



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

## **Technology Task Force**

Monday, May 6, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Engineering Conference Room, Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street

## **Regular Meeting Minutes - Approved**

**Members Present:** Mark Orenstein, Bill Rucci, Evan Marks, Harald Bender, Liz Peterson, Ray Rosati, Chris Kelly (Board of Selectmen liaison)

**Staff Present:** Melissa Appleby, Rick Bazzano, Jason Casey

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by vice chair Evan Marks. All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

### **1) Minutes of February 4, 2019 and March 4, 2019**

Mr. Orenstein made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2019 and March 4, 2019 as presented. Mr. Rucci seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

### **2) Work Group Discussions**

#### **a. Study of Shared Services (Town/Board of Education)**

The members who signed up for this group include Mr. Jahne, Mr. Rucci, Mr. Orenstein, Mr. DiSciacca, Mr. Bender and Mr. Rosati.

Mr. Kelly noted that this topic came up during the budget cycle, as the Board of Selectmen has expressed an interest in pursuing this topic further. The Town Manager and Superintendent are in preliminary discussions regarding a potential study of areas where the Town and Board of Education may develop a shared services model, including finance and information technology. Mr. Kelly noted that there seems to be a greater interest in this topic than at any other time. Ms. Appleby said that the Town Manager and Superintendent agree that it would be productive for the Task Force to conduct some preliminary research on this topic, specifically around benchmarking. Staff will put together a list of communities and research questions for the work group to focus on.

#### **b. 2016 Blum Shapiro Report**

Mr. Rosati volunteered to join Mr. Doyle and Mr. Marks on this work group. The group briefly discussed the history of this report, including why it was initiated, and the recommendations that have been implemented thus far.

### **3) Town-Wide Communications**

Mr. Marks made a motion to add "Town-Wide Communications" to the agenda. Mr. Rucci seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Peterson said that she spoke with the Police Chief regarding the Police Department's communications strategy. Discussion ensued

regarding the resources that are needed to implement a more comprehensive, cross-departmental communications plan, including staff time. There was consensus from the group that residents would like the Town to be more proactive in pushing out information to the public via an automated alert system, particularly in regards to road closures.

**4) Next Steps/Agenda items for next meeting**

Discussions regarding the two work groups will continue at the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Marks made a motion to adjourn at 6:02pm. Mr. Bender seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melissa Appleby  
Deputy Town Manager