

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 Sean Askham, Michael Paine and Elaine Lang. Absent were: Cheryl Cook and Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Gerry Toner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo; James Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

To receive public comment concerning the Simsbury Charter Revision Commission’s Final Report and Proposed Revised Charter as adopted by the Commission on May 5, 2016

Ms. Heavner called the Public Hearing to order to receive public comment concerning the Simsbury Charter Revision Commission’s Final Report and Proposed Revised Charter as adopted by the Commission on May 5, 2016.

Attorney DeCrescenzo went through the process of the Charter Revision Commission. He said Charter Revision Commissions in Connecticut work under General Statutes 99, Section 7-191. He said the Commission issued the Draft Final Report in May. Under the Statute, the Board of Selectmen has 45 days in which to hold its Public Hearing on the draft final report and recommend the Charter. After the Public Hearing, the Board has 15 days to either accept the Charter and report from the Commission in whole; to send the draft report back for deliberations to discuss recommendations to the draft; or after the Public Hearing, the Board can reject the report and draft. Action must be taken with the majority of full membership of the Board, which means it would take four votes to take action. No action needs to be taken tonight.

Mark Deming, 3 Ryan Circle, said he was Chair of the EDC and a resident. He said he is resigning from the EDC as of July 1st. He feels the EDC has made progress in some major projects and doesn’t feel they should be removed as a Commission.

Mr. Deming said the Friends of Simsbury Farms is now a 501c3 tax exempt organization. They are registered for preservation and enhancement of Simsbury Farms. He handed out some brochures and said they will work closely with Parks and Recreation Commission and staff on these projects.

Linda Schofield, 3 Ryan Circle, said she is also a member of the Board of Finance. She urges the Board to split some of the topics for discussion. She doesn’t think the entire Town budget needs to be published in the newspaper, just on the website.

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“Subject to Approval”

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Ms. Schofield said if the Town does change to a Town Management form of government, she urges that we look at it like a school Superintendent. She also discussed the salary of the Town Manager as well, even though she isn't sure which form of government the Town should have.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, said she has been an advocate of the Town Manager form of government. She asked that the Board submit the Charter and set a date for the Referendum. She urged everyone to listen to a documentary on U-tube and SCTV about local government. She said Avon, Granby and Farmington have the Town Manager form of government and do well.

Hadley Rhoades, Timber Ledge Drive, said he was the Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. He said they ended up as an 11 member Commission. He said they had eighteen meetings and two Public Hearings. The vote for a Town Manager form of government was 7-4 in favor. He thanked everyone for all their hard work on this issue.

Chris Barnett, Vice Chair of EDC said they gave the Board two letters on this issue (as attached). She said they were dismayed by the process and lack of communication with EDC and their being eliminated. She said EDC needed some leadership help and feels eliminating them would give poor messages to local businesses. They want the EDC to continue and would like this issue looked at separately.

Michael Rinaldi, 32 Pinnacle Mountain Road, said the CRC meetings were poorly attended. He feels the present form of government is fine, but also feels the Town Management form of government would be fine also. He also had some questions about what happens next and what happens if this is voted down at the Referendum. More people were more concerned about the Board of Education than they were about the form of government.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, just feels there are too many self-serving people in Town. He also spoke about the Constables that were let go. He also feels the Town Manager form of government would be a good idea. He did urge the Board to reject this Charter at this time.

Tom Frank, 19 Danbury Drive, thanked the CRC and congratulated them on a thorough and thoughtful process. He feels the First Selectmen has done a great job, but does feel a Town Manager would be higher qualified. He doesn't feel the EDC should be eliminated, but it should be made better.

Chip Houlihan, 2 Somerset Lane, President of the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, feels there was a communication problem in terms of the elimination of EDC. He feels the EDC should not be eliminated as they are a resource and advocate for people. Eliminating them sends a bad message to Town businesses.

Anita Mielert, a member of the Charter Revision Commission, said the process was very interesting. She doesn't feel the residents were not paying attention as they were on TV and had their minutes on the website. She said the EDC Task Force felt economic development should be the responsibility of the CEO of the community. There needs to be a new template for this Commission.

Jerry Lintner, 22 Massaco Street, said there are so many important and specific separate issues in that document and he doesn't know how people can vote on it. He said he was impressed with EDC and said they

work very hard. He feels the First Selectman form of government isn't a job but a life. He feels this is a great community and he isn't moving to the Town with a Town Manager form of government. If it isn't broken then don't fix it.

Bob Dugay thanked the Board for all they do and he thanked the Charter Revision Commission for the great job and careful thought they put into this issue. He is in favor of a Town Manager form of government after hearing why a friend was in favor of this.

Dave Balboni, 13 Fox Den Road, said he served on the EDC for 51 years. He urged everyone to vote for the Town Manager form of government. He said the EDC does good work, but feels the selection process should be changed. He wants to keep the EDC in the Charter, which would send the right message out to developers.

Melissa Osborne, 25 Orchard Lane, said she was on the CRC and did vote against the Town Manager form of government. She feels this community always comes together as one and that is what makes it so special. She feels people are accountable to everyone.

Robert Kalechman said he feels this is a “self-serving” charter. He spoke again about the Constables. He feels the Board should not accept this Charter and they should start the process all over.

Ms. Mielert said she take great umbrage of the call of self-serving in giving of her free time on the Commission.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Askham made a motion to close the Public Hearing, after no further comments, at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Lang made a motion to amend the agenda to add the Simsbury Public Library improvement project after item i. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the Barndoor sign, the budget, a gift of furniture that was approved, the Mitchell dealership, zoning regulations, alcohol at events, Henry James parking lot, and other issues.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, terrorism, the marijuana factory, new flags for Veterans, “self-serving” management, the Charter, and other issues.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations at this time.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Heavner thanked residents who voted on the Referendum. The budget passed with no increase.

Ms. Heavner said the Education and Town budgets passed at referendum without a tax increase again. Also, four capital projects passed. The referendum results can be seen on the web.

Ms. Heavner said the Town, in conjunction with Avon, Canton, Granby and Farmington will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on June 18th from 8 – 1 at the Simsbury Public Works Facility.

Ms. Heavner said the road paving work schedule is now available for 2016 on the Department of Public Works webpage. Letters are being sent to residents on the identified streets notifying them of the work to be done.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that it’s time to renew dog licenses, with a deadline of June 30th. Everyone can call the Town Clerk’s office at (860) 658-3243 or by visiting the Town’s website.

Ms. Heaver invited everyone to sign up for summer camps, programs, pool passes and swimming lessons at Simsbury Farms by visiting www.simsburyrec.com.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that June is handicapped parking awareness month. She asked everyone to remember that parking in a handicapped parking space for “just a minute” is 60 seconds too long.

Ms. Heavner said the Town has installed an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant assistive listening system in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall. The devices will help residents with hearing.

Ms. Heavner said the Social Services Department is accepting applications for the Renter’s Rebate Program until October 1, 2016. Applicants must be 65 or older with a maximum income of \$42,900 for couples and \$35,000 for an individual. Please call (860) 658-3283 for more information.

Ms. Heavner said there will be five Fridays of fun with the Talcott Mountain Music Festival, which begins July 1, 2016 @ 7:30 with Celebrate America and ending on July 29th with Faithfully.

Ms. Heavner thanked all the Veterans, volunteers and Town staff that organized and participated in the Memorial Day Parade. She gave a special thanks to Chair and parade organizer, Bob Gauthier, who is retiring after this year.

Ms. Heavner congratulated Mike Paine, on being inducted into the National Waste and Recycling Hall of Fame. He is being recognized for 44 years of service as a “distinguished leader in the industry demonstrating immense commitment to the industry, its workers and the customers they serve.”

Ms. Heavner congratulated Advanced Valley Dental for their newly renovated offices and welcomed the new business owner, Dr. Beenish Orr, DMD.

Ms. Heavner said AvaGrace Gifts has moved into their new location in the Simsbury Town Shops. This shop offers a unique collection of gifts for the home.

Ms. Heavner also congratulated Folly Farm on their new Polo Club. The schedule can be seen on www.simsburypolo.com or by calling (860) 719-9053.

Ms. Heavner said Green Tea Chinese Restaurant temporarily closed for significant renovations for approximately 4 months.

Ms. Heavner said Big Y indicated that they have delayed a start date for at least a year and possibly into 2018 based on internal financial priorities and commitments elsewhere.

Ms. Heavner said the Planning Department has been advised that the Silverman Group continues to press forward on their plans to develop/redevelop the site at 200 Hopmeadow Street. They are close to completing the demolition of the data wing and will be moving south with the intent to complete structural demolition by the end of July.

Ms. Heavner said Garden Homes is now under construction. This development was approved for 181 residential rental units. Everyone can visit <http://www.gardenhomes.com/> for more information.

Ms. Heavner said Highcroft, a 272 residential unit development is also under construction. For more information you can visit their website at <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>.

Ms. Heavner said Berkshire Bank is working on interior fit-out and is not yet open.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Accept State Matching Grant in the amount of \$34,051 and authorize the First Selectman to execute agreements and documents for the Dial-A-Ride Program

Ms. Heavner said the State Matching Grant for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation provides grant funds in the amount of \$34,051, which are used to provide out-of-town medical transportation for our seniors and residents with disabilities through our existing Dial-A-Ride Program.

Mr. Askham made a motion to accept the State Grant of \$34,051 and authorize the First Selectman to execute agreements and documents for the Dial-A-Ride Program. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve Appointment of Town Clerk

Ms. Heavner said the Interviewing Committee felt Ms. Butler’s recommendations were stellar and she was the top choice for Town Clerk.

Ms. Butler said she is very excited to join Simsbury as the new Town Clerk.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the appointment of Ericka Butler as Town Clerk, pursuant to Charter Section 704. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Approve Resolution to Adopt Complete Streets Policy

Ms. Heavner said this came to the Board by the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee to design, build and use the streets to further the health, safety, welfare, economic vitality and environmental well-being of our Town.

James Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development, said this was an effort of multiple departments. He said this is a new way of looking at the movement of people.

Ms. Lang made a motion to waive the reading of the resolution. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to adopt the Complete Streets resolution as attached. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approved proposed Eagle Scout Projects

Gerry Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation, said Tyrus Perdue and Dan Hsu came to Culture, Parks and Recreation on April 28th to present their projects. The projects are at the pavilion at Tariffville Park and at the Simsbury Farms Fitness Trail. They will work with the Building Official and staff while doing their projects.

Mr. Paine made a motion to authorize Eagle Scout projects, from Dan Hsu and Tyrus Perdue, as proposed, to be completed on Town owned property. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Approve Golf Course Tee Time Proposal

Mr. Toner said people don't come to play golf if the forecast calls for a chance of rain and this could increase play. He feels this is worth trying and will hopefully increase revenues.

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve a proposal authorizing the Culture, Parks and Recreation Director and Golf Professional to offer a discounted golf fee on weekends after 11:00 a.m. when the reserved tee time capacity is at 30% or below. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Authorize the Board of Education to apply for a Connecticut School Construction grant for the Henry James Memorial School Renovation – Phase II; referral of the project to the Public Building Committee and authorization of preparation of schematic drawings and specifications

Burke LeClair, Business Manager of Simsbury Public Schools, said they look forward to continuing the renovation project. He said the State grant process needs to be a three part motion. He went through the remaining processes.

Mr. Askham read the following resolutions:

- a) “RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the Town of Simsbury Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Henry James Memorial School Renovation – Phase II Project.”
- b) “RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes the permanent Public Building Committee as the building committee for the proposed Henry James Memorial School Renovation – Phase II Project.”
- c) “RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen authorizes the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications, for the proposed Henry James Memorial School Renovation – Phase II Project.”

Mr. Paine seconded the motion.

Mr. Askham made a “friendly amendment” to correct the word “authorizes”, in b, to “establishes.” Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Review and discuss waiver of \$1,554.34 Building Permit Fee for Roof Replacement at Virginia Connolly Residence

Ms. Heavner said the Housing Authority was awarded a 2015 Small Cities Grant on July 30, 2015, in part, for the replacement of the roof on the Virginia Connolly Residence. The bid has been awarded to JHS Restoration in the amount of \$109,000.00.

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve the waiving of the Building Permit Fee of \$1,554.34 for the replacement of the roof on the Virginia Connolly Residence. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Accept CT DEEP Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Town Hall

Ms. Heavner said the Town has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Public Fleet Electric Vehicle (EV) and Public Workplace EV Charging Station Incentive Program. This grant is expected to cover the purchase and installation of the charging station, but if there are cost overruns, we have additional funding from the Budget Idea Grant.

Mr. Paine made a motion to accept a \$10,000 grant for the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Public Fleet Electric Vehicle (EV) and Public Workplace EV Charging Station incentive Program, for FY16, pursuant to Charter Section 809(a). Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$3,196.71 as recommended and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner said as interest and use in the Simsbury Public Library’s Makerspace tools continue to grow, the Library has developed a plan to convert its reference office into a dedicated Makerspace for use by the public. The Library has funds for this project.

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve plans to transform reference office space into an open and collaborative Makerspace. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Action on Charter Revision Commission Draft Final Report

Ms. Heavner said the Board has several options. However, 4 votes will be needed to pass any motion and therefore, she doesn’t think the Board should vote tonight.

There was some discussion on the options. Attorney DeCrescenzo said if the Board rejects the Charter the Statutes lay out a process where residents can petition it to Referendum. He went through the process and number of days needed through the process. There was also some discussion on the job description of the Town Manager.

There was also some discussion on voting for a Town Manager and what that process would be for changing over of the position. There was also some discussion on what the roles of the Board of Selectmen would be also.

No action taken at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Update and discussion on Senior Community Center Project

Ms. Heavner was looking for dates to have a joint meeting of this Board, Performing Arts Center Board, Aging and Disabilities to discuss this project further. The Board will try to get everyone together for July 11th for this meeting.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

There were no appointments or resignations at this time.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting of May 23, 2016

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

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel:

a) Approval of Library Circulation Assistant Job Description

Mr. Cooke said there were minor changes to the Library Circulation Assistant job description, which reflects the practices at the Library.

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve the revised Circulation Assistant Full Time Job Description. Mr. Askham 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 – no report at this time.

Ms. Lang reminded everyone that tomorrow is Flag Day and Boy Scout Troop 76 will be retiring old, worn out flags in a respectful manner. This will be held at 6 p.m. at the Historical Society.

Ms. Lang said Simsbury made the Sunday, New York Times for use of historical sites. She said lots of people worked on this article

Ms. Heavner said they will discuss the artist rendering of the Betty Hudson Property at the next meeting.

Ms. Heavner said there will be an update of the State's budget.

ADJOURN

Ms. Lang made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk