

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:01 p.m. on Zoom due to COVID-19. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham; Board members Mike Paine, Wendy Mackstutis, Chris Peterson, and Jackie Battos. Others in attendance included Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Planning Director Mike Glidden, Director of Public Works, Tom Roy, Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski, Attorney Bob DeCrescenzo, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Paine made a motion to amend the agenda to add item b to Appointments and Resignations to appoint Deb Schwager to the Community for Care Committee. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- E-mail written comments to ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 P.M. on Monday, November 9, 2020 to be read into the records; or
- E-mail tfitzgerald@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 P.M. on Monday, November 9, 2020 to register to address the Board of Selectmen live through Zoom

Mr. Wellman read notes received from Joan Coe. Ms. Coe spoke about not receiving any responses from her comments; taxes; Big Y parking places; maintenance at different properties; needing playing fields; the Police Department; the Meadowood project; a paddle player injury; and other issues.

PRESENTATION

a) Clean Energy Task Force Campaign to Support Energizer CT Home Energy Solutions Program

Mr. Wellman said the Clean Energy Task Force is trying to get the word out about helping residents save money on energy.

Mr. Scully, from the Clean Energy Task Force, said this program is funded by a fee on our electric bills. He said this program allows someone to come and do a range of core services such as weather stripping, a draft test, change light bulbs, and other things. They will also give some recommendations when appropriate. About 26% of Town residents have used this program already.

Mr. Scully said the co-pay for this program has now gone down to zero and the incentive/rebates are very good right now. The Clean Energy Task Force is just trying to get the word out so people use this service as it will help save them money. They will do a mailing and a show on SCTV to get the word out. This is a very safe service as the people are tested daily and will use PPE.

FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT

Mr. Wellman, First Selectman, reviewed is First Selectman's Report.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

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

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax Refund Requests

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to approve the presented tax refunds, in the amount of \$3,762.97, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant

Mr. Wellman said the WPCA knows that it will have to raise the protective bur a few feet because of the updated flood maps. We now have an opportunity to apply for a grant from FEMA that would cover a lot of the cost of the project. Ms. Capriola said this grant would pay for 75% of this project.

After some discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to submit and execute the BRIC Grant application once the grant materials have been prepared and completed;

And, in the event at the Grant is awarded, to accept the BRIC Grant Award and to authorize Maria E. Capriola, Town Manager, to execute all documents to the Grant Award. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Proposed Technology Task Force Statement of Purpose and Procedures

Mr. Wellman said the Technology Task Force was formed about seven years ago in an advisory capacity and this Statement of Purpose and Procedures shows the clarity on how they operate.

Ms. Appleby said that the Statement of Purpose and Procedures sets the membership number at nine, and provides for an annual report to the Board of Selectmen by the end of November each year. She asked for an amendment to the Procedures as amended to include a liaison from the Board of Education.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to adopt the proposed Simsbury Technology Task Force Statement of Purpose and Procedures as presented and to include a Board of Education liaison member. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Proposed Natural Stewardship Policy

Mr. Wellman said this policy is something that the Open Space Committee has been working on. This is all about how open space parcels should be cared for.

Susan Masino said the Committee has been working with consultants to work on strategies of how to care for this land. She said they need to have “Rangers” keep track of properties and discussing with the Town to take

care of. Everyone needs to be on the same page as to what needs to be done and who needs to do it at these properties.

After discussion, Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to adopt the proposed Natural Stewardship Policy as presented. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Discussion of Proposed Affordable Housing Plan

This item is informational and no formal action is needed.

Mr. Wellman said the Town is working on an affordable housing plan per CGS §8-30g. The Planning Commission is asking the Board of Selectmen for input.

Mr. Glidden spoke about the income levels and how the plan will outline how each community seeks to develop more affordable housing options. He said CGS§8-30g deals with affordable housing appeals and in that section it discusses what is considered affordable housing. The housing cost can't exceed 30% of the income of the household.

After discussion, like adding deed restrictions, and a small cities grant application, Mr. Wellman there won't be a consensus tonight and if anyone has questions or ideas they should contact the Planning Commission.

f) Dispatchers Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement, 2019-2022

Mr. Wellman said this agreement was ratified by the Union. Ms. Capriola said this is a proposed three year contract, ending June 30, 2022. She went through the contract and thanked the dispatchers for the great job they are doing during this trying time.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the proposed successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Simsbury and UE Local 222, CILU/CIPU, CILU Local #41, which shall enter into effect retroactively from July 1, 2019 and expires on June 30, 2022. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Proposed Memorandum of Understanding Between The Town, Police Commission, and Town Manager

Mr. Wellman said the need for this Understanding is stemming from the transition to the Town Management form of government.

Attorney DeCrescenzo went through the draft changes update. The Police Commission is meeting right now and they should be passing the same document.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town, Police Commission, and Town Manager as presented tonight. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Proposed Settlement Agreement of Pending Tax Appeal for Simsbury Commons Shopping Center

Mr. Wellman said this is part of the 2017 revaluation. Attorney DeCrescenzo said the appeal centers around tenant changes, lower rent agreements, and lower property values, especially during this time. He said the settlement would not be for the Stop and Shop parcel, but the rest of Simsbury Commons.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to approve the attached settlement agreement for the tax appeal on the property located at 530 Bushy Hill Road as presented and to authorized Town Attorney, Robert DeCrescenzo, to execute the agreement. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Appointment of Lori Wagner to the Economic Development Commission

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to appoint Lori Wagner to the Economic Development Commission as a member representing the business community, with an expiration date of October 10, 2023. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Appointment of Deb Schwager to Community for Care

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective November 9, 2020, to appoint Deb Schwager to the Community for Care, as a regular member, with a term expiring December 4, 2021. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of October 26, 2020

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2020, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) Special Meeting of October 26, 2020

There were not changes to the Special Meeting Minutes of October 26 2020 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

- a) **Memo from M. Capriola, Re: EMPG opt in Grant Funds, dated November 5, 2020** – no discussion at this time.
- b) **Parks and Open Space Master Plan** – no discussion at this time.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk