

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 28, 2022
“Amended”**

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CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices and on Zoom. Present were: First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Amber Abbuhl; Board members Sean Askham, Eric Wellman (via Zoom) and Chris Peterson. Heather Goetz was absent. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Public Works Director/Town Engineer Tom Roy and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- **Participants can address the Board of Selectmen in person at the meeting**
- **Email townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov by noon Monday, March 28, 2022 to register to address the Board of Selectmen live thru Zoom**
- **Written comments can be emailed to townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov. Written emails will not be read into the record, but forwarded to all Selectmen via email**

Steven Antonio, 133 Holcomb Street, who was speaking for Nord Christianson, Melissa Brett and David Richman, spoke about their concerns with Town government. He spoke about staff quitting their jobs under the Town Manager form of government. They are asking that the Board acknowledge that this is a real situation that needs to be looked at further.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the Board of Finance, ARPA funding, expenditures not reflected in the budget. She said items like the proposed Social Workers and comfort dog are unwarranted. She feels money should be spent on mental health, drug, gambling, etc. issues should be addressed instead. She also spoke about the Town Manager and Police Chief positions and other issues.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

First Selectman, Wendy Mackstutis, reviewed her First Selectman’s report.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

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

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Personnel** – no report at this time.
- Finance** – no report at this time.
- Public Safety** – no report at this time.
- Board of Education** – no report at this time.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to add FY 2022/2023 budget discussion, item g. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax refund requests

Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective March 28, 2022, to approve the presented tax refunds, in the amount of \$6,405.43, 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.

b) Request to Extend Fee Waivers for Temporary Outdoor Dining

Ms. Mackstutis said the Governor extended his bill on outdoor dining fee waivers until April 2023. Ms. Capriola said there was a full executive order to waive the \$25 fee and she feels the Town should also waive the fee until May 1, 2023.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 28, 2022, to extend fee waivers for administrative zoning and building permit fees through May 1, 2023 for restaurants seeking approval for temporary outdoor dining contingent upon approval by the Zoning Commission. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Peterson asked that the Zoning Commission be encouraged to continue to look at indoor/outdoor dining issues while moving forward through the pandemic.

c) 2022 State House Bond Request

Ms. Mackstutis said State Representative Hampton spoke about some funding opportunities through the bond commission, and one potential idea is Tariffville Park. Ms. Capriola said there are a number of planned improvements at Tariffville Park. They have also discussed other improvements for that Park. They have cost estimates for about \$330,000 for softball field netting, river access improvements, parking lot improvements, gate improvements, water fountain, and security camera technology. The application would need to be submitted by March 31, 2022.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 28, 2022, to authorize Town Manager Maria E. Capriola to submit a 2022 House Bond Request for in the amount of \$330,000 for improvements to Tariffville Park.

Should the appropriation request be awarded, the following additional motion is in order:

To accept the appropriation request for improvements to Tariffville Park and authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute all documents related to the award. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Supplemental Appropriation of Paving Funds Received from Aquarion

Ms. Capriola said this has been done in the past; when Aquarion is doing rehabilitation work, they pay for pavement to meet our standards. They sent us over \$462,000 and the appropriation needs to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and then the Board of Finance.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 28, 2022, to approve the supplemental appropriation request for road paving as presented. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) MIRA Update FY 2022/2023 Contract

Mr. Roy spoke about the Town’s solid waste going to the MIRA plant. This plant continues to decline and community after community is leaving MIRA and going to private facilities such as Murphy Road. Alternatively, the Town can simply leave it up to the private haulers to determine where to bring the solid waste. He said MIRA might have to shut down next year.

After discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 28, 2022, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to exercise the Town’s opt-out provision of Simsbury’s agreement with MIRA. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) 2022 Revaluation

Ms. Capriola said there is proposed legislation to allow towns to delay the revaluation process however, they would have to opt into the legislation and be named in the legislation. She said the Town has already gone through a request for proposal and already hired two vendors. There are only three towns asking to delay revaluation. If we followed this we would not be reimbursed for the money/time already spent in the process. She does not feel it is prudent to delay Simsbury’s revaluation at this time.

After a lot of discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 28, 2022, to not proceed with delaying the 2022 revaluation process in Simsbury. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) FY 2022/2023 Budget discussion

Ms. Capriola said there was a policy decision during the FY 2022/2023 budget process to help stabilize the mill rate and help guard against future debt service increases by building in approximately \$564,000 as a cash for capital buffer. The Board of Finance would then allocate the funds at a later date.

Ms. Capriola said the Board of Finance is asking this Board if they have an opinion on where the funds would be allocated. There was discussion on different options for this money, such as putting it in capital reserves, using towards the Latimer Lane project, offsetting future debt service payments, etc.

After discussion, the Board decided by consensus to recommend that the approximately \$564,000 in cash for capital be put into capital reserve.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Proposed appointment of Joyce McKusick to the Housing Authority

Ms. Abbuhl recognized the life and service of resident and Board member Ronald Anastasio, who passed away on March 9, 2022.

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective March 28, 2022, to appoint Joyce M. McKusick as a Regular Member of the Simsbury Housing Authority with a term ending April 1, 2025. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a) **Regular Meeting of March 10, 2022 – Budget Workshop** - there were no changes to the Regular Meeting – Budget Workshop Minutes of March 10, 2022, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.
- b) **Regular Meeting of March 14, 2022** – there were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2022, and therefore, the minutes were adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) **Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(b) Concerning Pending Claims Litigation – MK Simsbury Group, LLC et al V Town of Simsbury**

Ms. Capriola noted that Attorney DeCrescenzo was unable to attend at this time, and, therefore, the Executive Session was tabled.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 7:25p.m. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk