

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

“Draft”

Page | 1

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 Eric Wellman; Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham; Board members Mike Paine, Wendy Mackstutis, Jackie Battos, and Chris Peterson. Others included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Police Chief Nicholas Boulter; Finance Director Amy Meriwether; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski; Public Works Director Tom Roy; Town Engineer Jeff Shea; Social Service Director Kristen Formanek; Library Director Lisa Karim; and Management Specialist Tom Fitzgerald.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- email written comments to ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov by 12 P.M. on Monday, February 22, 2021, to be read into the record
- email tfitzgerald@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 P.M. on Monday, February 22, 2021, to register to address the Board of Selectmen on ZOOM

Mr. Wellman read comments from Joan Coe who spoke about the February 8th meeting, S & P report, taxes, her pictures not being shown, Police investigations, COVID-19 protocols and other issues.

Mr. Wellman read comments from Chris Evans who spoke about his support for the intersection project at Notch Road and West Mountain Road. He agrees with the design and funding for this project for safety.

a) Town Manager’s Proposed FY 21/22 Budget

Ms. Capriola provided an overview of the FY 21/22 Town Manager proposed budget, including budget objectives, expenditure trends, revenue trends, and capital. The total budget is \$105,407.881. Ms. Capriola said the grand list increased by 2.94%, which reflects continued development activity.

Ms. Capriola reviewed the expenditure trends, including the corrections made to the overcharging of the parks and recreation revenue fund.

Ms. Capriola reviewed her list of prioritized service restorations and service improvements, should the Board wish to consider them. She also went through Board of Selectmen initiatives and financial management.

Ms. Capriola reviewed both the capital improvement plan (CIP) as well as the capital and non-recurring (CNR) plan. She said that the CIP includes the Town and Board of Education projects but the CNR plan reflects just the Town projects.

Ms. Capriola went through the capital and debt services budget model.

Ms. Capriola said the impact of the proposed budget on taxpayers is an increase to the mill rate of 0.17 mills or an increase of \$36 per resident, for the year.

After some discussion, no motion was made on this presentation.

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

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective February 22, 2021, to approve the presented tax refunds, in the amount of \$8,239.92, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Lighting Upgrade Loan Agreement

Mr. Wellman said this lighting upgrade could save the Town more than \$40,000 per year. Ms. Capriola said there is a 2-3 year period to pay back the loan through the savings.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective February 22, 2021, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute agreements with Eversource for each of the three lighting upgrade projects as presented. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Proposed 2021 Simsbury Farms Golf Course Fee Schedule – Revised

Mr. Tyburski said this issue was already discussed, however, his numbers were cut off his last presentation, which has now been corrected in this packet.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective February 22, 2021, to approve the 2021 fee schedule for the Simsbury Farms Golf Course as revised and presented. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Renewal of Stoddard Dam/Reservoir Lease Agreement with Simsbury Fish and Game Club

Ms. Capriola said this project consists of housekeeping updates and maintenance at Stoddard Dam/Reservoir and it is much improved. She noted that this Dam/Reservoir was built in 1903 and the last repairs were done in 1975. The last inspection was 2019, where it was noted that it was in fair condition. This is a placeholder project in the budget and it will be looked at again in the fall.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective February 22, 2021, to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the proposed leased agreement for use of the Stoddard Dam/Reservoir by the Simsbury Fish and Game Club, Inc. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) February 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) February 8, 2021 Special Meeting

There were no changes to the Special Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021, 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. Askham said Public Safety will do a table-top exercise on the response to a cyber breach.
 - e) Board of Education** – Ms. Mackstutis noted that the Board of Education is meeting tomorrow night on their budget. They did adopt their 6 year capital plan on February 9, 2021.
- Mr. Paine said he delivered the Proclamation to Mrs. Schwartz and she really appreciated it.

COMMUNICATIONS

- a) MS4 Annual Report** – Mr. Askham noted that the work done by Public Works goes far beyond paving and plowing.
- b) 2019 – 2020 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**
- c) Memo from M. Capriola RE: Update from Staff on Senior Services Volunteer Driving Program, dated 2/18/21**

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk