

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices at 6:00 p.m. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members: Michael Paine, Cheryl Cook, Chris Peterson, Sean Askham and Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether; Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation Tom Tyburski; Director of Social Services Kristen Formanek; Library Director Lisa Karim; Police Chief Nicholas Boulter; SMPAC Executive Director Missy DiNunno; Library Head of Borrowing and Tech Services Rachel Gravel, and other interested parties.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the Town Manager form of government, diversity in the workplace, taxes, SMPAC, a FOI inquiry, paddle courts, cost sharing, the 350<sup>th</sup> celebration, and other issues.

Mark Orenstein, 82 Old Meadow Plain Road, spoke about SCTV being a part of PEG access TV channels, a website petition for upgrades and other issues.

Steve Antonio, chair of the 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee, spoke about four keys to their success. They need funding, waiver of rental fees at the PAC, to be an official Simsbury Committee for insurance purposes, etc. They are asking the Board for help so this Celebration can be terrific.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, spoke about bear awareness in Simsbury. She also showed a poster of a free film on old growth forest issues on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **a) Library Fine Free Proposal**

Ms. Gravel spoke about overdue book fines as being a barrier to access for many people wanting to use library resources. She said eliminating overdue fines is a national public library initiative, which has been implemented by many libraries with success. Ms. Gravel said the Library is recommending that they pilot a Fine Free program for one year beginning July 1, 2019. Fines would remain in place for museum passes, pronto books, and Library of Things items.

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to authorize the Simsbury Public Library to pilot, for one year, beginning July 1, 2019, eliminating overdue fines except for museum passes, Library of Things items, and pronto books, and instead making available a Library support jar with collected funds being deposited into the General Fund. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **b) StoryWalk Proposal (Library and Culture, Parks and Recreation)**

Ms. Karim spoke about the proposed Story Walk, which would allow families to enjoy reading while being outdoors. This StoryWalk would be unveiled as part of the 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration in the spring of 2020. She gave

four proposed locations for the stands to be placed. Ms. Karim said the Angels of the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library have gifted up to \$5,000 to help fund the purchase of the StoryWalk panels. Mr. Tyburski spoke about where to put the reading boards and how to make sure they are away from the biking lane.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to accept the gift of up to \$5,000 from the Investor Angels of the Friends of Simsbury Public Library to fund the purchase of StoryWalk panels and to authorize the Town Manager and staff to determine the location of the placement of the StoryWalk. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **c) Council of Small Towns (COST) Presentation of Proposed State Legislation**

Betsy Gara, Executive Director of COST, gave a legislative update on some House and Senate proposed bills that could possibly impact Simsbury. She went through some of the proposed bills such as HB-7150 An Act Concerning Education, SB-738; An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts; SB-2 An Act Increasing Minimum Fair Wages; SB-1 An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leaves; SB-586 An Act Concerning the Control of Nuisance Wildlife; SB 431 An Act Concerning Property Tax Reform, etc.

Amy Paterson, Executive Director of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council spoke on HB-5254, the Municipal Open Space Funding Bill. She said if passed, this would allow municipalities, but not require the, the ability to establish a dedicated source of land conservation and stewardship funding through a local conveyance fee on buyers up to 1% on the purchase of real estate. No motion was needed at this time.

### **FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT**

First Selectman, Wellman, reviewed his First Selectman’s report.

### **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

Town Manager, Capriola, reviewed her Town Manager’s report.

### **SELECTMEN ACTION**

#### **a) FY 19/20 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Wellman said the Board of Selectmen’s budget was presented to the Board of Finance at their March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board of Finance moved this budget to a public hearing with two changes: revised the health insurance figure (Major Medical account); and returned the items previously accounted for in the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund back to the fund.

Ms. Capriola went through the budgets and, after a lot of discussion and prioritizing, the Board decided what they should include in the proposed Operating Budget, CIP and CNR proposed budgets.

Mr. Askham made a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance the proposed Operating, CIP and CNR budgets, with the revisions read by Maria E. Capriola, and agreed upon at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting of March 25, 2019. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Tax Refund Requests**

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$4,475.25, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**c) Proposed Donation to Simsbury Food Closet Program**

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to accept a donation from St. Catherine of Sienna in the amount of \$7,500 for the purpose of supporting our Food Closet Program with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) Simsbury Clean Up Day**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to grant permission to State Representative John Hampton to use the Simsbury Town Hall Parking Lot (933 Hopmeadow Street) for the temporary placement of large dumpsters and recycling bins for Simsbury Clean Up Day on April 25, 2019. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Hartford Marathon Foundation High Intensity Interval Training Event**

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the public gathering permit application for the 2019 Hartford Marathon Foundation High Intensity Interval Training event as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit.

**f) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Talcott Mountain Music Festival**

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Talcott Mountain Music Festival as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**g) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department Chicken Barbeque**

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Department Chicken Barbeque, as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**h) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Tootin Hills PTO Duck Race**

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Tootin Hills PTO Duck Race, as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**i) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Simsbury Mimi Maker Faire**

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Simsbury Mini Maker Faire, as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**j) Proposed Public Gathering Permit -2019 2019 Walk MS**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Walk MS, as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**k) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Mainly Marathons**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Mainly Marathons, as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**l) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Circus Smirkus**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Circus Smirkus, as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**m) PAC and Fee Waiver Request for Construction of Temporary Tents**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to authorize the Town Manager to sign applications related to the construction of temporary circus tents at the Simsbury Performing Arts Center on behalf of the Town of Simsbury and to approve the request for the fee waivers corresponding with building permit applications for the construction of temporary circus tents. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**n) Delegation of Open Space Stewardship and Land Management Duties**

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to refer consideration of the Open Space Committee's request to the Conservation Commission. The purpose of this referral is to seek the Commission's viewpoint on delegating open space stewardship and land management to the Open Space Committee. A referral response is respectfully requested by April 17, 2019. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**o) Proposed Retirement Plan Sub-Committee Memorandum of Understanding**

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to approve the proposed Retirement Plan Sub-Committee Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

### **a) Sustainability Team Appointments**

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective March 25, 2019, to appoint Sarah Cramer (R) of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission, Rich Cortes (D) of the Planning Commission, Cheri Calnan (D), Mike Tanca (R) and Mark Scully (D) of the Clean Energy Task Force and Jeffrey Tindall (D) of the Board of Education to the Sustainability Team. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

### **a) Special Meeting of March 2, 2019**

There were no changes to the Special Meeting of March 2, 2019, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

### **b) Regular Meeting of March 11, 2019**

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting of March 11, 2019, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

## **SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) Personnel** – no report at this time.
- b) Finance** – no report at this time.
- c) Welfare** – no report at this time.
- d) Public Safety**- no report at this time.
- e) Board of Education** – no report at this time.

Ms. Cook said there is a concern about the 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration, especially after the public audience comments. The Committee isn't sure what to do now as the \$35,000 funding request was denied. There are other organizations holding events for this celebration also.

There was discussion on having a special revenue fund for this event, and getting the money from the Board of Finance. There was also some concern about insurance for this event, etc. The Board feels this is an important event and the issues should be resolved.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) Letter from Farmington River Watershed Association Announcing William Dombos as New Executive Director**
- b) Hartford Foundation For Public Giving Community Conversation Handout from March 14, 2019**

## **ADJOURN**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathi Radocchio, Clerk