

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham, Board members Michael Paine, Wendy Mackstutis, Jackie Battos, and Chris Peterson. Others in attendance included Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Finance Director Amy Meriwether; Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski; Library Director Lisa Karim, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about FOI requests, payroll discrepancies, lockers being vandalized, employee grievances, and other items.

Wooda McNiven, August Road, spoke about asking for increases in the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education annual contributions and how important it is to donate to SCTV and what an asset it is. He also spoke about obtaining some money from the PEGETIA Grant for new equipment.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, spoke about a documentary being held on January 27th on the Eastern White Pine at the Simsbury Library at 6:00 p.m. She said some of the pictures were taken at Belden Forest.

Ms. Masino also spoke about an event at The Grange for Martin Luther King, Jr. and possibly having dances there. She also spoke about a secret closet they found at The Grange.

PRESENTATIONS

a) Farmington Valley Health District Strategic Plan Update

Brandon Robertson, Chair of the Farmington Valley Health District, spoke about the five year strategic plan of the Farmington Valley Health District. He said they were founded in 1976 and they started out with only three towns. Simsbury joined in 1987 and now they have ten towns.

Mr. Robertson said they are bound by State requirements. They are now going through an accreditation process. There are three revenue resources for them. The current year per capita contribution is now \$6.05 and they are now advising a \$6.50 per capita contribution for fiscal year 2021.

Jennifer Kertanis, Executive Director, spoke about the driving forces that lead their strategic plan, which are primarily statutory mandates.

Ms. Kertanis said they do need extra staff and went through their needs as presented last year. She also went through their accomplishments. They have now drafted a RFP and are interviewing potential consultants for their health implementation phase.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

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

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

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

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax Refund Requests

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$32,785.33, and to authorize Maria E. Capriola to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Proposed Donation from Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to accept the 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. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Acceptance of Sponsorships of the 350th Anniversary Celebration Events

Mr. Wellman said the 350th Celebration Committee has been hard at work on this Celebration. Ms. Cook said people have been very generous and they are very thankful. Most events will now be free or at a low cost. They are also selling different merchandise for this event.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to accept \$18,500 from Ensign Bickford, \$7,500 from McLean, \$5000 from Liberty Bank, and \$5,000 from Tobacco Valley Solar as sponsorships of the 350th Anniversary celebration events with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Proposed Simsbury Public Library PEGPETIA (Public Educational and Governmental Programming & Education Technology Investment Account) Grant

Mr. Wellman said the State makes grants available to public libraries to promote and improve public, governmental and educational access programing in the State.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to approve the Library’s application for a PEGPETIA grant to fund an upgrade to audiovisual equipment in the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library Program Room, to add equipment to the Innovators’ Workshop Marketspace, and enhance technology offerings in the Children’s Department with our thanks. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to accept the PEGPETIA grant and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Supplemental Appropriation – Ice Rink Boiler

Mr. Wellman said they heard that the boiler at the Ice Rink stopped functioning and is unable to repair. Therefore, there was a transfer from the general fund for the new boiler. Ms. Capriola said they will bring this transfer to the Board of Finance for approval.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to recommend to the Board of Finance a transfer of \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Simsbury Farms Fund to cover the cost of a new boiler. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Temporary Shared Financial Management Services with Board of Education and Finance Director Compensation

Mr. Wellman said the Town and the Board of Education have separate Finance Departments and shared services have been investigated.

Ms. Capriola said the proposal is to share services, due to an unanticipated leave of absence for a staff member. This agreement would be to share services until the end of the year with two additional three month periods renewal periods if needed.

Due to the additional workload of the Finance Director, it was recommended to increase the Finance Director's salary by 10% during this period.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E Capriola to execute the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Simsbury and the Simsbury Board of Education for Financial Management Services. Further, to authorize an increase in the Finance Director's salary of 10% during the temporary period of shared financial management services between the Town of Simsbury and Simsbury Board of Education. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund Analysis

Mr. Wellman said Town staff has been working on an analysis of the Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund and they believe that a workgroup to review this analysis and making policy recommendations to the Board would be prudent.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to create a workgroup with the purpose to review the Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund Analysis and make policy recommendations to the full Board of Selectmen. Further move to create membership slots for the workgroup as follows:

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Askham from the Board of Selectmen

Two member from the Board of Finance

Two members from the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

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

h) Set Public Hearing Date for Small Cities Grant Application

Mr. Wellman said there was a competitive RFP process for a consultant to provide professional and technical services in connection with the Town’s application and implementation activities for the 2020 Small Cities Program. The Town selected the Housing Development Team, LLC to fill this role.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 1, 2020, to set a public hearing to receive public comment on the 2020 Small Cities Program Application for 6:05 p.m. on Monday, February 10, 2020. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Proposed Fair Housing Policy and Resolution

Mr. Wellman said the Town, on behalf of the Simsbury Housing Authority, received a 2017 Small Cities Grant for critical projects at the Owen L. Murphy Apartments and Virginia Connelly Residences. The Town will now be applying for additional grant funding for capital projects at the Owen L. Murphy Apartments.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution and Fair Housing Policy as presented and to authorize Town Manager Maria E. Capriola to execute the documents. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Proposed Affirmative Action Policy and Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Policy

Mr. Wellman said the Town is required by the State to adopt its policies related to Equal Opportunity. There are no proposed changes to the policies as presented from their current form.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to adopt the Affirmative Action Policy and the Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Policy as presented and to authorize Maria E. Capriola to execute the documents. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

k) Gifts of Love Farm Lease Amendment

Mr. Wellman said on September 23, 2019, the Board said the “Gifts of Love” was changing the scope of its educational programming, and that a lease amendment would be needed. This amendment includes an update to Attachment D of their lease.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to approve the Gifts of Love lease amendment and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute all documents related to this lease amendment. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

l) Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Personnel Tax Abatement Ordinance

Mr. Wellman said the Board established workgroup on January 28, 2019 to review the Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel ordinance. Amendments to the Ordinance were adopted at the May 13, 2019 meeting.

The proposed changes to the Ordinance are to increase the maximum abatement amount for FY 2020/21 and FY 2021/22 from \$1000 to \$1500 for members with at least five years of service and increase from \$500 to \$750 for those with at least two years of services, but less than five.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to reestablish the Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workgroup that was originally created on January 28, 2019 for the purpose of reviewing any potential changes to the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Personnel Tax Abatement Ordinance. Further move, to appoint Ms. Mackstutis and Ms. Battos to the workgroup. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

m) Community Choice Aggregation Resolution

Mr. Wellman said at a meeting on October 21, 2019, the Clean Energy Task Force voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen pass a resolution in support of State CCA legislation, which, if passed, would not require Simsbury to enact CCA, but it would make that option available.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to adopt the attached resolution in support of state legislation enabling Community Choice Aggregation in Connecticut. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Simsbury Democratic Town Committee Proposed Re-Appointments/New Appointments to Various Boards/Commissions

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective January 13, 2020, to re-appoint Lorraine Doonan as an Alternate member of the Aging and Disability Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2022;

To re-appoint Arlene Zappile as an Alternate Member of the Aging and Disability Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2022;

To re-appoint Richard Cortes as an Alternate Member of the Building Code Board of Appeals with a term expiring January 1, 2022;

To re-appoint Samuel Ziplow as an Alternate Member of the Building Code Board of Appeals with a term expiring January 1, 2022;

To re-appoint Mark Scully as a Regular Member of the Clean Energy Task Force with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Cheri Calnan as a Regular Member of the Clean Energy Task Force with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Gina Morgan as a Regular Member of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2024;

To re-appoint Joseph Daly as a Regular Member of the Recycling Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Heather Dawson as a Regular Member of the Recycling Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021

To re-appoint Dominique Avery as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Charmaine Seavy as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Sheree Landerman as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021

To re-appoint Joseph Buda as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Patricia Carbone as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Lori Lubetkin as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Diane Phillips as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Paulette Clark as a Regular Member of the Tourism Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Paul Gilmore as a Regular Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term expiring January 1, 2024;

To appoint Joseph Campolieta as a Regular Member of the Conservation Commission/IWWA with a term expiring January 1, 2024;

And,

To appoint Danielle Celli as a Regular Members of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission with a term expiring January 1, 2024.

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

b) Personnel Sub-Committee Proposed Re-Appointments/Appointments and Resignations of Various Boards/Commissions

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective January 13, 2020 to re-appoint Sally Rieger (D) as a Regular Member of the Community for Care Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Gene Ott (D) as a Regular Member of the Community for Care Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Cheryl Cook (R) as a Regular Member of the Community for Care with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Marc Lehman (U) as a Regular Member of the Community for Care Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Thomas Steen (U) as a Regular Member of the Community for Care Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Karen Gallagher (U) as a Regular Member of the Community for Care Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Robert Moran, Jr. (U) as a Hearing Officer with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Stephen McDonnell (U) as a Hearing Officer with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint T. J. Donohue (D) as a Regular Member of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Eric Wellman (D) as a Regular Member of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Mike Paine (R) as a Regular Member of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Eric Wellman (D) as a Regular Member of the Open Space Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint William Rice (R) as a Regular Member of the Open Space Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Margery Winters (R) as a Regular Member of the Open Space Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint David Bush (R) as a Regular Member of the Open Space Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To re-appoint Susan Masino (U) as a Regular Member of the Open Space Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021;

To appoint Anne Erickson (R) as a Regular Member of the Open Space Committee with a term expiring December 6, 2021.

To accept the resignation of Nancy Scheetz (R) as a Regular Member of the Community for Care Committee with our thanks;

And,

To accept the resignation of Thomas Horan (D) as a Regular Member of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with our thanks.

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

c) Resignation of Diane Madigan from Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Battos made a motion to accept the resignation of Diane Madigan as a Regular Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals retroactive to December 11, 2019 with our thanks. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of December 16, 2019

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 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 - Mr. Wellman said DEEP has asked for legislation to ban the feeding of wildlife on private residences. We are keeping our ordinance on track right now. Our ban includes removing bird feeders during certain times. There will be more public input before being approved or rejected.

e) Board of Education – Ms. Mackstutis said they were meeting tomorrow night to discuss the 2020 budget and task force. They are meeting three times this year to discuss the facility plan.

Mr. Tyburski said they have meet with the consultants about the Open Space master plan draft. This will be posted on the website. There should be a final report given to the Board of Selectmen in March.

Mr. Wellman said the consultants made recommendations around pollinators.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Pursuant to CGS §1-200 (6)(D), Discussion of Possible Purchase and Sale of Real Property**
- b) Pending Litigation: CTEC Solar v. Town of Simsbury, General Statutes section 1-200(6)(B); Attorney Client Privileged Communication, Section 1-200(6)(E) for the same legal matter**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. Mr. Wellman said Ms. Capriola, Ms. Appleby, Mike Glidden, and Attorney DeCrescenzo will join the Board for item a; and Ms. Capriola, Ms. Appleby, Ms. Meriwether, Francine Butler and Attorney DeCrescenzo will join the Board for item b. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Wellman made a motion to adjourn the executive session at 8:05pm. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Wellman made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05pm. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk