

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Michael Paine, Sean Askham, Christopher Kelly, Elaine Lang and Cheryl Cook. Others in attendance included: State Senator Kevin Witkos, State Representative John Hampton, Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Gerry Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation; Joseph Mancini, Director of Finance, David Ryan, Simsbury PAC, Inc. Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about a point of order being made at the last Board meeting, Roberts Rules of order, personal attacks on residents, the proposed ticket booth at the Performing Arts Center, and other items.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, responded to Mr. Mitchell’s speech from the last meeting, zoning violations, the Senior Center, and change in form of government, and other items.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Simsbury Public Library Strategic Planning**

David Blume, Trustee of the Simsbury Public Library, said their purpose was to inform everyone about a strategic planning process in Library development. They are required, by law, to develop a five year strategic planning. Their current plan runs out in 2016. Mr. Blume said the new plan will be used as a guide in terms of direction and to annually monitor against the plan.

Gail Ryan said the plan will be developed by a committee of between 9-15 members, including staff, Library management, Friends of the Library. They would like someone from the Board of Selectmen, Simsbury Schools, a senior, a parent, someone from the business community, from a community organization, a teenage, and Library patrons.

Mr. Blume said the Committee will start by asking for aspirations of the community and then seeing what the Library can do. They will also be utilizing the Town survey. This process will take 2-3 months. He gave the Board a handout of questions they will be asking residents. The final plan will be approved by the full Library Trustees.

- **Budget Update – Joseph Mancini, Director of Finance**

Mr. Mancini said the 2015 audits will be issued later this week. He said the revenue side was favorable by \$880,000. Expenses total was 600,000, for a change in the fund balance to equal \$280,000.

Mr. Mancini said 2016 is looking for favorable with revenue about \$1,345,000. The early projected fund balance would be \$1,155,000 for 2016.

Mr. Mancini said currently the State is expected to provide the Town with an additional \$1,214,000 in fiscal year 2017. There should also be grand list growth of 80%.

Ms. Heavner asked that Mr. Mancini give the Board monthly updates.

- **Shared Solar in Simsbury – Clean Energy Task Force**

Mr. Roy gave a power-point presentation on the Shared Solar project for Simsbury. He said this is just a concept tonight. He said this is different than solar project of a few years ago where people ended up finding out that their property wasn't compatible.

Mr. Roy said shared solar is a much larger site with a bigger mega-watt. Residents then purchase shares of this site. There is potential revenue for the Town if done on Town property. This has been very successful in other States as well.

Mr. Roy said they are looking for some pilot programs under CT Public Act 15-113 and he will have more information in late January or early February.

Mr. Roy said they would be sending out a RFP after reviewing it with a consultant & the Clean Energy Task Force after finding a few potential sites. There would be a Selection Committee and they would come back before the Board of Selectmen for approval. Then there would need to be a letter of intent, with certain conditions, to move the project further.

Mr. Roy said the potential sites are the landfill and the East Side of the Barndoor Triangle.

Ms. Heavner and the Board feel this is a good idea. After some discussion, Mr. Roy said he will continue to give the Board further updates.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to include action item g) to discuss and possibly take action on a request to purchase a golf course fairway mower. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Heavner congratulated the Library Board and staff, Board of Trustees, and Public Works, and Engineering on the opening of the teen space at the Library.

Ms. Heavner also thanked them for holding story time at the Public Works Facility las week. A great time was had by everyone.

Ms. Heavner said the State of Connecticut’s Department of Administrative Services will be conducting a workshop to help small businesses receive their State certifications as “small businesses.” This will be held in the Simsbury Public Library’s Programming Room from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. on January 28, 2016. This will be a free event, but everyone will need to register with the Chamber of Commerce at 860-651-7307. If you have any questions about the event, please contact the Department of Administrative Services Supplier Diversity Program at 860-713-5228.

She thanked the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services Supplier Diversity Program, the Town of Simsbury, the Simsbury Public Library, the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, Simsbury Main Street Partnership, Representative John Hampton and Senator Kevin Witkos.

Ms. Heavner invited everyone to check-out the new Town of Simsbury’s website. She said it is now much easier to read and access information. She thanked Rick Bazzano, Sean Kimball, Main Street Partnership, Town staff, and Economic Development Task Force, and residents who gave thoughtful input and suggestions.

Ms. Heavner thanked everyone who helped make this year’s Simsbury Celebrates a big success. She said this event is organized entirely by volunteers. They are now looking for volunteers to help with this year’s celebration. There will be a meeting at the Simsbury Public Library on Wednesday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m. in Program Room 2. If you can’t make the meeting, but want to help, please contact Taryn Rea at 860-408-4684.

PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- Legislative Update – Senator Kevin Witkos and State Representative John Hampton

Senator Witkos apologized for his tardiness. He said going into the next Legislative Session the moto would be “do no harm”. During the past special session only the current budget was discussed. Harm was done to some municipalities, which he said was shameful. Senator Witkos said he and Representative Hampton were advocating for structural changes so this doesn’t continue to happen.

The next session goes from February to May. He said they will soon be getting news about General Electric not wanting to stay in Connecticut. Maybe this will be a wake-up call for the Legislature.

Representative Hampton said it was an epic budget year with a lot of harm being done to States. He said there no reforms to spending caps and no bonding caps. There were also no reforms on State employee’s overtime. He said disabilities and mental health took a very bad hit.

After some discussion, Senator Witkos and Representative Hampton said they would come back after the next session to give the Board a further update.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve Tax Refunds

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$25,026.38 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Refer pursuant to CGS §8-24 Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Office/Ticket Booth Proposal to the Planning Commission

David Ryan said customers, HSO and Premier Concerts have been very concerned about the number of un-ticketed patrons who attend concerts without paying. They are proposing to install a new SMPAC office building placed along the split rail fence. This will include a ticket window(s) with access to the Iron Horse sidewalk. Therefore, they will be able to require a ticket to enter the grounds.

Mr. Ryan said since the Town is the owner of the property, they are requesting that the Board made a CT General Statutes 8-24 referral for this project to the Simsbury Planning Commission.

Mr. Ryan said they are planning to apply for grants and raise money for this project.

Mr. Askham made a motion to refer the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Office/Ticket Booth proposal to the Planning Commission. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Approve Public Gathering Permit Applications for 2016 Events

Gerry Toner said the Board has the list of completed applications to secure permission for an event utilizing Town owned property. There are three events that are still pending Zoning Commission approval to serve beer and wine at their events.

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve the Public Gathering Permit Applications as follows:

MS Society Annual Walk	Sunday, April 17
Simsbury Granby Rotary Club River Run	Sunday, April 24
SMPAC – Mainly Marathon	Friday, May 20
Tootin Hills PTO Duck Race – Flower Bridge	Friday, May 20
Strut Your Mutt Dog Park Fundraiser	Saturday, May 21
Simsbury Try-athlon	Sunday, May 22
Party at the PAC **	Friday, May 27
Iron Horse Half-Marathon	Sunday, June 5
SMPAC Summer Solstice Jazzfest **	Friday, June 10 or 24
Talcott Mountain Music Festival **	Fridays, July 1 – July 29
Rain Dates	Saturdays, July 2 – July 30
Valley Car Club Show	Sunday, July 17
Vie for the Kids Race	Saturday, October 1

** Pending Zoning Commission approval to the SMPAC to serve beer and wine at their events.

Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approve submission of STEAP Grant Application for the Boundless Playground Renovation and Repairs

Ms. Heavner said the Small Town Economic Assistance Program annually funds this grant. This application is for the renovation and repairs to the Boundless Playground located at Simsbury Meadows.

Mr. Toner said the Town has applied for and received money from the STEAP Grants many times before. He said the Boundless Playground was a joint venture between the Town of Simsbury and the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club and was completed in 2001.

Mr. Toner said the initial application amount was for \$244,790, but feels it should be \$300,000 due to some possible site issues.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve the submission of a STEAP Grant application, in the amount of \$300,000, for the Boundless Playground renovations and repairs, through the State

of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Accept donation of \$5,000 from Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc. for the Keep Simsbury Warm Programs

Mr. Paine made a motion to accept the donation of \$5,000 from Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming, Inc. for the Keep Simsbury Warm Programs with our thanks. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Approve 2016 Budget Workshop Dates

The Board had a list of possible budget workshop dates of Wednesday, March 2nd; Saturday, March 5th, and additional dates, if necessary, of March 7th and 9th.

After some discussion, this item was tabled due to several conflicts.

g) Approve Purchase of Golf Course Fairway Mower

Mr. Toner said he and Mike Wallace worked on this project. He said in an effort to remedy the deficit facing the Special Revenue Fund, a decision was made to no longer fund the golf course equipment replacement from CNR. Therefore, they have been looking into different alternative methods to purchase/replace equipment.

Mr. Toner said he and Mr. Wallace found two mowers for sale that were coming off leases. The one they are asking for approval on will allow them to use the available funds wisely while maintaining the course at their current standards.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the purchase of a golf course fairway mower coming off lease. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Update on Senior Community Center Project

Ms. Heavner said the architect continues to work on programming and the space needed. She said she hope to have a final report at the next meeting.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Kevin M. Prell (R) as a regular member of the Planning Commission effective December 16, 2015

Mr. Askham acknowledged the resignation of Kevin M. Prell as a regular member of the Planning Commission effective December 16, 2015. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Aging & Disability Commission

- a) Reappoint Lorraine Doonan (D) and Arlene E. Zappile (D) as alternate members of the Aging & Disabilities Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2018**

Mr. Askham made a motion to reappoint Lorraine Doonan and Arlene E. Zappile as alternate members of the Aging & Disabilities Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2018. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b) Reappoint Mona Herman (D) as a regular member of the Aging & Disabilities Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2020**

Mr. Askham made a motion to reappoint Mona Herman as a regular member of the Aging & Disabilities Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2020. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Building Code Board of Appeals

- a) Reappoint Richard Cortes (D) and Samuel A. Ziplow (D) as alternate members of the Building Code Board of Appeals with an expiration date of January 1, 2018**

Mr. Askham made a motion to reappoint Richard Cortes and Samuel A. Ziplow as alternate members of the Building Code Board of Appeals with an expiration date of January 1, 2018. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Conservation Commission / Inland Wetlands Agency

- a) Reappoint Donald F. Rieger, Jr. (D) as a regular member of the Conservation Commission / Inland Wetlands Agency with an expiration date of January 1, 2020**

Mr. Askham made a motion to reappoint Donald F. Rieger, Jr. as a regular member of the Conservation Commission / Inland Wetland Agency with an expiration date of January 1, 2020. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission

a) Reappoint Dennis J. Fallon (D) and Steven J. Spalla (D) as regular members of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission effective January 1, 2020

Mr. Askham made a motion to reappoint Dennis J. Fallon and Steven J. Spalla as regular members of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission effective January 1, 2020. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Historic District Commission

a) Reappoint Julie P. Carmelich (D) as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2021

Mr. Askham made a motion to reappoint Julie P. Carmelich as an alternate member of the Historic District Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2021. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Water Pollution Control Authority

a) Reappoint Paul N. Gilmore (D) as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority with an expiration date of January 1, 2020

Mr. Askham made a motion to reappoint Paul N. Gilmore as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority with an expiration date of January 1, 2020. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Community for Care Committee

a) Reappoint Cheryl Cook, Candace Brohinsky, Woodrow W. Eddins, Jr., Karen Gallagher, Sarah Gwinn, Richard Holden, Chris Kelly, David Kraveski, Edward J. LaMontagne, Sharon I. Lawson, Marc Lehman, Heather Mudano, Hannah Reynolds, Sally Rieger, Rebecca Rosenthal, Thomas Steen and Judy Sturgis as regular members of the Community for Care Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017

Mr. Askham made a motion to reappoint Cheryl Cook, Candace Brohinsky, Woodrow W. Eddins, Jr., Karen Gallagher, Sarah Gwinn, Richard Holden, Chris Kelly, David Kraveski, Edward J. LaMontagne, Sharon I. Lawson, Marc Lehman, Heather Mudano, Hannah Reynolds, Sally Rieger, Rebecca Rosenthal, Thomas Steen and Judy Sturgis as regular members of the Community for Care Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to reconsider the Dennis J. Fallon and Steven J. Spalla Culture, Parks & Recreation appointment. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Dennis J. Fallon and Steven J. Spalla as regular members of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission with an expiration date of January 1, 2020. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Appoint Nancy Sheetz as a regular member of the Community for Care Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Nancy Sheetz as a regular member of the Community for Care Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

No action was taken and therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIASION AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel - Approval of Proposed Revisions to Business Resource Center Coordinator Position

Mr. Kelly said this revision was approved by the Personnel Sub-Committee and it did not change the grade or position, just the job responsibilities.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve a revised position description for the position of Business Resource Center Coordinator for the Simsbury Public Library. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2. Finance – no report at this time.

3. Welfare – no report at this time.

4. Public Safety – no report at this time.

5. Board of Education – Mr. Kelly said the Board of Education will have a proposal on a number of issues, especially on drug prevention tomorrow night. Ms. Heavner said they also have their own website and videos on drug prevention issues.

Ms. Cook said there will be a piece done by Board of Ed employees on policy decisions of the Board of Ed related to addictions.

Ms. Lang said on Thursday, January 14th at 2 p.m. in the Library, there will be a documentary showing with a key note speaker Art Miller on Emit Hill.

Ms. Lang said on January 18th at 2 p.m. at First Church there will be the annual Martin Luther King Celebration. There will be speakers and music.

Mr. Askham said the Long Range Planning Committee has met on financial issues in the further on condos, etc. They are getting more information for the Boards of Finance and Selectmen.

Ms. Heavner said the Open Space Committee will be proposing an ordinance on open spaces in the near future.

Ms. Heavner said the Board of Selectmen Sub-Committee on Finance will be meeting on Friday, January 22nd to discuss insurance.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Discuss possible lease or purchase of property for Senior/Community Center including 828 Hopmeadow Street and other property adjacent to the Downtown Area

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session with Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services and James Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development in attendance at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Sincerely,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk