

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectman was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly, and Chris Peterson. Absent were: Selectmen Sean Askham and Cheryl Cook. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation Tom Tyburski; Director of Social Services Kristen Formanek; Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether; Chairman of Aging and Disability Ed LaMontagne; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Eagle Scout Patrick Aldrich.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about Simsbury Performing Arts Center, a Culture Commission being in the new Charter, the golf course being managed under a private management company, advertisements for vaping and cigarette use, administrative leave, the budget and other issues.

Maria Ecke, 8 Glenbrook Road, spoke about misspending money, solar panels, The Ridge at Talcott Mountain Apartments, proposition 2 ½ in Massachusetts, and other issues.

David Balboni, 13 Fox Den Road, spoke about the 350th Anniversary party and some activities and possible attendees, Simsbury growth, and other issues.

PRESENTATIONS

a) Proclamation – Autism Awareness Month

Mr. Wellman said April is Autism Awareness Month and he said that is why there was a blue light at Eno Hall. He read a proclamation on Autism Spectrum Disorders and he proclaimed April 2019 as World Autism Month in Simsbury to raise public acceptance and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder as well as to increase knowledge of the efforts that have been and are being made towards individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. He presented the certificate to Shannon Knoll.

Ms. Knoll said Autism Awareness Month is recognized across the world and she hopes that it helps embrace it for what it is and embrace the people impacted for who they are.

b) Proclamation – 50th Anniversary of Municipal Clerks Week

Mr. Wellman said the 50th Anniversary of Municipal Clerks Week is May 5th - 11th. He acknowledged the work that Municipal Clerk Ericka Butler, and her Assistant Town Clerks Anita Schwager and Janet Brady do in Simsbury's Town Hall, and all Municipal Clerks do by reading the proclamation dated April 22, 2019.

Ms. Butler said she was honored and proud to serve for Simsbury. She thanked Ms. Schwager and Ms. Brady for their great service. She invited everyone to stop by their office to see what it is they do and ask questions.

c) Medical Equipment Loan Program

Alan Needham, 2 Basswood Lane, gave the Aging and Disability Commission presentation on the proposed Medical Equipment Loan Program. He said the Commission will be soliciting donations for the medical equipment and a physical therapist has volunteered to inspect the donated equipment for safety and use. The Aging and Disability Commission will be recruiting, retaining and coordinating volunteers to support his program. The IT Department will be setting up a voice mailbox that volunteers can check remotely. Town staff will be required to help support the initiative with marketing and referrals. They will also have a “strip clean” protocol on all of the equipment. The Rotary donated \$500 for this program.

Mr. Peterson made a motion effective April 22, 2019, to approve the creation of a Medical Equipment Loan Program to be coordinated by the Aging and Disability Commission. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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) Tax Refund Requests

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$8,809.21, and to authorize the Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed FY 2019/2020 Historic Documents Preservation Program Grant

Mr. Wellman said if the Historic Documents Preservation Grant is awarded it would be \$7,500 that would help to digitize our land records.

Ms. Capriola said the total cost of digitizing land records would be about \$11,000. She said the Town Clerk’s office does have a special revenue account that would be available to use for the balance.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager to submit the 2019/2020 Historic Documents Preservation Program Grant application and to designate Ericka L. Butler, Town Clerk, as the agent for making the above application and to accept the 2019/2020 Historic Documents Preservation Program Grant and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Proposed Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation Grant

Mr. Wellman said this would be a grant of over \$34,000 that provides funding for out-of-town medical transportation for seniors and disabled residents who qualify.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to submit the state matching grant application for elderly and disabled demand responsive transportation and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute the grant application and to accept the state matching grant and to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) American Society of Radiologic Technologist’s National Library Partnership Grant

Mr. Wellman said the Library was awarded a \$500 Radiologic Technologist’s National Library grant for the purchase of books and educational resources for both adult and children related to the topic of radiology,

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to accept the American Society of Radiologic Technologist’s National Library Partnership Grant and to authorize library staff to execute the tasks associated with the grant award. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Proposed Eagle Scout Project – Sun Shelter at Gifts of Love Farm

Patrick Aldrich, a Life Scout from Troop 175 presented his proposal to create an 11 x 15 ft. sun shelter area for campers for a better outdoor experience at the Gifts of Love Farm. It will be about 8’ tall.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to support the Sun Shelter Project at the Gifts of Love Farm Eagle Scout project as presented and to accept the donation on the condition that the project is approved by both the Planning and Zoning Commissions. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Request for Temporary Liquor Permit Fee Waiver for Burgers on the Bridge Event

Mr. Wellman said the fundraiser is scheduled for May 29th and the Flower Bridge Committee is asking for the Town to waive the liquor permit fee of \$180 would be consistent with prior practices due to the fundraising aspect of the event.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the temporary liquor permit fee waiver for the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge in the amount of \$180 for the 2019 Burgers on the Bridge fundraising event. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 CT Volley DIG Tournament

Mr. Wellman said the Volley Ball Tournament will be held on August 3rd and 4th, at Simsbury Meadows.

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the CT Volley DIG Tournament 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.

h) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Septemberfest

Mr. Wellman said Septemberfest will take place on September 6th through 8th, 2019 at the Performing Arts Center. 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the event.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Septemberfest 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.

i) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Hopmeadow Nursery School Graduation

Mr. Wellman said Nursery School graduation will be held on May 22, 2019 at the Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Hopmeadow Nursery School Graduation 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 Spooktacular Chili Challenge

Mr. Wellman said the Spooktacular Chili Challenge will be held on October 20, 2019 at the Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Spooktacular Chili Challenge 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.

k) Proposed Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Valley Battle of the Bands

Mr. Wellman said the Battle of the Bands will also be held at the Performing Arts Center on June 8th. It will be presented by the Simsbury Freemason’s Valley Lodge 36 to benefit the Dana Farber Institute.

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the 2019 Simsbury Freemason’s Valley Battle of the Bands, 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.

l) Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside

Mr. Wellman said CRCOG is currently soliciting proposals for municipal transportation projects that would be funded by the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside and funded with federal funding. If we were to receive the grant they recommend we use the money for the multi-use trail from Route 10 to Curtis Park. Ms. Capriola said there would be a 20% local match and we do have the funding for that.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to submit a proposal and funding request to CRCOG under the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Solicitation to fund the construction of approximately 3,700 linear feet of new multi-use trail along Tariffville Road and the authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the application documents. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to accept the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Solicitation funding should it be awarded to the Town, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute all documents related to the grant awarded. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

m) Proposed Capital Project Transfers

Ms. Capriola said there are two existing capital projects that were funded in previous fiscal years that we do not have sufficient funds to complete. She said the public works garage improvements project is about \$250,000 short. She is proposing reallocating FY 18/19 salt expenditures to Town Aid Road which would free up operating budget dollars for the capital project.

Ms. Capriola said the second project is the One Old Bridge Road project. This project will be short as well. She proposed three different potential revenue sources to close that gap. There is FEMA money, the Belden Trust Fund, and the Greenway Improvements account.

Ms. Capriola spoke about a FEMA grant for demolition cost. That grant requires additional review which may not be completed in time for the construction. There was discussion on saying thank you but no thank you on this grant if necessary.

Ms. Capriola spoke about land records consolidation and vault improvements. She said the vault has carpets in it, which is against code. They need to remove this carpet. They are also running out of room for land records and need high density shelving. The LOCIP account has money to be used for these projects.

After discussion, Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance the proposed capital project transfer requests as presented. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to authorize the rescission of a FEMA Grant in the amount of \$4,978.48 for the demolition and abatement of the existing structure on Town owned property located at 1 Old Bridge Road if all necessary FEMA and DEEP approvals are not received by the time construction, demolition, and abatement on the 1 Old Bridge Road project. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

n) Proposed Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Personnel Tax Abatement Ordinance Amendments

Mr. Wellman said at the Board of Selectmen meeting on January 28th the Board established a workgroup to review the Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel Ordinance. There is now a revised ordinance.

Ms. Capriola said there was a scrivener's error which has now been corrected. Also, they will no longer be providing a benefit to residents providing service to other non-Simsbury fire or ambulance companies that would save the Town about \$1,500 – 3,000 per year.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, to schedule a public hearing for 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting on May 13, 2019, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendments to the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Personnel Tax Abatement Ordinance (Article V, Chapter 141). Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

o) Proposed Revisions to Hopmeadow Street Banner Display Policy

Mr. Wellman said the Board previously approved the Hopmeadow Street Banner Display Policy, which transferred responsibility for hanging banners for various Town and civic events from the long-time volunteers

to Town staff. The Performing Arts Center requested that they be removed from the process of hanging the banner over Iron Horse Boulevard, but they want to maintain responsibility for the scheduling of the pole banners along Iron Horse Boulevard.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the Banner Display Policy as presented. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

p) Proposed Final Tax Abatement Agreement for 690 Hopmeadow Street

Mr. Wellman said the Board agreed to a request for a tax abatement at 690 Hopmeadow Street. The Board agreed to a ten year graduated abatement with a value not to exceed \$540,000. The Board also agreed to waive 50% of the cost of fees associated with the construction costs.

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to approve the finalized Tax Abatement Agreement for 690 Hopmeadow Street as presented and authorize Town Manager Maria E. Capriola to execute the agreement. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

q) Proposed State Legislation Follow-up

Mr. Wellman spoke about the bear issue in Town. He said he spoke to Mr. Askham and asked that the Public Safety Sub-Committee to provide a recommendation on what should be done with the bear issue.

Mr. Paine made a motion to request the Public Safety Sub-Committee provide the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation on steps that can be taken to insure public safety due to the bear population. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Wellman also spoke about providing testimony sharing the financial impact on Simsbury on a \$15/hour minimum wage. After some discussion, Mr. Wellman will hold off on formal testimony supporting a \$15/hour minimum wage.

Mr. Wellman spoke about the proposed bill that states that a minimum of 25% of the normal teacher's pension costs as calculated will be shifted to the towns. Teacher salaries above the median pay rate will have an added percentage to pay, while distressed municipalities are capped at 5% instead of 25%. The Board is in favor of testimony that the State to continue to shoulder the full cost.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Proposal

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective April 22, 2019 to create the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee and to appoint the following people to the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee:

Cheryl Cook, representing the Board of Selectmen

Steven Antonio, representing Main Street Partnership

Joe Buda, representing the Simsbury Tourism Committee

Jeff Domenburg, representing the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center

Lisa Gray, representing the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce

Judy Knight, representing the Friends of the Simsbury Library

Deeg Mackay/Sharene Wassell/Jan Lintner, representing the Old Drake Hill Flower

Bridge on a rotating basis
Nick Parisi, representing the Simsbury Theatre Guild
Polly Rice, representing the Library Board of Trustees
Ieke Scully, representing the Simsbury Historical Society
Tara Willerup, representing the Simsbury Free Library
Kris Barnett, Community member
Wendy LaMontagne, Community member
Anita Mielert, Community member
Richard Ostop, Community member

Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Resignation of Kevin Crimmins from the Ethics Board

Mr. Kelly made a motion, effective April 22, 2019, to accept the resignation of Kevin Crimmins as a regular member of the Board of Ethics retroactive to April 9, 2019 with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of March 25, 2019

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 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.

Mr. Peterson noted that the Burgers on the Bridge event is being held on a Board of Selectmen meeting night. Ms. Capriola noted that the Hometown Hero ceremony is also that evening, and said that perhaps we can schedule that ceremony to work around this conflict.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Memo from Director of Public Works Tom R. re: Increase in MIRA Tip Fees

There was no discussion at this time.

b) Memo from Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission Chairman Edward LaMontagne re: Update

Mr. Wellman thanked Mr. LaMontagne for the report on everything that the Aging and Disability Commission is doing. He said it was very impressive and their work is very important.

c) Letter and Recognition of Simsbury as an AARP Network of Age-Friendly Community

There was no discussion at this time.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk