

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2020**

“Approved”

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CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham; Board members Jackie Battos, Wendy Mackstutis, and Chris Peterson. Absent was Mike Paine. Other in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Finance Director Amy Meriwether; Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski; Social Service Director Kristen Formanek; Library Director Lisa Karim; Chamber of Commerce Director Lisa Gray; Police Chief Nicholas Boulter; Lieutenant Fred Sifodaskalatis; Executive Director of PAC Missy DiNunno; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive spoke about her FOI requests, the Police Chief, the Police Union, an increase in the Grand List, meeting minutes, financial stress for taxpayers, and other issues.

Diane Nash, 5 Merrywood, spoke about the sale of open space, asking for a presentation of open space and purchase and swapping of open space. She spoke about the property being enhanced by the bike trail. She feels these issues need to be brought to the public.

Shannon Knoll, a member of the Simsbury Aging and Disabilities Commission, spoke about access to the Performing Arts Center and a proposed a study on this issue. She feels Aging and Disability Commission needs to be included in the study. She wants to know what the interim plan will be while the study is being done. With the upcoming events, she feels this issue is urgent.

Susan Masino, 41 Madison Lane, spoke about what is going on at The Grange and an update on Martin Luther King. The Grange is trying to be a model of community resilience. They are doing some remodeling at the building. They are trying not to use so much plastic and have received some donations to help with that.

Ms. Masino has also been working on New England Landscape Futures, which is tool about development patterns in the last 20 years and moving to the next 20 years. She does support the bike path project.

Dr. Mike Rinaldi, Pinnacle Mountain Road, spoke about the lack of disability parking at the Performing Arts Center. He doesn't feel is a consultant is needed there, just the Town Engineer to evaluate it. He said the State statutes say there is enough parking for the disabled there, but more is needed. He also spoke about paying for parking there.

Lisa Gray, the Chamber of Commerce, spoke about activities such as the March 20th breakfast; the March 28th health expo. She said she will be leaving the Chamber on April 10th and said she has enjoyed working with everyone.

Sharon Byron wants to reinforce the disability parking issues at the Performing Arts Center. She feels that the no smoking, vaping, using pot at the Center needs to be enforced.

PRESENTATIONS

a) Recovery Friendly Community Initiative

Ms. Gray, from a Promise to Jordan, spoke about an initiative from the State of CT Alcohol & Drug Policy Counsel Recovery and Health Management Sub-Committee to designate CT communities as recover friendly. Accidental overdose deaths are now the leading cause of deaths under the age of 50.

Ms. Gray gave statistics of overdose deaths and said it is time to speak about it and take action to save lives. There are only three communities that have established themselves as Recovery Friendly Communities in CT. There are many resources on the Town's website and several events anyone can attend. There are now drugs that can help save lives from overdosing.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to endorse and support the pursuit of the establishment of Simsbury as a Recovery Friendly Community. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Wellman, First Selectman, reviewed his First Selectman's report.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax Refund Requests

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$1,631.63, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Acceptance of Donation from Hartford Federal Credit Union

Mr. Wellman said the Town received a generous donation for our food programs and Chapter 100 of our Code of Ordinances "Gift Policy" requires the Board accept a donation over \$1,500.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to accept the \$2,000 monetary donation from Hartford Federal Credit Union for the purpose of supporting our food programs with our thanks. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Public Gathering Permit – 2020 Simsbury Junior Women's Club Craft Show

Mr. Wellman said the Junior Women's Club Craft Show will be held on September 19 and 20th at the Commuter lot off Iron Horse Boulevard.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to approve the public gathering application for the 2020 Simsbury Junior Women’s Club Craft Show and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit with the condition that the event is not permitted to use power. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Public Gathering Permit – 2020 Valley Collector Car Club Show

Mr. Wellman said the Valley Collector Car Club event will be held on July 19th at the Commuter lot off Iron Horse Boulevard.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to approve the public gathering application for the 2020 Valley Car Club Show and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit with the condition that the event is not permitted to use power. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Public Gathering Permit- 2020 Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation Rosh Hashanah Event

Mr. Wellman said the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation Rosh Hashanah Event will be held on September 18th at the Simsbury Farms Skating Rink.

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to approve the public gathering application for the 2020 Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation Rosh Hashanah Event and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Public Gathering Permit – Simsbury Performing Arts Center Theater Guild Performance

Mr. Wellman said the Simsbury Performing Arts Center Theater Guild Performance will be held on June 18th at the Performing Arts Center.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to approve the public gathering application for the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Theater Guild Performance and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. DiNunno spoke about upcoming events at the Simsbury Performing Arts Center including the 350th Celebration at September Fest. Check the website for more information. She also spoke about accessibility at the Center. She said the Spin Doctors will be the headline at the Free Mason’s Festival.

g) Public Gathering Permit – Simsbury Performing Arts Center Freemason’s Festival

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to approve the public gathering application for the Simsbury Performing Arts Center Freemason’s Festival and to authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Public Gathering Permit – Simsbury Parks and Recreation 2020 Easter Egg Hunt

Mr. Tyburski said the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11th from 9-11.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to approve the public gathering application for the Simsbury Parks and Recreation 2020 Easter Egg Hunt and authorize the issuance of the public gathering permit. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) MIRA Statement of Interest

Mr. Wellman said the Board had asked staff for feedback on the MIRA issue. The staff drafted a letter that could be signed by the Board tonight.

Ms. Capriola said they tried to capture everything the Board had asked for. The Board felt the letter was what they wanted to capture.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to authorize the Town Manager and First Selectman to send the prepared correspondence to MIRA. Ms. Battos seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Rescission of SCTV Location Charge to Public Building Committee

Mr. Wellman said this item was more of a “clean-up” item. The Public Building Committee has had this item on the agenda for about 4 years now and they would like it taken off their agenda as there is not an immediate need to relocate SCTV.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to rescind the Board of Selectmen directive issued October 28, 2016 to the Public Building Committee to begin studying a location change for SCTV. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

k) Referral of Town Manager Employment Agreement to Personnel Sub-Committee

Ms. Capriola recused herself from the desk.

Mr. Wellman said the Town Manager’s 3-year contract expires at the end of January and he would like to start the conversation to renewing or not renewing her contract starting now. He would like to charge the Personnel Sub-Committee with providing a recommendation on how to proceed with this process in renewing or not renewing her contract. They would like the Personnel Sub-Committee to come before this Board no later than June 22nd for with recommendations.

Mr. Wellman made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to refer to the Personnel Sub-Committee the matter of the Town Manager’s contract and request that the Personnel Sub-Committee provides a recommendation to the full Board of Selectmen no later than June 22nd. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

l) Proposed Clean Water Bond Refunding

Mr. Wellman said interest rates are very low right now to the Town.

Ms. Capriola spoke about said if we refinance now, we could save approximately \$260,000 on the Clean Water Fund loan for the next 10 years. This loan is shared with the Towns of Avon and Granby. This is a good opportunity for us. She said the General Statutes require that the Board of Selectmen formally approve the refunding and make the necessary resolutions/motions.

After discussion, Ms. Battos made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to authorize the issuance of \$9,000,000 refunding bonds for payment of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on any portion of the Town of \$21,037,216.21 project loan obligation dated March 31, 2008; and costs related thereto. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Battos made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to adopt the attached resolution of the refunding bonds. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

m) FY 20/21 Budget Discussion and Adoption

Mr. Paine joined the meeting by phone.

Mr. Paine spoke about funding requests from Interval House, Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, EDC, and SCTV. He feels their proposed budgets should be changed. He thinks the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce should be increased to \$7,500 plus to add \$2,500 to the Technology Task Force for them to develop an internet document to access more information.

The Board went through a lot of different changes to the proposed budget items. They decided on four important capital items:

- Radio System
- Open Space
- Paving
- Bleacher project

Mr. Askham said the budget could be sent to the Board of Finance as is with safety items being at the top of the list. After more discussion, the Board decided they need to prioritize bonding items, capital items and safety items.

Ms. Capriola said the pension and OPEB interest rate assumption does have an impact on the mill rate.

After a lot of discussion, a special meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the budget further. There was no motion at this time.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Sustainability Team Appointment and Member Composition

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective March 9, 2020, to increase the number of membership slots on the Sustainability Team by one membership slot designated for the Open Space Committee, for a total of 9 members. Further move to appoint Timothy Walzac (R) to the Sustainability Team. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of February 24, 2020

There were no changes to the minutes, 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 Selectmen** – no report at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS

- a) **Sustainability Team Annual Report** – no discussion at this time.
- b) **Coronavirus communications** – no discussion at this time.
- c) **Eversource Vegetative Management Correspondence** – no discussion at this time.
- d) **Memo from J. Shea Re: PFAS Report** – no discussion at this time.
- e) **FEMA Flood Map Discovery Report** – no discussion at this time.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk