

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. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Michael Paine, Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook and Chris Peterson. Absent was Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski; Director of Planning Mike Glidden; Town Engineer Jeff Shea; Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether; Tax Collector Colleen O'Connor; Chair of Aging & Disability Commission Ed LaMontagne; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

a) Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposals

Mr. Wellman said the Public Hearing is to hear comments on the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposals, which provides tax credits to tax exempt organizations that qualify for community programs, such as energy conservation projects, neighborhood assistance, and crime prevention.

Scott Riley, from the Simsbury Grange, said this is the third year they applied for this grant. They are looking to do some energy improvements on the building. There is no cost to the Town as the State has set aside a block of money that goes to the organizations that apply for the grants.

Mr. LaMontagne, Executive Director of the Simsbury Housing Authority, spoke about the 20 year capital plan for the Virginia Connolly and Owen Murphy properties. They would use this money to replace 35 apartment doors. This grant would cover 50% of what is needed.

With no further public comment, Ms. Cook made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, said she is very disappointed that only 6% of residents participated in the budget referendum. She spoke about the budget, tax abatements, the accomplishments of the Town Manager, buildings for sale in Town, school management plans, volunteer ambulance issues, and other issues.

Joe Treacy, 40 Berkshire Way, spoke about the solar farm project. He has concerns about the elimination of trees and buffering issues. He also has concerns about the soil management plans and monitoring for water quality.

Steve Sutton, 45 Berkshire Oval, said he appreciated Mr. Wellman going to look at the solar farm land. He is also concerned about buffering and the characteristic changes to the land.

PRESENTATIONS

a) Proclamation – National Gun Violence Prevention Day

Mr. Wellman said there were some members of Mothers Demand Action here at this meeting. Mr. Wellman read the Proclamation and said there will be an orange light at Eno Memorial Hall the first week in June.

Dr. Meredith Barrows gave some background on this National Gun Violence Prevention Day. She said 100 people die each day from gunshot wounds and gunshots are the second leading cause of death in children in the U.S. She said Connecticut does have good gun safety laws. She does respect hunting and having guns in your house. Safely storing guns does decrease gun violence.

b) Deepwater Wind Update

Mr. Glidden and Mr. Shea gave an update on the solar project. Mr. Glidden said the development and management plans were approved by the CT Siting Council on March 28, 2019. Mr. Glidden said DESRI purchased the project from Deep Water Wind and purchased the properties from Griffin Land. He went through key highlights such as traffic management, well testing, storm water management, erosion controls, soil protection, etc.

Mr. Glidden said the estimated project completion date is October 15, 2019.

Mr. Glidden said anyone who has questions can contact Aaron Svedlow at Tobacco Valley Solar. Mr. Wellman said if there are questions, anyone on the Board would be able to discuss the issues.

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) Handicapped Parking Awareness Month

Mr. LaMontagne said the mission of the Aging & Disability Commission is to educate people on topics relative to seniors and the disabled. Once again they are trying to inform everyone of parking illegally in handicapped parking areas. People are not supposed to be parking in the cross hatches either. They also work closely with the Simsbury Police Department.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 29, 2019, to designate June of 2019 as Handicapped Parking Awareness Month in the Town of Simsbury. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposals

Mr. Wellman said there was a Public Hearing earlier tonight on two Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposals. One is for the Simsbury Grange and the other one is for the Housing Authority.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 29 2019, to approve the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program applications as presented and to designate Deputy Town Manager, Melissa A. J. Appleby as the municipal liaison. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Simsbury High School Graduation

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 29, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the Simsbury High School Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2091 at the Simsbury Meadows on Friday, June 14, 2019 as presented and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Public Gathering Permit – 2019 Farmington Valley Jewish Congregational Sabbath Worship

Mr. Wellman said Schultz Park is a beautiful park right next to Town Hall.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective May 29, 2019, to approve the public gathering application for the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation Sabbath Worship at Schultz Park on Friday, June 28, 2019 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.

e) Proposed Easement – 87 Riverside Road

Mr. Wellman said the Board discussed this easement at their last meeting. The Town currently maintains a small piece of the property along Riverside Road next to the Flower Bridge. This easement will help formalize this practice.

Ms. Capriola said if the property ever changes ownership this piece will remain with the property. We will keep maintaining this area. The homeowner did request replacing a small area of the fencing for security purposes. This would be a nominal cost and will come out of the Parks and Recreation budget.

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 29, 2019, to approve the recreational area easement for the parcel at 87 Riverside Road as presented and to authorize Town Manager Maria E. Capriola to execute the easement documents. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Naming of 1 Old Bridge Road Park

Mr. Wellman recused himself and asked Mr. Peterson to take over on this item.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective May 29, 2019, to establish the 1 Old Bridge Road Park Naming Rights Committee. The Committee is tasked with reviewing suggested names for the park and with recommending a

name for the new park to the Board of Selectmen. Further move to appoint the following people to the 1 Old Bridge Road Park Naming Rights Committee:

Chris Peterson, Board of Selectmen liaison to Culture, Parks and Recreation

Sharene Wassell, representing the Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge Executive Committee and

Rachel Wellman, representing the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

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

Mr. Wellman rejoined the meeting.

g) Budget Status Report

Ms. Meriwether went through the quarterly budget status report. She said, as of March 31, 2019, revenues total \$93,574,253 or 97% of the budget. Expenditures total \$72,317,435 or 75% of the budget.

She said the State recently released finalized ECS entitlements. Simsbury's 2018/19 entitlement is reported at \$6,028,199, which exceeds budgetary estimates by \$626,094.

The building permit revenue is not reflected in this report. The Deepwater Wind project brought in approximately 613,000 in permit fees.

Ms. Meriwether said she still doesn't know what State money is going to be coming to Simsbury for FY20. Ms. Capriola said she has been advised that it should be \$7,000 to the good, from the projected that was budgeted, but there is no final number.

There was some discussion on Culture, Parks and Recreation and the new minimum wage law.

There is no action needed at this time.

h) Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Fund Balance Appropriation

Mr. Wellman said the Board of Finance voted to utilize \$420,000 of fund balance reserves in FY 2019/2020 to create mill rate relief for the FY2019/2020 adopted budget. The mill rate of 37.32 mills for the FY2019/2020 was set.

After some discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion to table discussion and possible action on the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Fund Balance Appropriation. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Resignation of Steve Spalla from the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission

Ms. Cook made a motion, effective May 29, 2019, to accept the resignation of Steve Spalla (D) as a regular member of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission retroactive to March 25, 2019, with our thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Special Meeting of May 10, 2019

There were no changes to the Special Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2019, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) Regular Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2019

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2019, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Ms. Cook encourages volunteers to reach out and join the 350th Anniversary Committee. She also said everyone is invited to join their open meetings.

Mr. Peterson said the Friends of Simsbury Farms will be holding their golf tournament on Friday June 21, 2019. This tournament will include raffles and donations are needed. For more information people can google Friends of Simsbury Farms.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(E), discussion of correspondence exempt from disclosure: Attorney – Client Privilege (Upcoming Tax Sale)

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(E), discussion of correspondence exempt from disclosure: Attorney Client Privilege (Upcoming Tax Sale) and to include Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Tax Collector Colleen O'Connor, and Attorney Bob DeCrescenzo at 7:18 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Executive Session adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Radocchio, Clerk