

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Sean Askham, Michael Paine, Elaine Lang and Cheryl Cook. Absent was Christopher Kelly. Others in attendance included: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo, Jeff Shea, Town Engineer; Chief Ingvertsen and other interested parties.

Ms. Lang made a motion to amend the agenda to place item a) Action on Gladney vs. Simsbury, USDC Case No. 3:13-cv-00646 (MPS) under Selectmen Action to before public audience, so the Town Attorney can file with the Court. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the agenda, after item f), to accept a donation from the Farmington Valley Trails Council. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the agenda to add item b) under Appointments and Resignations to appoint Sub-Registrars. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve the settlement agreement for \$55,000.00 for Gladney vs. Simsbury, USDC Case No. 3:13-cv-00646 (MPS). Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance for a supplemental appropriation of \$27,500 for fiscal year 2017 for the Gladney vs. Simsbury settlement. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Bob Crowther gave the Board a Charter Revision Commission comparison of Chief Executive Office alternatives. He said they didn't discuss the First Selectman position as they were focused on Town Manager or Hybrid (CAO) positions instead.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street talked about the purchase of a golf cart for the Performing Arts Center, the Charter Revision, economic development, corruption political offices, the marijuana factory, and other issues.

Ms. Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive spoke about the Charter, allowing alcohol at concerts, a sign on Iron Horse Boulevard, the electric charging station, and other issues.

Dr. Rinaldi spoke about the form of government and being able to elect Board of Education members with expiration dates for terms of service.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Heavner said it has been a great month in the news for Simsbury. We have received accolades for being ranked among the 15th *Safest Place to Live* in Connecticut; among the 13th Connecticut school districts recognized as a 2016 Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation; and Niche.com rated Simsbury among the top *Best Places* in Connecticut to raise a family.

Ms. Heavner said tax bills will be mailed on June 28th and are due July 1, 2016. The last day to pay taxes is August 1, 2016.

Ms. Heavner told everyone to check their car tax bills due to all of the DMV changes and issues lately. If someone has received a tax bill from Simsbury and have never lived in Simsbury, please contact the Simsbury Assessor’s Office at 860-658-3251.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone to sign-up for emergency alerts for Town news and announcements; Simsbury Community alerts; and the Connecticut Emergency Alert System.

Ms. Heavner said the Town road paving schedule is now available on <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/uploads/pavingschedule2016.pdf>.

Ms. Heavner said construction will begin on June 27th on the new Ice Rink Warming Room at Simsbury Farms. Everyone’s cooperation and patience during this time will be appreciated.

Ms. Heavner said the Town Hall will have an Electric Vehicle Charging Station up and running this week. At this point, there is no charge to the residents for this station.

Ms. Heavner sent best wishes to the retiring Carolyn Keily. She was a great Town Clerk for 32 years and she will be missed.

Ms. Heavner also wished Stephanie Riefe all the best as she moves on to a new job at Westminster School. She too will be missed.

Ms. Heavner welcomed Sarah Loudenslager who joined the Simsbury Public Library as Business Resource Center Coordinator. She may be reached at (860) 658-7663 ext. 2107 or at sarahl@simsburylibrary.info.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that there will be five Friday concerts at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center beginning July 1, 2016.

Ms. Heavner said Hope Family Dentistry is re-opening on Plank Hill; Peachwave has new owners and will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 1st and, there is a new restaurant – Thai Ocha Restaurant on Hopmeadow Street. She also congratulated Nicole Veno on opening her law offices with a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for July 12th. Ms. Heavner said Jason Ross and his wife are the new owners of the Gymnastics Training Center in Simsmore Square. She said Pastels Catering has moved at 542 Hopmeadow Street in Simsmore Square.

Ms. Heavner said the Town Planning Boards have approved 88 residential units on Hoskins Road, but there is no activity there at this time.

SELECTMEN ACTION

b) Approve Sean Kimball as Director of Finance

Ms. Heavner said Mr. Kimball has been employed by the Town since January 2011 and most recently his regular position was that of Deputy Director of Administrative Services. Mr. Kimball supported the Finance Director with preparing the budget and coordinating legal notices for publication and distribution online and in the newspaper. He also assisted in financial analysis. Mr. Kimball has twice served as interim Director of Finance/Treasurer where he was critical to the successful conclusion of those budget seasons.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the appointment of Sean Kimball to the position of Finance Director/Treasurer effectively immediately. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Kimball thanked everyone for their support and said he has enjoyed working with everyone. He is excited to take the position and looking forward to the next budget challenges.

c) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Paine made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$245.51 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Refer pursuant to CGS §8-24 Solar Panels at Community Farm to the Planning Commission

Ms. Heavner said the Community Farm of Simsbury has been offered a gift of a 240kWh Solar Array that would be placed on Town owned property. These panels would reduce the operational costs of the Farm and serve as an educational tool to visitors of the Farm.

Pursuant to CGS 8-24; the Board of Selectmen needs to forward a request to the Planning Commission for review prior to action. No work will be done before the necessary approvals are met.

Mr. Paine made a motion to refer the solar panels request for Community Farm to the Planning Commission pursuant to CGS § 8-24. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Review and Possible Approval of Master Concept Plan for development of the One Old Bridge Road Property

Ms. Heavner said the Board already accepted the recommendation of the Open Space Committee regarding the future use of One Old Bridge Road on August 10, 2015. The Open Space Committee, staff, and Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge have worked together to develop a concept plan for future improvements to this property. Ms. Heavner said funding for \$300,000 was included as part of the FY 2016/17 capital improvement budget and the cost for demolition of the existing structure will be offset by grant funding if approved for the project.

Mr. Shea gave the Board documents and a map showing the enhancements of the property. He spoke about the plan coming together in different phases also.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the Master Concept Plan for the development of the One Old Bridge Road Property. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the Economic Development report at this time. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Kris Barnett, Vice Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission, gave the Board a packet explaining their mission statement, annual reports and powers and duties. She feels they are an effective Board, but they do need leadership from the Board of Selectmen.

There was some discussion on their direction and goals. Ms. Barnett feels it is very hard to meet once a month at 7:30 a.m., when there are people who need to get to work. She also feels they need more collaboration with other Land Use Boards.

The Board also feels there needs to be more discussion about this Commission.

f) Approve Request from Simsbury Performing Arts Center for the Town of Simsbury to co-sponsor the July 1st and September 9th fireworks display and execute contract with American Thunder Fireworks

Ms. Heavner said the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, Inc. requested the Culture, Parks and Recreation Department to contract with American Thunder Fireworks to put on the fireworks displays on July 1st and September 9th. The Performing Arts Center, Inc. will reimburse the Town for the cost of the fireworks as they did last year.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve the request from the Performing Arts Center to co-sponsor the July 1st and September 9th fireworks displays and execute a contract with American Thunder Fireworks. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to accept a donation of \$1,500 from the Farmington Valley Trails Council toward the repair of a section of stockade fence on the Farmington Valley Greenway. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the Senior Community Center Project, under Other Business, before item g) Discussion and possible action on draft Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner said letters were received from the Performing Arts Center and Don Rieger about the multi-board meeting on July 11th. At that meeting there will be discussion on options and costs for this project. She said there hasn't been much discussion from the seniors and all aspects and costs will be up for further review.

g) Discussion and possible action on draft Final Report on the Charter Revision Commission

Attorney DeCrescenzo went through the different dates and procedures that need to be followed for the Charter Revision to be voted on in November.

The Board did agree to eliminate the Human Relations Commission as there are State and Federal functions that can take care of any issues.

The Board discussed the Economic Development Commission again and decided to give recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission on this issue.

There was also some discussion on the form of government and how that would work. They discussed the creation of a Culture Commission, expanding the Open Space Committee, combining Planning and Zoning, form of government, changing the language in the Charter to add Selectwoman, and other issues.

Mr. Askham made a motion, that after consideration of the draft report by the Simsbury Charter Revision Commission, the Board of Selectmen hereby makes the following recommendations for consideration of changes to the draft report:

1) Economic Development Commission

Would the Town benefit from having the EDC remain in the Charter, to give the Board of Selectmen greater flexibility in defining their future role?

2) Culture Commission

The Board of Selectmen asked the Charter Revision Commission to consider its recommendation, given the number and types of existing Culture Organizations and the issue of capacity of staff to another commission.

3) Combining Planning and Zoning

Reconsideration of the Charter Revision Commission's decision not to recommend the consolidation of Planning and Zoning due to staff capacity to staff two separate Commissions in an active era of development and the evidence of an overwhelming number of Connecticut municipalities who operate successfully with a combined Commission.

4) Form of Government

The Board of Selectmen request that the Charter Revision Commission reconsider its recommendation to change the form of government to Town Manager with particular focus on the following:

- a) Compensation of a newly created office of First Selectman under the Town Manager form.
- b) Other possible forms of government including Chief Operating Officer as an alternative to Town Manager.

- c) The Board of Selectmen encourages the Charter Revision Commission to consider additional testimony from existing Town Manager forms of government that have been less than successful.

Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

- a) **Acknowledge the resignation of Mark Deming (D) as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission effective July 1, 2016**

Ms. Lang made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Mark Deming as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission effective July 1, 2016 with our thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- b) **Appoint Sub-Registrars of Vital Statistics**

Ms. Cook made a motion to appoint Richard Vincent, Jr. of Vincent Funeral Home to the Sub-Registrars of Vital Statistics. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a) **Regular Meeting of June 13, 2016**

Mr. Paine made a motion to approve the Regular Minutes of June 13, 2016 as amended. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- Amendment to page 2, 3rd paragraph – (change from Hadley Rhoades to Hadley Rose)
to page 2, 4th paragraph – (change from Chris Barnett to Kris Barnett)

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel:

- a. **Approval of Culture, Parks and Recreation Administrative Secretary I Job Description**

Mr. Cooke said the current Administrative Secretary I is retiring so the staff took the opportunity to look at that job description. It will change the hours from 40 to 35 hours a week and add additional responsibilities to their general duties. There is no change to the salary grade of this position.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the revised Culture, Parks and Recreation Administrative Secretary I Job Description. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Approval of Revised Engineer Job Description

Mr. Cooke said the Engineer job description has been updated to reflect the current administrative functions, scope and systems of projects that are required for the duties and qualifications of the position. There is no change to the salary grade for the position.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the revised Engineer job description. Ms. Lang 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. Cook said the Community for Care will be holding their next program on September 14th on mental health and first aid. She invited the public to attend this interesting meeting.

Ms. Heavner let people know there is help for them if they have substance abuse problems. Please stay away from the new heroin that is on the streets. It is extremely dangerous.

Mr. Askham said he will be talking to the new chair of the Economic Development Commission to discuss concerns regardless to the decision on the Charter. Ms. Heavner said she would also be available to talk to them.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk