CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Special Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was called to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Large Program Room of the Simsbury Public Library. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Michael Paine, Elaine Lang, and Christopher Kelly. Absent were: Cheryl Cook and Sean Askham. Charter Revision Commission members included: Chairman Hadley Rose; Commission members Jeff Tindall, James Ray, Paul Henault, Mary Glassman, Robert Crowther, Edward Pabich, Lydia Tedone, Melissa Osborne and Tom Benneche. Others in attendance included: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo; Jeff Shea, Town Engineer; Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; David Gardner, Assessor; Sean Kimball, Finance Director/Treasurer; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the Charter Revisions, Town Management form of government, tax bills, Performing Arts Center, concerts at the Meadows, the Senior Center, and other issues.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about events in Dallas, corruption, the Charter, and other issues.

Chip Houlihan, 2 Somerset Lane, spoke about possible elimination of the Economic Development Commission. He feels this Commission should be reserved as it is vital to the Town. Mr. Houlihan also spoke about changing form of government.

Ms. Heavner said the First Selectman's report will be done after item g) Discussion and possible action on draft Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Shea said he was asked to put together a brief summary of the capital projects. He presented the Board a report stating fifty-six projects which are in varying stages of construction and design.

Ms. Heavner said this reporting was started in 2009 and is now being done again. It is a very helpful report for the Board.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of $3,540.87 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Authorize the First Selectman to execute a contract with Northeast Revaluation Group, LLC for the 2017 Revaluation Project subject to approval by Town Counsel

Ms. Heavner said the Board now has a new recommendation for the revaluation project.

Mr. Gardner said he received bids for the revaluation project. He went through his chart and asked for an approval for Municipal Valuation for $141,000.

Mr. Paine made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to enter into contract with Municipal Valuation for the 2017 revaluation project subject to approved of the contract by Town Counsel, as recommended. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Accept Donation in the amount of $2,467.20 from Stop & Shop for the Feed-A-Friend Program

Mr. Paine made a motion to accept a donation, in the amount of $2,467.20, from Stop & Shop for the Feed-A-Friend Program with our thanks. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Refer pursuant to CGS §8-24 Potential Sale of 23 Mountain Road to the Planning Commission

Ms. Heavner said the Town became the owner of the property on 23 Mountain Road as a result of a tax foreclosure on this property in 2015. Town staff recommend the sale of the property. An 8-24 referral to the Planning Commission is the first step in this process. Once the Town is prepared to proceed with the sale, the Town will retain the services of a real estate agent.

Ms. Lang made a motion to refer the potential sale of 23 Mountain Road, in Tariffville, to the Planning Commission pursuant to CGS §8-24. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Refer pursuant to CGS §8-24 Approval of Easements for 20 Hopmeadow Street to the Planning Commission

Ms. Heavner said the developers are seeking easements from DOT and DEEP to permit installation of a sewer line to run east from 20 Hopmeadow Street through DOT and DEEP owned property to connect with an existing Town sewer line. Simsbury Developers, LLC are seeking to bring this matter before the Planning Commission at its July 26th meeting. Once the easements have been approved by DOT and DEEP, the proposal would return to the Board of Selectmen for final approval and recording in the land records.

Mr. Paine made a motion to refer the request of Simsbury Developers, LLC, owner of 20 Hopmeadow Street, for approval of easements from the Department of Transportation ("DOT") and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") to facilitate sewer services for the development of 20 Hopmeadow Street to the Planning Commission pursuant to CGS §8-24. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Authorize Purchase of Streetlights

Ms. Roy said the Town has been working with ESCO Energy Services Company to conduct a detailed inventory of all the public street lights in Simsbury currently owned by Eversource. He said the purchase of 651 lights and 127 poles is $560,731. He said he is ready to move forward with the purchase of these lights and immediately begin re-lamping these lights with LED lights. He may also include additional features with these new lights, including wi-fi connectivity, dimming and replacement notifications. Assuming we are to move forward with this project, the Town needs to execute a letter of intent with Eversource for the purchase of the lights and enter into an agreement with ESCO for the re-lamping and inventory work.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to:

A) Authorize the First Selectman to execute the necessary agreements with Eversource to purchase the street lights and poles with a value of $560,731 and
B) Authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with ESCO Energy for the re-lamping and maintenance services of street lights with a maximum value of $304,269 (based on the Capital budget of $865,000)

All agreements will be reviewed by Town Counsel

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

g) Discussion and possible action on draft Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission

Attorney DeCrescenzo went through the process for proposed changes to the Charter.

Ms. Heavner said there is no voting tonight. She thanked the Charter Revision Commission on their hard work. She said at the last Board of Selectmen meeting, four issues were sent back to the Charter Revision Commission to discuss: Leaving the EDC in the Charter; having a separate Culture Commission; not combining Planning and Zoning; and Form of Government.

Mr. Rose and other Charter Commission members said they felt the EDC wasn't functioning well and wasn't accomplishing goals. They feel the Board of Selectmen can appoint adhoc or special committees when needed instead of keeping EDC. Also, not having the EDC would cut staff time for attending more meetings.

There was discussion on the EDC, with having a task force for different issues and shortening the terms of service, which might bring in more talent. There was also discussion on changing the description of the Commission. The EDC doesn't need to be in the Charter, it can be made by ordinance instead.

Mr. Rose said the Charter Revision Commission felt that a Culture Commission should be separate from Parks & Recreation so they can give special focus to certain areas. They also felt this could garner more volunteers with specific interests. The Board of Selectmen did feel this was a good idea.

There was discussion on not combining Planning and Zoning. The Charter Revision Commission said a number of residents asked that they remain separate. The Commission seems to do a lot of Zoning, but not a lot of Planning. There was also some discussion on having joint meetings with Planning and Zoning. The Task Force made a recommendation to combine the Commissions. There was a 9-2 vote in favor of combining them. Combining them would also save on staff time.

Mr. Paine said he thinks Planning and Zoning do have different functions. However, combining them might speed up the timeline for developers.

There was a lot of discussion on changing to Town Manager. Also about the First Selectman having to recuse herself during salary decisions. Wording is needed to set the salary of a Town Manager without having a specific dollar amount.

Ms. Heavner said this could be formed like the chairman of the Board of Education, where they don't get a salary, but submit an expense report.

Ms. Lang said she felt that the Commission looked at town that are geographically close to Simsbury, but don't actually resemble Simsbury. Mr. Rose said they weren't able to get any of those towns here for that discussion. They would like to try to meet with them to discuss this issue.

There was also some discussion on having a Chief Administrative Officer, but the Charter Revision Commission said it just wasn't compatible to have a Chief Administrative Officer and then have a First Selectman that had more authority.

There was also discussion on the salary of a Town Manager, the budget, accountability of that person, hiring of that person, and other issues. There was also some discussion on the salary of the First Selectman if changing to a Town Management form of government.

The Charter Revision Commission said they also touched on the Board of Education. They did question the number of people and changing of their terms.

There was some discussion on Section 412, 503 and 701. Attorney DeCrescenzo explained these sections. He also read the statutes on what is needed for the Board of Selectmen to vote on the proposed changes in the Charter.

The Board of Selectmen thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their hard work and time on this proposal. There was great insight with this joint meeting tonight. Everyone is looking to do their best for Simsbury.

Mr. Henault made a motion to close the Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Charter Revision Commission at 8:15 p.m. Melissa Osborne seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury was ranked as a top five Town in Connecticut for solar progress. To see the rankings visit http://www.nhregister.com/business/20160630/yale-scorecard-ranks-towns-solar-progress.

Ms. Heavner said everyone is invited to meet Sarah Loudenslager, Simsbury Library's new Business Resource Coordinator, on July 12th from 4:30 – 6:30 p.

Ms. Heavner said tax bills were mailed on June 28th. Taxes are due July 1st, with the last day to pay on August 1st. She also reminded everyone to verify your bills due to the issues at DMV. If you have any questions, please call the Assessor's office at (860) 658-3251.

Ms. Heavner said the construction of the Veterans Memorial Project is scheduled to begin around July 18th with completion anticipated by November 1st. There will be periodic closures of the vehicle entrance to the Simsbury Public Library from Hopmeadow Street, so please use the access on Library Lane.

Ms. Heavner said the Town recently launched a service to help make residents aware of municipal legal notices. Everyone can sign up on www.simsbury-ct.gove/subscriber.

Ms. Heavner said there are three concerts left at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center for all to enjoy. For more information visit: http://simsburymeadowsmusic.com.

Ms. Heavner said all ages can drop-in to the program room at the Library for a family movie on July 13th, July 27th, August 3rd, and August 10th at 6:30. These movies are free to the public.

Ms. Heavner said the 42nd season of the Simsbury Community Band is underway on Wednesday, July 13th; July 20th; and July 27th at 7:00 p.m. For more information visit: http://www.simsburyband.org.

Ms. Heavner said Septemberfest is a three day festival of family, food, fun and entertainment with a Friday night fireworks display. For more information visit: http://simsburymeadowsmusic.com/events/septemberfest-2016.

Ms. Heavner said the 31st Annual Simsbury Fly-In and Car Show will be held on September 18th. For more information visit: www.simsburyflyin.com.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone to sign-up for three emergency alerts – Town News and Announcements; Simsbury Community Alerts; and CT Alerts.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that the Town Road Paving Schedule is on http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/uploads/pavingschedule2016.pdf.

Ms. Heavner said beginning June 27th construction will take place on the new Ice Rink Warming Room at Simsbury Farms. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated during this construction project.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that the Electric Vehicle Charging Station is up and running and free to the public.

Ms. Heavner said there will be a ribbon cutting at "Peachwave" on July 13th and at the Law Offices of Nicole Veno, LLC on July 12th.

Ms. Heavner said to look on the Town website to see all projects under construction and the projects on the horizon.

OTHER BUSINESS

There is no other business at this time.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Mona Herman (D) as a regular member of the Aging & Disability Commission effective June 29, 2016

Ms. Lang made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Mona Herman as a regular member of the Aging & Disability Commission effective June 29, 2016 with our thanks. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Acknowledge the resignation of Anita Mielert (D) as a regular member of the Charter Revision Commission effective July 4, 2016

Ms. Lang made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Anita Mielert as a regular member of the Charter Revision Commission effective July 4, 2016 with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Appoint Mary E. Vincent of Vincent Funeral Home, 880 Hopmeadow Street as a Sub-Registrar of Vital Statistics effective July 11, 2016 through the term of the current Town Clerk

Ms. Lang made a motion to appoint Mary E. Vincent, of Vincent Funeral Home, as a Sub-Registrar of Vital Statistics effective July 11, 2016 through the term of the current Town Clerk. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REIVEW OF MINUTES

a) Special Meeting of June 27, 2016

There was no action taken and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) Regular Meeting of June 27, 2016

There was no action taken and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Personnel** – 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. Heavner said the discussion on the Performing Arts Center will be held in September so more information can be obtained.

Ms. Heavner thanked all the volunteers who put together the car show together. It was fabulous.

She also thanked all of the Town volunteers who make this Town so great.

ADJOURN

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk