

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom due to COVID-19. Present were: First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Amber Abbuhl; board members Chris Peterson, Sean Askham, Heather Goetz and Eric Wellman. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Director of Public Work Tom Roy; Assistant Town Planner Tom Hazel; Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo; Senator Kevin Witkos; State Representative John Hampton and other interested parties.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

- Email [townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov) by noon on Monday, January 10, 2022 to register to address the Board of Selectmen live through Zoom
- written comments can be emailed to [townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov](mailto:townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov). Written comments will not be read into the records, but forwarded to all Selectmen via email

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the fair rent hearing, the Police Department renovations, the West Hartford Town Manager position, incident reports, Access Imagineers, Ethel Walker and the budget.

Bob Patricelli, 77 Hartford Road, spoke about the State Police range plan. He feels an indoor site is needed for this facility and wants the Town to look at all the alternatives.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **a) Legislative Visit – Representative Hampton and Senator Witkos**

Representative Hampton spoke about the legislative session that is from February to May. He said the budget was passed in 2021 with no tax increases. He said Simsbury will be receiving increased funding and there will be a meeting this week to discuss priorities like the pandemic, union contracts, the State surplus, grants, etc. He gave the Board information on these issues.

Senator Witkos said there will be another Public Hearing on extending the Governor’s executive powers. He said 97% of the bills will pass unanimously, but there won’t be any constitutional issues being taken up during this session. He said the State is doing well physically. There will be discussion on early voting and zoning issues again. He said there is an easy solution to the gun range with no cost to the State that would be further discussed.

After some discussion, no action was needed.

**b) Clean Energy Plan Update**

Mr. Roy gave some background on the Clean Energy Plan, which was started in 2008. He said a lot of work has been done from receiving grants to energy upgrades, solar arrays, electric charging stations at Town Hall and other improvements. The Town also purchased their streetlights from Eversource and upgraded to more efficient lighting.

Mr. Scully showed the Board charts on Simsbury being a leader in utility efficiency. The Energy Plan provides a roadmap for building on their accomplishments. The plan will save the Town money on comfort, resiliency, health and microgrids. The choice is ours. He said we need to invest in renewable energy. We aim to use 50% less energy by 2030 and 100% by 2040.

After some discussion, no action was needed.

**FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT**

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

**TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

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

**SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) **Personnel** – Ms. Mackstutis said that Mike Glidden has left his position and a new Town Planner is needed.
- b) **Finance** – no report at this time.
- c) **Public Safety** – no report at this time.
- d) **Board of Education** – no report at this time.

Mr. Wellman said the SPIRIT Council has a lot of work going on. There will be a four-part series the first four Wednesdays in February on different subjects including black history, data outreach, etc. They would like to continue to meet with the Board of Selectmen every quarter.

Ms. Abbuhl said the Zoning Committee closed their Public Hearing on Public Act 21-29 parking standards. They voted to opt out of this Act and will send a memo to the Board, along with analysis on State dwelling units.

**SELECTMEN ACTION**

**a) Tax refund requests**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 10, 2022, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$36,121.02 and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Donation from Garrity Asphalt**

Ms. Capriola said that Garrity Asphalt has made a generous donation of \$5,000, which needs to be accepted by the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective January 10, 2022, to accept a donation from Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc., in the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of supporting Simsbury Community and Social Services Department programs that assist residents in need with our thanks. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**c) Donation from Teresa and Bill Kramer**

Ms. Mackstutis said the Kramer's want to help people in Town who are less fortunate. They want to provide food assistance during this pandemic.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 10, 2022, to accept a donation from Teresa and Bill Kramer in the amount of \$1,500 for the purpose of supporting Simsbury food pantry and programs with our thanks. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) 2022 JAG Local Violent Crime Prevention (VCP) grant**

Ms. Capriola said this is an opportunity for funds, passed to us by the State through the Federal Government and it will be used for various technology uses.

Mr. Wellman made a motion, effective January 10 2022 to apply for and accept the 2022 JAG Local VCP Grant and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute all documents related to the grant application and award. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) LOTCIP Grant**

Ms. Capriola said this grant will give us the opportunity to construct sidewalks along Firetown Road.

Mr. Roy said it is a very important sidewalk for the Town. He spoke to Governor's House and they are excited about this as it will greatly improve access to the center of Town. The grant will be submitted January 19, 2022, but won't be constructed until 2023 at the earliest. This grant pays 100% of the construction costs. The Town is liable for the design fees, which are expected to be approximately \$30,000 and the design will be done in-house.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 10, 2022, to submit a proposal and funding request to CRCOG under the LOTCIP 2022 Solicitation to fund the construction of approximately 5,000 linear feet of new sidewalk along Firetown Road and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the application documents. Also, to accept the LOTCIP 2022 Solicitation funding should it be awarded to the Town and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute all documents to the grant award. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**f) Schedule a Public Hearing – ARPA Funds**

Ms. Mackstutis said the American Rescue Plan Act work group has been meeting since the summer. The Town will receive \$7.5 million from the Federal Government to use for specific categories related to pandemic relief. We need to hear from the residents on what they would like to use the money for. The final ruling has just come out and there seems to be more flexibility. More information can be read on the Selectmen's page or by going to [www.treasury.gov/SLFRP](http://www.treasury.gov/SLFRP).

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 10, 2022, to set a Public Hearing to receive public comments concerning the use of funds received by the Town through the American Revenue Plan Act (ARPA) for 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

#### **a) Resignation of Diane Madigan as an alternate member of Zoning Commission**

Mr. Askham made a motion retroactive to December 6, 2021 to accept the resignation of Diane Madigan as an alternate member of the Zoning Commission with our thanks. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **b) Resignation of Sarah Cramer from Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission**

Mr. Peterson made a motion retroactive to January 1, 2022, to accept the resignation of Sarah Cramer from the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission with our thanks. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **c) Appointments to Simsbury SPIRIT Council**

Mr. Wellman made a motion, effective January 10, 2022, to appoint Alex Reger, Jackie Battos and Suzanne Feola as regular members of the SPIRIT Council with terms to expire on December 4, 2023. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

#### **a) Regular meeting December 20, 2021**

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2021, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **a) Pursuant to CGS-200(6)(e) Document exempt from Disclosure under Attorney Client Privileges Blight Enforcement – 442 Hopmeadow Street**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:45p.m; and to include Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Town Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo, and Assistant Town Planner Tom Hazel. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **ADJOURN**

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 10, 2022**  
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Page | 5

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk