

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 Lisa Heavner; Board members Sean Askham, Elaine Lang, Christopher Kelly, Cheryl Cook and Michael Paine. Others in attendance included Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Sean Kimball, Interim Director of Finance; Jeffrey Shea, Town Engineer; David Gardner, Assessor; Kevin Kowalski, Fire Marshall; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

To receive public comment concerning the proposed Amendment to the Simsbury Code of Ordinances, inserting a section on Board of Assessment Appeals: Expansion of the Membership of the Simsbury Board of Assessment Appeals.

Ms. Heavner said this comes before the Board after discussions from the Charter Revision Commission. This would give the Board of Selectmen the ability to appoint additional members to the Board of Assessment Appeals on an annual basis. It would also allow the Board of Selectmen to appoint an alternate for each member of the Board of Assessment Appeals and to appoint an additional member to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Mr. Gardner said it allows the Board to allow more members for hearing and members could share the work.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Laurie Fernand, 15 Camille Lane, a new member of the Board of Assessment Appeals said she was hoping to have their first meeting tonight. However, one member could not make the meeting and one member seems to be stuck in traffic so they are not sure they can have this meeting.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, said he thought this was a good idea as the responsibility is spread by this Board and the residents have a wider choice of deciding whether or not a person should receive a special consideration under taxes. He does feel there should be the same amount of Republicans, Democrats and Unaffiliated members on this Board. He also feels these positions should be appointed, but not by the Town Committees. He thinks this should be passed post-haste.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

After no further comments, Ms. Lang made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:07 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner said the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting will now begin.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Don Massey, 6 Elaine Drive, spoke about a concept of security cameras he brought before the Board before the holidays that he now feels has gone through the cracks. He said if more information or different concepts are needed he would be happy to do so.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the Charter Revision Commission approving the Town Management form of Government. She also spoke about the budget, the Performing Arts Center barricade, the Senior Center and other issues.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about the Charter, which he wants rejected. He feels the form of government is fine the way it is. He also spoke about body cameras for the Police Department and other issues.

PRESENTATION

• Connecticut Natural Gas in Simsbury

Mr. Roy said the issue of bringing natural gas to Tariffville has been discussed before. He introduced Tony Sherman, Ct Natural Gas Commercial Projects Manager.

Mr. Sherman gave some history of their new company called Avangrid Co. He said this project would be a 4 mile main extension. He said they would need the commitment from the Town and signed service agreements with the Elementary School and the Fire Department as they are anchor customers. They will need those facilities to convert by the end of the year. It is a more reliable service and it can be run with generators. He said this project won't be viable without the Town's financial support.

Mr. Sherman went through the cost for this project. He said they would work with the 2017 budget and work with the Town for a payment plan for this project. They will have to look at the project again as there may be part of the bike path that can be used. They would also have to re-look at the regulatory model.

After some discussion, Mr. Roy said there is more planning ahead. Ms. Heavner said the conversations will continue on this project.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Heavner said the budget season is still underway. The Board of Selectmen will be presenting their proposed budget to the Board of Finance on March 29th at 5:45 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. The Board of Finance will be holding their Public Budget Hearing on April 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the Simsbury High School Amphitheatre and a Town Referendum will likely be held on Tuesday, May 10th. She said all budget information can be found on the Town website at [www. Simsbury-ct.gov](http://www.Simsbury-ct.gov).

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that the Simsbury Senior Center and Simsbury Public Library are so-sponsoring this year's AARP Tax Aide Program. To participate in this program, residents need to make an appointment by calling the Simsbury Senior Center at (860)-658-3273.

Ms. Heavner invited everyone to join the Board and volunteers to clean up the bike trails around Simsbury on April 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone will meet on Iron Horse Boulevard and the event will be organized by the Farmington Valley Trails Council. Residents can visit <http://fvgreenway.org/events/Event.Detail.asp?id=1452564805> to volunteer.

Ms. Heavner said the Town of Simsbury, in conjunction with the Towns of Avon, Canton, Granby and Farmington will be holding a Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday, April 30th at the Farmington High School on 10 Monteith Drive in Farmington. The collection will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Simsbury Public Works at (860) 658-2550.

Ms. Heavner said the Innovation Fair is set for April 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. For complete details go to Simsburyideas.com.

Ms. Heavner said the Town has launched the Boards and Committees information System app. An easy online volunteer form allows residents to show their interest to serve on a Board or Commission on <http://simsburycboards.vt-s.net/>

Ms. Heavner said the golf course is open. Go to <http://www.simsburyfarms.com/> for season passes. And, if you are looking for something to do with the kids for spring break, check out the programs at <http://www.simsburyrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

Ms. Cook said on Wednesday, April 6th the Community for Care will present a panel discussion on awareness of early signs and symptoms on grief, medications, depression and dementia at the Public Library Program Room. For more information, please call the Simsbury Social Services Department at (860) 658-3283.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Budget Discussion and Possible Action

Mr. Kimball said there was an accounting error on the Major Medical line item in FY 16 budget. It was loaded incorrectly in the file at \$100,000 higher than needed. Mr. Kimball said the Capital Fund needed to be clarified as well.

Mr. Askham, made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen 2016-2017 Operating Budget in the amount of \$19,506,444.00 to include the following changes from the Board of Selectmen's Recommended Budget as approved on March 16, 2016:

Corrected FY16 Major Medical Line Budget Carryforward: \$(100,000.00)

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

Mr. Askham, made a motion to add the following new projects the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2016-2017 in accordance with Charter Section 803(b), in addition to those approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 16, 2016:

Simsbury Veteran's Memorial	\$100,000.00
Plan of Conservation & Development	\$130,000.00
Land Use Studies	\$ 92,500.00

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

Mr. Askham, made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Program to include the following projects in FY 2016-2017 in addition to those approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 16, 2016:

Plan of Conservation & Development	\$130,000.00
Portable Generator Infrastructure	\$175,000.00
Simsbury Veteran's Memorial	\$100,000.00
Window Replacement	\$ 44,000.00
Land Use Studies	\$ 92,500.00
Athletic Field Improvements	\$ 30,000.00

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

b) Discuss Proposed Amendment to Town Code 141 Tax Abatement for Volunteer Fire Fighters and Ambulance Personnel and Set Public Hearing Date

Mr. Kowalski gave the history of the Abatement Program and said it is a useful tool. He gave the Board information from other Towns like Simsbury.

The Board felt this is a responsible and thoughtful policy. The Town is very lucky to have great volunteers to take care and give time for this community. They are all much appreciated.

Mr. Askham made a motion to set a Public Hearing on the proposed amendments to Town Code 141 Tax Abatement for Volunteer Fire Fighters and Ambulance personnel for April 25th at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Possible Action on Amendment to the Simsbury Code of Ordinances, inserting a section on Board of Assessment Appeals: Expansion of the Membership of the Simsbury Board of Assessment Appeals

Ms. Heavner said she appreciated all who spoke at the Public Hearing on this item.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve proposed Amendment to the Simsbury Code of Ordinances, inserting a section on Board of Assessment Appeals: Expansion of the Membership of the Simsbury Board of Assessment Appeals. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Tariffville Water Storage Tank Replacement Project:

- 1) Referral of proposed project for action by the Planning Commission in accordance with Requirements under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes**
- 2) Referral to the Open Space Committee, Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission for a review and report to the Board of Selectmen on the proposed disposition of an interest in real estate as part of the project**

Jay Sheehan and Shelby Beauchemin from Woodard & Curran gave information on the Tariffville project. He gave a brief introduction of the Tariffville Fire District, who they have been working with.

They explained the tank serves about 1500 people. They explained where the tank is and how it works. They would not be changing any of the hydraulics from the old tank and the size of the tank will not be changed. When the new tank is in place, they will excavate 12" down and fill and seed it.

Mr. Askham made a motion to refer the proposed project for action by the Planning Commission in accordance with requirements under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to refer to the Open Space Committee, Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission for a review and report to the Board of Selectmen on the proposed disposition of an interest in real estate as part of the project. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1886.15 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Update on Senior Community Center Project

Ms. Heavner said she does not have an update on the Senior Community Center as it is still with the Public Building Committee. Ms. Cook said the Public Building Committee will be meeting on Monday

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda appoint Cheryl Cook as a member of the Simsbury Housing Authority. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor, with Ms. Cook abstaining, and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Cheryl Cook as a member to the Simsbury Housing Authority. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor, with Ms. Cook abstaining, and the motion passed.

a) Acknowledge the resignation of Paul E. Holland (R) as a regular member of the Building Code Board of Appeals effective March 21, 2016

Ms. Lang made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Paul Holland as a regular member of the Building Code Board of Appeals effective March 21, 2016 with many thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner turned the Chair over to Mr. Kelly.

- b) Appoint Lisa Heavner (D), Michael Paine (R), Roger Spear (R), Tom Horan (D), T.J. Donohue (D) and Len Lanza as regular members of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017**

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Lisa Heavner, Michael Paine, Roger Spear, Tom Horan, T. J. Donohue and Len Lanza as regular members of the Hometown Hero Selection Committee with an expiration date of December 4, 2017. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. Mr. Askham, Ms. Lang, Ms. Cook, and Mr. Kelly were in favor, with Ms. Heavner and Mr. Paine abstaining, and therefore, the motion passed.

Mr. Kelly turned the Chair back to Ms. Heavner.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a) Regular Budget Workshop Meeting of March 10, 2016**
- b) Regular Budget Workshop Meeting of March 12, 2016**
- c) Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting of March 14, 2016**
- d) Special Budget Workshop Meeting of March 16, 2016**

There was no action taken on the minutes of March 10th, March 12th, March 14th or March 16th, and therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Personnel** – Mr. Kelly said the Personnel Sub-Committee will be meeting next Thursday morning and they will solicit any issues pertinent to the committee.
- 2. Finance** – no report at this time.
- 3. Welfare** – no report, at this time.
- 4. Public Safety** – Mr. Askham said there will be a Town-wide drill in April 23rd. They will be testing many different protocols. It will be an extensive drill and structured event.
- 5. Board of Education** – Ms. Lang said there will be an Innovation Fair on April 30th. This will be a multi-location fair. It was a great experience last year. For more information residents can go to simsburyideas.com. Ms. Heavner thanked the Historical Society members and all the volunteers who are helping with this event.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk