in 1888, thus making the 2012-13 school year as its 125th Anniversary; and,

WHEREAS, through the encouragement and support of several prominent Simsbury families, Mr. Cushing moved his school in 1900 to its present location on Williams Hill in Simsbury, CT; and

WHEREAS, it is Westminster's mission to inspire young people of promise to cultivate a passion for learning; explore and develop their talents in a balanced program; reach well beyond the ordinary; live with character and intelligence; and commit to a life of service beyond self; and

WHEREAS, it is also Westminster's purpose to imbue its young people with the schools' core values of community, character, balance and involvement, so that they become the kinds of people who are valued leaders in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, the great town of Simsbury is proud to call Westminster School one of its own; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman of Simsbury, join the Simsbury community and the faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni of Westminster School in celebrating the school's 125 years of leading with grit and grace in distinguished service to education, and to do hereby proudly proclaim the anniversary's kickoff week of September 23, 2012 as

Westminster School 125th Anniversary Week

Mary A. Glassman

Mr. Philip, Headmaster of the School, said they will be buying 125 books for the Library, purchasing 125 gifts for area children for the Angel Tree and purchasing 125 turkeys for residents for Thanksgiving to help celebrate their 125th Anniversary.

The Board thanked him for the great partnership, great celebration and gifts to the Town.

- Update on the status of the Wild and Scenic Study - Farmington River Watershed Association

Ms. Glassman introduced Sally Rieger from the Farmington River Watershed Association. Ms. Rieger thanked the Board for their guidance and support.

Ms. Rieger feels they will still be getting a designation, however, the bills probably won't pass this year. After explaining the alternatives, she said they now need the Board to support Alternative B of the Wild and Scenic Study. She passed out more information and bookmarks with a website to get more information.

Mr. Hampton made motion to endorse the Wild and Scenic Study and support Alternative B. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- Prescription Plan Update

Ms. Glassman said there are copies of the Discount Prescription Card Program in the Library, Eno Hall, Drug Stores and Town Hall. These cards are for the uninsured and under-insured residents to help pay for their medications, vision specialists and hearing specialists. There is no cost to the Town or its users.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Glassman spoke about the Veterans work along with the Social Service Department giving rides to those who need them. The Town does have a dial-a-ride program, but funding is tight. She said the Veterans have come through with "Vets Helping Vets", which is an all volunteer service to help Veterans get to appointments at the VA in Newington.

Ms. Glassman said the Town continues to work with The Hartford to monitor developments and keep the residents involved. Mass Mutual will purchase parts of the company. There have been meetings with the Town and other officials so they know the Town wants to work with new buyers so jobs can be kept and growing in Simsbury.

Ms. Glassman said at a special meeting on September 13, 2012, the Economic Development Commission agrees to hold a task force to meet with State and Town officials in regards to the future of The Hartford. Members of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance will be part of this task force.

SELECTMEN ACTION -

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve Tax Refunds in the amount of \$7,878.58 as reviewed and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Accept the Conservation Easement for the open space public access trail system which is part of the Meadowood Residential Community

Ms. Haase made a motion to accept the Conservation Easement for the open space public access trail system which is part of the Meadowood Residential Community contingent upon addendum. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Approve the removal of the requirement for 6 “affordable” homes in the Claremont and Saxony neighborhoods in The Powder Forest Homes community; the current restrictions are really future “price appreciation restricted” upon resales and not income related

No action was taken..

d) Approve authorization of a resolution to submit the Main Street Investment Fund Grant Application, titled Downtown Implementation Plan for Business and Pedestrians

Mr. Hampton read the following:
Certified Resolution of the Legislative Body

The Legislative Body of the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut met on Monday, September 24, 2012 and adopted a resolution by the vote of 6 to nothing which:

(1) Authorizes submission of the funding application - Downtown Implementation Plan for Business and Pedestrians under the Main Street Investment Fund Program referenced in Section 78 and 79 of the PA 11-1; and

(2) Identifies Mary Glassman, First Selectman, as an individual to sign the Main Street Investment fund application and administer the project. Such application is attached to and made a part of the record.

Attested to by:

Name:

Title:

Town Clerk

Date:

e) Approve the use of Town property for the purpose of the David Vidal Memorial 5K Road Race on Sunday, October 28, 2012. The request includes the exclusive use of the commuter parking lot along Iron Horse Blvd., as well as Iron Horse Blvd, Drake Hill

Road, Riverside Road (north and south) and East Weatogue Street, pending Performing Arts Center Board approval

Ms. Wertheimer made a motion to approve the use of Town property for the purpose of the David Vidal Memorial 5K Road Race on Sunday, October 28, 2012. The request includes the exclusive use of the commuter parking lot along Iron Horse Blvd., as well as Iron Horse Blvd., Drake Hill Road, Riverside Road (north and south) and East Weatogue Street. Request to then be forwarded to the Performing Arts Center Board for final approval. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Accept a financial donation in the amount of \$3,000 from The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for the Cheese Day and Bread Day Programs administered by the Social Services Department

Ms. Heavner made a motion to accept a donation in the amount of \$3,000 from the Hartford

Foundation for Public Giving. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business at this time.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Re-appoint Richard Sawitzke, Town Engineer/Director of Capital Projects and Susan Beardsley, Public Schools Director of Health Services to the Board of Directors of the Farmington Valley Health District for a three year term effective October 1, 2012

Mr. Hampton made a motion to reappoint Town Engineer/Director of Capital Projects Richard Sawitzke and Public School Director of Health Services Susan Beardsley to the Board of Directors of the Farmington Valley Health District, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes

§19a-241 (b) for three year terms effective October 1, 2012. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Solicit the appointment of two Municipal Hearing Officers with law/legal training to serve as Hearing Officer for municipal code enforcement proceedings

The Board approved the request of the First Selectman to appoint two (2) volunteer municipal hearing officers with law/legal training to serve as hearing officer for municipal code enforcement proceedings.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2012

Mr. Askham made a motion to table the acceptance of minutes of September 10, 2012. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to include three requests from the Democratic Town Committee appointments. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Haase made a motion to appoint Jay Devivo to fill the remainder of Lonni Schulz's term on the Recycling Committee; appoint Jonathan Laschever to fill the remainder of Paul Lanza's term on the Historic Commission, and to appoint Maryann Daly-Doran to fill the remainder of Marc Lubetkin's term on the Simsbury Farms Complex Committee. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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 - Ms. Heavner said there will be a senior football/pizza night on October 5, 2012 at the High School.

Ms. Heavner also noted that there will be an open house on October 18, 2012 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Dr. Owen Murphy apartments and Virginia Connelly residents. This will be a great tour.

6. WPCA Liaison Report - Ms. Haase said the Sub-Committee made a report to the full Commission and they are fine-tuning on the policy. They will be bringing the proposed policy to the Board at the October meeting. After that a date for a Public Hearing will be made.

Mr. Hampton acknowledged the passing of Ernie Bardow. He was a terrific public servant for the Town and everyone mourns his passing and sends their best to his family.

Mr. Askham noted that the Septemberfest report will be available at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to allow 2 more minutes of Public Audience. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Joan Coe said there was a storage trailer parked overnight on the Town parking lot on Iron Horse Boulevard. She thinks the Town needs a policy about parking trailers overnight on Town property.

Ms. Coe said people calling 911 without a SIM card have a false sense of security. They cannot speak to the dispatcher and just saying "help" won't bring the police services. This is a shortcoming.

She read part of an article from The Hartford Courant about The Hartford moving away. She wants to know what the Town's position is about this move. She will not support either candidate.

Ms. Coe said she is very disappointed with the choices of State Representative. She feels both candidates have too many failures behind them.

Mr. Kalechman congratulated the Board on the handling of the interview on Ensign Bickford for

the proposal of homes in Claremont and Saxony neighborhoods.

Mr. Kalechman said that people reiterate their issues for action while the Public never has enough time to talk. Ms. Glassman said that is the business of the Town before the Board and she feels that 5 minutes, plus additional time at the end of the meetings, is good for the people.

ADJOURN

Mr. Hampton made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman