

TOWN OF SIMSBURY- BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES -MARCH 13, 2023
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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 Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Amber Abbuhl; Board members Heather Goetz, Sean Askham, Eric Wellman and Chris Peterson. Others in attendance included: Treasurer/Director of Finance Amy Meriwether; Management Specialist Tom Fitzgerald; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski, Town Engineer/Director of Public Works Tom Roy, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- Participants can address the Board of Selectmen in person at the meeting
- Email townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov by noon Monday, March 13, 2023 to address the Board of Selectmen live through Zoom
- Written comments can be emailed to townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov. Written comments will not be read into the records, but shall be forwarded to all Selectmen via email

Ms. Coe spoke about the Town Manager position, employee morale problems, lack of communication, etc. She feels the Board should use a consultant for the new Town Manager selection.

FIRST SELECTMAN REPORT

First Selectman, Wendy Mackstutis, reviewed her First Selectman's report.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

There was no Town Manager's report at this time.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Personnel** – there was no report at this time.
- b) **Finance** – there was no report at this time.
- c) **Public Safety** – there was no report at this time.
- d) **Board of Education** – there was no report at this time.

Ms. Goetz said Zoning will hold a Public Hearing on the 830G property application for 440 Hopmeadow Street will be held on Monday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Library. Also, Inland/Wetlands will continue their Public Hearing on March 21st at 7:30 p.m. at the Library.

Ms. Abbuhl said tomorrows Cheese Day will be rescheduled due to the impending storm.

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Ms. Mackstutis made a motion review the minutes, tax refunds and the Town Manager search, and appointments to various boards, and various communications before the discussion on the budget.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) February 7, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2023, and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.

b) March 7, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the Special Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023, and , therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax Refund Requests

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 13, 2023, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$3,614.70, and to authorize the Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Town Manager Executive Search Committee

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective March 13, 2023, to appoint the Simsbury Board of Selectmen as the Executive Search Committee to identify a successor Town Manager. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Appointments to Various Boards and Commissions

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective March 13, 2023, to appoint Erik Petersen as a Regular Member of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission with a term ending January 1, 2026; Margaret Haldeman as a Regular Member of the Aging and Disability Commission with a term ending January 1, 2027; and Libby Easton-May as an Alternate Member of the Aging and Disability Commission with a term ending January 1, 2024. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Memo from T. Roy re: Household Hazardous Waste Event for 2023, dated February 23, 2023 – there was no discussion at this time.

b) Oral Update on Work Group to Develop an Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Tobacco, Vaping and Cannabis Products on Public Property

Ms. Mackstutis gave an update on a workgroup formed in September to develop an ordinance prohibiting the use of tobacco, vaping and cannabis products on public property. She said we are unable to start this workgroup at

this time. Mr. Peterson said this issue will be tabled due to priorities received from Town staff. Hopefully common sense will prevail.

FY 23/24 Budget Discussion and Possible Adoption

Mr. Roy said the electric charging stations would cost about \$10,000 for four stations. These new stations should be faster and the Town will be able to charge something for the electricity used.

Mr. Askham said to focus on funds that cost the taxpayers money now, funds that cost them later, and funds that never cost them money. Bonds are most important followed by ARPA and Capital reserve money/ He said ARPA is not free money. It is to help the community. We should continue to prioritize what's in scope and our plan. We need to prioritize all projects. The Board of Ed CNR funds are not sufficient.

The Board went through the ARPA list:

There was discussion about the Eno Memorial Hall HVAC system. Ms. Abbuhl said the design work is scheduled for this year with the actual work being done next year. There was discussion on what is ARPA and what is bonded.

Mr. Meriwether said the total ARPA funding for this year is \$3.7M. Mr. Askham said none of the Eno project is appropriated at this point. We need to decide if we should defer bonds now to save residents in the long run or do we think bond rates are going to go up or bond later.

The Board discussed the Library vending machine, the Literacy program, increasing children programs. The Town maps, the design signs, etc. They went through all of the other ARPA requests and discussed their pros and cons on those items. They also discussed how much money they could approve for all of these asks. They tabled health insurance reserves as that is up to the Board of Finance to decide. They also discussed the Town maps.

Mr. Askham spoke about the dams that were for FY25/26, FY 26/27 and should not be appropriated for now. Also, Stoddard for FY 25/26 and FY 27/28 and that shouldn't be on this list either.

The Board continued to discuss projects like the public works truck, bridges and roads and sidewalks. They discussed what projects should be done by using bonds, cash or possible grants.

The Board then went through the CNR projects. Mr. Askham said they need to add \$50,000 for a Town Manager search. We definitely need a place holder for this position. The Charter Revision is a high priority as well as the Tariffville plan.

There was also discussion on the charging station and bridge work, adopting a median program and police program materials, and Parks and Recreation asks. After more discussion on all projects, Mr. Fitzgerald had a list for the Board to discuss at the next meeting.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Pursuant to Connecticut State Statutes 1-200(6)(a): Discussion of Employment of Town Manager

Ms. Goetz made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, pursuant to CGS 1-200(6)(a): Discussion of Employment of Town Manager at 8:25 p.m. Present will be the Board of Selectmen, Attorney Bob DeCrescenzo, and Labor Counsel Mike Harrington. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 9:32 p.m. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk