

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Simsbury Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:50 p.m. at Eno Memorial Hall. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Sean Askham, Michael Paine, Chris Peterson, Jackie Battos, and Wendy Mackstutis. Also present: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, as well as other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about paying taxes for services, employees working for taxpayers, expressing her views, internal investigations and grievances and other issues.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Appointment of Deputy First Selectman

Mr. Wellman said the Deputy First Selectman is appointed by the First Selectman per Town Charter. He has chosen Sean Askham due to his service to the Town. No motion needed for this agenda item.

b) Board of Selectmen Rules and Procedures

Mr. Wellman said these Rules and Procedures have been in place for quite some time now. Therefore, he is recommending a referral on these Rules and Procedures to the Personnel Sub-Committee for updating with the understanding that all updates would need to be brought before the Board of Selectmen for consideration.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to approve the attached Board of Selectmen Rules and Procedures. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to refer the Board of Selectmen Rules and Procedures to the Personnel Sub-Committee for review. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Board of Selectmen 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule

There was some discussion about April 13, 2020 being a school vacation week. Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of the month.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to approve the Board of Selectmen 2020 regular meeting schedule with the change from April 13, 2020 to April 6, 2020. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) First Selectman’s Appointment of Board and Commission Liaison Assignments

Mr. Wellman said the Town Charter, Chapter IV, Section 402, gives the First Selectmen the authority to appoint members of the Board of Selectmen to the Public Safety Committee, Personnel Sub-Committee, Finance, Welfare and such other committees as may be established by the Board of Selectmen.

Therefore, no action was needed for this agenda item.

e) Stipend for First Selectman

Mr. Wellman recused himself. Deputy First Selectman Askham took over the meeting.

Mr. Askham said when the form of government changed, there was also a stipend included for the First Selectman due to their role. There is \$10,000.00 set aside for this budget item.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to approve the First Selectman’s annual stipend in the amount of \$10,000.00. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Mr. Wellman rejoined the meeting and Mr. Askham turned the meeting back over to him.

f) Reappointment of Town Counsel, Labor and Employment Counsel, Retirement Plan Counsel and Board Counsel

Mr. Wellman said it is the Town Manager’s recommendation that the Board continue their relationship with the current Town Counsel, Labor and Employment Counsel, Retirement Plan Counsel and Board Counsel.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to reappoint the firm of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. as Town Attorney for a two year term through December 6, 2021;

And,

To reappoint the firm of Ford Harrison LLP as Labor and Employment Counsel for the Town of Simsbury for a two year term through December 6, 2021;

And,

To reappoint the firm of Murtha Cullina LLP as pension counsel for the Town of Simsbury for a two year term through December 6, 2021;

And,

To reappoint the firm of Day Pitney LLP as Bond Counsel for the Town of Simsbury for a two year term through December 6, 2021 pursuant to Section 706 of the Town Charter and for Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola to execute the engagement letters.

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

g) Simsbury Education Association (SEA) and Simsbury School Administrators and Supervisors Association (SASSA) Contracts

Mr. Wellman said the Board of Education negotiates their own contracts with their labor groups. There are two tentative agreements that cover the next three fiscal years between the Board of Education and the Simsbury Education Association and the next four years between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury School Administrators. The Board of Selectmen needs to either approve the agreements, do nothing or reject the agreements.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to approve the three-year contract between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury Education Association as approved at the November 12, 2019 Board of Education meeting. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to approve the four-year contract between the Simsbury Board of Education and the Simsbury School Administrators and Supervisors Association as approved at the November 12, 2019 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Operating Agreement

Mr. Wellman said the current operating agreement with Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center, Inc. expires December 31, 2019. The Town Manager is looking for input on waiving the lining fee; having a sponsored rate applied to all events held at the PAC, gathering permits for existing events without substantial changes would go through an administrative approval process before the Public Gathering Committee with Town Manager sign-off; and, local building and land use application fees would not apply for approved Board of Selectmen capital projects at the PAC facility.

After discussion, a draft contract will be presented at the December 16, 2019 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

i) Donations from the Friends of Simsbury Farms and the Simsbury Farms Men’s Club

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to accept the monetary donations of \$4,200 from the Friends of Simsbury Farms and \$4,200 from the Simsbury Farms Men’s Club to help offset the total cost of a greens roller purchase with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) WPCA Mechanic Foreman Job Description

Mr. Wellman said the changes to the WPCA Mechanic Foreman Job Description have been reviewed by the Personnel Sub-Committee and the Union. The approximate cost of \$5,000 would come out of the WPCA budget, which is managed in a self-sustaining fund.

Ms. Capriola said this would not be adding to the overall positions, it would just be a reclassification.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to approve the new classification of Mechanics Foreman and to place this position at grade T9 of the AFSCME Employees Pay Plan. Further move to approve the job description as presented. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Appointment of Board of Selectman Member to Debt Policy Workgroup

Mr. Wellman said Christopher Kelly was appointed to the Debt Policy Workgroup when he was a member of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Peterson has agreed to serve in Mr. Kelly's place.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to appoint Chris Peterson to the Debt Policy Workgroup. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Appointment of Short-Term Rental Ordinance Workgroup

Mr. Wellman said a Short-term Rental Ordinance Workgroup was established to review similar ordinances from other communities and to create a draft ordinance to be brought before the Board of Selectmen. There are currently have two slots open in the workgroup from this Board and one each from Zoning, EDC and Tourism. He also received a request from the Planning Commission that they would like to join as well.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to increase the total membership of the Short-term Rental Ordinance Workgroup from 5 members to 6 members by adding a slot for a member of the Planning Commission. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to appoint the recommended members for the Short-term Rental Ordinance Workgroup:

Jackie Battos, Board of Selectmen (to replace Sean Askham)

Holly Beum, Planning Commission

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

c) Appointment of Cheryl Cook to the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee

Mr. Wellman said Ms. Cook has been chairing that Committee already and has agreed to continue in that role.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to increase the total membership of the 250th Anniversary Steering Committee from 17 voting members to 18 voting members by adding a slot for a community members. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective December 5, 2019, to appoint Chery Cook to the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee as a community member with a term ending December 31, 2020. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk