

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly and Michael Paine. Others in attendance included: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Carolyn Keily, Town Clerk; Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Appoint Philip Purciello (R) as a Selectman of the Board of Selectmen with an expiration date of December 7, 2015

Ms. Heavner welcomed Mr. Purciello and his fiancé to the Board of Selectmen meeting. She said Mr. Purciello was nominated to fill the vacancy of Ms. Haase, who resigned, with an expiration date of December 7, 2015.

Mr. Askham made a motion to appoint Philip Purciello as a Selectman to the Board of Selectmen with an expiration date of December 7, 2015. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Swearing in of Philip Purciello

Ms. Keily, Town Clerk, swore in Mr. Purciello as a Selectman to the Board of Selectmen.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about her candidacy for First Selectman. She doesn't feel that Mr. Purciello should be elected as a First Selectman as he has no work history in Simsbury. She also spoke about the use of marijuana and ticket sales at concerts in Town, the proposed senior center and clean well water. She wants to have Town debates with the candidates running for First Selectman.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, said there was a court order for public audience posted in this room and it should be followed. Mr. Kalechman quoted a saying in the Disabled American Veterans Magazine. He also spoke about the public not being asked about the election of Mr. Purciello and why he didn't think he should be elected. Mr. Kalechman said there is a lot of corruption going around and it needs to stop. He is also running as an unaffiliated candidate for First Selectman position.

Rick Wagner from the Chamber of Commerce, let everyone know what the Chamber of Commerce is doing for the community. They are working hard to open the Visitor's Center, and their first

directory was published last month. He let everyone know what activities the Chamber was hosting. He said they are planning a trip to Tuscany in March with a total cost of \$2799 per person. For more information, everyone can log on to simsburycoc.org.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Saving Brandon – Bone Marrow Registry Program**

Allen Brandt and his son David spoke about the Bone Marrow Registry Program. Mr. Brandt said he and David are on a crusade to save lives by donating bone marrow. They said it is a very rewarding experience.

David said he had an incredible experience donating bone marrow to a 19 year old boy in Pennsylvania. He said the process is very easy and the procedure is painless. He was in the registry for about one year before he received a call that he was a match to a sick patient – a perfect match. He said he had a great experience. He actually met the boy’s family, as the boy is not well enough yet to meet him, however, they do keep in contact.

Mr. Brandt said for further information everyone can go to bethematch.org. They now want to do a video about this great experience.

Ms. Heavner told David how proud the community is of him for stepping up.

- **Simsbury Grange**

Susan Masino had a slide show about The Grange. She said The Grange Organization was started shortly after the Civil War to support communities in rural, agricultural communities.

Ms. Masino said the Simsbury Grange was in danger of closing, when a few people got together to revitalize it. The address is 238 Farms Village Road. They are having a fair on September 12th. They also rent The Grange, have exercise classes and other activities there. For more information everyone can go to simsburygrange.org. To join The Grange it is \$40 per year and the members also volunteer for other activities in Town when asked. It is a sweet little spot in Simsbury and she asked everyone to check it out.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury received a Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Program Award. The grant is in the amount of \$775,580 and it will be used to cover the costs of site improvements and road work at Owen L. Murphy Apartments and a roof replacement at Virginia Connelly Residences where the existing roof is long past the expected life. She thanked everyone who helped in obtaining this grant.

Ms. Heavner said one of the top concerns for residents is maintenance of Town roads. She said the Public Works Department worked closely with SCTV to prepare a video describing every part of taking care of our roads. She recommended everyone watch SCTV at www.simsburytv.org and click

on Simsbury Public Works Road Paving to view the video. She thanked Tom Roy, Kevin Clemens and the Highway Department staff and well as Karen Handville and SCTV staff who made this video possible.

Ms. Heavner said the first day of school is August 26th. She reminded everyone that if they are enrolled in a State of local Social Service program, they could be eligible for the Back to School Program for Simsbury families. Eligible families will receive a Walmart gift certificate to purchase school clothes or school supplies for their children. To set up an appointment or get additional information, please call the Social Services Department at 860-658-3282.

SELECTMEN ACTION

c) Approve Tax Refunds

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$28,909.15 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Approval of Additional Buildings at the Community Farm

Mr. Roy said they are asking the Board to review several buildings, for different uses, at the Community Farm. Everything will be reviewed by Town Council to make sure it is in compliance with the deed and lease for the Farm. He said the Farm is becoming more active each year and they are doing a great job.

Mr. Roy introduced Diana Goode. She said the pavilion will be constructed and paid for by the Triumph Company in Windsor. She said they received a grant for the Greenhouse.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to authorize the Gifts of Love/Community Farm of Simsbury to construct the following structures on the property, pending all necessary approvals from the Conservations Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Zoning and upon review by Town Council for compliance with the deed for this property

- Pavilion / Three Season Classroom
- Greenhouse
- 2 High Tunnels (temporary unheated greenhouses)

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 Simsbury Landfill fees in regards to mattress disposals. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine recused himself.

Mr. Roy said there is change in the legislation involving mattress recycling legislation fees. We have a signed contract with Paine’s, Inc. and now there is no longer a fee for the disposal at Paine’s

Landfill. Now we need to amend the contract that the Town has with Paine’s as they will not have to charge a fee for mattress disposal anymore.

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the fee schedule at the Simsbury Landfill to allow the elimination of all fees associated with mattress disposals as requested by Paine’s, Inc. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Paine returned to the meeting.

e) Review Proposed Fire Hydrant Ordinance and set Public Hearing date

Chief Jim Baldis, and Deputy Chief / Fire Marshall Kevin Kowalski were introduced. Ms. Heavner said this proposal was unanimously supported by the Public Safety Committee. The action tonight will be just to set-up a Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Kowalski said there are over 600 fire hydrants in the Town that they need to maintain and service. In some cases, these hydrants are blocked. He passed around some pictures of what they come across when they are trying to maintain these hydrants. This is why they are asking for this ordinance.

Chief Baldis said the fire hydrants need to be visible and accessible when they go out on calls. He said other surrounding communities have this ordinance and say it has worked very well.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to set a Public Hearing date of September 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to review the proposed Fire Hydrant Ordinance. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Approval of Tentative Agreements with CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Units

Ms. Heavner thanked the Town employees who bargained in good faith. She feels the agreement is fair to the employees and residents.

Mr. Cooke said there were three goals going into these negotiations; to make sure that any settlement is in line with the budgetary goals; to make sure the employees are getting competitive salaries and benefits; and to make sure the Town makes sure they follow the regulations of the Affordable Care Act. He said this ended with a four year contract, with possible changes after the first two years. He went through his report with the Board.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve Tentative Agreements between the Town of Simsbury and The Simsbury Secretarial, Clerical and Library Town Employees Association; the Simsbury Administrative and Professional Employees Association, and the Simsbury Administrative and Professional Supervisors’ Town Employees Association and to authorize the First Selectman to execute the collective bargaining agreement as modified. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Approval of Appropriation for and Memorandum of Understanding with the Veterans Memorial

Ms. Heavner thanked everyone for their generous donations which amounted to \$200,000. She said the Town received a STEAP grant in the amount of \$150,000 as well. The Town will be responsible for the construction and maintenance of this Memorial.

Attorney DeCrescenzo said this is a memo of understanding by the Veterans and the Town to set forth rules and responsibilities for the monument. The Town will do bidding for this project and the Veterans will also be involved in the decision.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve an appropriation of \$350,000 to include a STEAP Grant of \$150,000 and a donation of \$200,000 from Simsbury Veterans Memorial, Inc., for the construction of a Veteran’s Memorial. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the First Selectman, on behalf of the Town of Simsbury, to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Simsbury and Simsbury Veterans Memorial, Inc. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

h) Approval of One Old Bridge Road Recommendation

Ms. Heavner said the Open Space Committee has held numerous public discussions to gain input for One Old Bridge. She said funds in the amount of \$48,000 are available from the approved initial purchase of the property. Additional funds may also be available if the Town receives the \$39,998.48 FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant which was applied for.

Mr. Askham said the Board of Selectmen has been committed to this project for a long time now. The improved site could become a destination for the residents. There seems to be a fair amount of flexibility for the site as well.

Ms. Cook thanked all the volunteers for their vision and feels this is a great asset to the Town.

Ms. Cook made a motion that the Board of Selectmen accept the recommendation of the Open Space Committee regarding the future use of One Old Bridge Road. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Update on Senior Community Center Project

Ms. Heavner noted that there was an updated posted on the Town website. She said the program consultant will be coming again and there will be more focus groups.

Ms. Cook asked about the architect interviews. Mr. Cooke said they are close to a final decision and there will be more information to follow.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Appoint Deputy First Selectman

Ms. Heavner gave some background on the appointing of the Deputy First Selectman and how it was normally the choice of the First Selectman to appoint a Deputy First Selectman. She feels it should be up to the First Selectman to decide who should be the Deputy First Selectman and would appreciate the Boards support in her choice of Mr. Kelly becoming the Deputy First Selectman.

Ms. Heavner made a motion to elect Mr. Kelly as Deputy First Selectman. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. They were the only two in favor and therefore, the motion was defeated.

Mr. Paine made a motion to elect Mr. Askham as Deputy First Selectman. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. Mr. Paine, Ms. Cook, and Mr. Purciello voted in favor, with Ms. Heavner and Mr. Kelly voting against and Mr. Askham abstaining. Therefore, the motion passed.

Mr. Askham noted that the Charter does have protections in it for the Town and parties. He looks forward to working with Ms. Heavner. Ms. Cook said they are following the Charter.

Mr. Kelly said he would be voting no in appointing Mr. Askham, in protest of the majority party’s decision to appoint someone to this position without any regard to the input of the First Selectman. He said his protest is not indicating that Mr. Askham wouldn’t be effective in this role, as he feels he will be. He will vote no in protest as it does run counter in making a decision to install a member of the Republican Party and larger consideration and actuality that the First Selectman appoint her Deputy First Selectman.

b) Acknowledge the resignation of Margaret R. Sexton (D) as a regular member of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency effective August 1, 2015.

Mr. Askham acknowledged the resignation of Margaret R. Sexton as a regular member of the Conservation Commission/ Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency effective August 1, 2015 with thanks. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) Appoint Unaffiliated Members to the Charter Revision Commission

Mr. Kelly said the three nominations are highly qualified individuals for this Commission. They interviewed several people before making a decision. There was also feedback from unaffiliated voters that they should be represented better in this Commission.

Mr. Askham said each one of the nominees have lot to offer and will be a great asset to the Commission.

Ms. Cook made a motion to increase the number of unaffiliated positions on the Charter Revision from one (1) to three (3) and to appoint Robert K. Crowther, James A. Ray and Hadley C. Rose as unaffiliated members to the Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Cook made a motion to amend the agenda to accept the resignation of Philip J. Purciello as a regular member of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to accept the resignation of Philip Purciello as a regular member of the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency effective August 10, 2015 with our thanks. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor, with Mr. Purciello abstaining, and, therefore, the motion passed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- a) **Special Meeting of July 23, 2015** – no action was taken and therefore, the minutes were adopted.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Personnel** – Mr. Kelly said they would initiate the process of recruiting unaffiliated members to the Ethics Commission
2. **Finance** – there was no report at this time.
3. **Welfare** – there was no report at this time.
4. **Public Safety** – there was no report at this time.
5. **Board of Education** – there was no report at this time.

Ms. Heavner recused herself and gave the chair to Mr. Askham.

Mr. Kelly, Liaison of the Economic Development Commission, said there was a meeting at The Hartford with the Silverman Group about mixed use development. They talked about working with Town staff. They feel that Simsbury is an exciting Town.

Ms. Heavner returned to the meeting.

Ms. Cook said there are renovations being done at Squadron Line and Henry James Middle School, which will hopefully be completed by August 26th - the first day of school.

ADJOURN

Mr. Paine made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk