

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Michael Paine, Christopher Kelly, Nancy Haase, Cheryl Cook, and Sean Askham. Others in attendance included Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, and other interested parties.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

David Richman, representing the Chamber of Commerce, gave the Board some information on upcoming activities. He said there is a new website, facebook and an expansion on the bike friendly business community in Town. He said they awarded Mary Glassman “Public Servant of the Year”, Martin Geitz “Business Leader of the Year” and Melissa Fearington “Educator of the Year”. Mr. Richman said they have plans for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Simsbury Spooktacular Chili Challenge on Halloween.

Mr. Richman, 1 Saddle Ridge Drive, spoke about the real estate market in Town. He said it is not in a good cycle right now. House prices are going down and this is not good for anyone selling for their homes.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about her candidacy and policies she would like to see for the Town. She also spoke about tax rebates that shouldn’t have been given, conflict of interests with Town staff, sewer back-ups in the Town office building and The Hartford property.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about when he ran for Representative for the 16<sup>th</sup> District. He said politicians lie about increasing taxes. Mr. Kalechman said the Board is operating with an illegal Charter. He wants politicians to tell the truth.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Heavner said there were no presentations at this time.

### **FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Heavner said on May 29<sup>th</sup> there was a spectacularly successful Tootin’ Hills PTO Duck Race. There were 3,500 ducks racing. Of the 50 businesses participating in the “business duck” race,

Tulmeadow Farm won by a beak. Ms. Heavner congratulated Johanna Merriman and all of those involved with this great event.

Ms. Heavner congratulated both the organizers and participants in the Iron Horse Half Marathon, which drew 2,300 runners and their supporters to Simsbury. She congratulated Sean Askham who also ran. She said the event organizers worked with the Town to minimize the impact of the event on residents and thanked them for their hard work.

Ms. Heavner reminded everyone that the Regional Hazardous Waste Collection will be held Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 to noon at the Public Works Facility. More information can be read on <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/public-works-grounds/pages/bulky-waste-recycling> or by contacting the Public Works Department at 860-658-3222 or the Simsbury Landfill at 860-658-9481.

Ms. Heavner said Simsbury residents are invited to visit the Wadsworth Athenaeum free of charge on Simsbury Open House Day, Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will need to bring a proof of residency. For more information about the events, please call 860-838-4100 or visit the Athenaeum's website at [www.thewadsworth.org](http://www.thewadsworth.org).

Ms. Heavner said she was pleased to announce that CMS is presenting its Founder's Award to our Director of Planning and Community Development, Hiram Peck. The award is given in recognition of individuals and organizations who dedicate themselves to promoting a comprehensive management approach to the revitalization of Connecticut's historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.

Ms. Heavner asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence for the passing of Gordon Gyngell, who retired from the position of Chief of Police with the Town of Simsbury in 1990 after forty – three years of service. We are grateful to Gordon for all he did for the Town, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family.

### **SELECTMEN ACTION**

#### **a) Approve Proposed Eagle Scout Project**

Ms. Heavner introduced Michael Richard, who is proposing an Eagle Scout project to enhance the walking path and building a walkway in the woods from Town Forest Park to Tootin' Hills School that will allow children to walk to school without walking in the road. This project was approved by the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission at their May 28, 2015 meeting.

Michael explained where the walkway would be going and what materials he would be using. He said the cost would be approximately \$650. He would be fundraising and asking for donations. He would be finishing the project by September.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve the proposed Eagle Scout project of Michael Richard subject to all Land Use approvals. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Approve Tax Refunds**

Ms. Haase made a motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$5,796.09 as recommended and requested by the Tax Collector. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**c) Approve submission of application and acceptance of Highway Safety Grant award in the amount of \$16,700 and creation of a Special Revenue account for receipt of funds**

Ms. Heavner said the purpose of this grant is to assist local governments who qualify as a “High Risk Rural Road” municipality with Specialized Speed Enforcement Operations beyond their police agency’s routine patrol activities, and to address “Special Events” that municipality may be hosting. This grant award will also allow awarded agencies to purchase two Lidar/Doppler Speed Measuring Devices.

Ms. Heavner thanked the Police Department for applying for this grant.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the submission of application and acceptance of Highway Safety Grant award in the amount of \$16,700 and the creation of a Special Revenue account for receipt of these funds. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) Referral of Simsbury Farms Improvement Project to the Public Building Committee**

Ms. Heavner said this project was approved at the Referendum on May 5, 2015. Therefore, a resolution is needed to formally delegate oversight of the Simsbury Farms Skating Rink and Pools project to the Public Building Committee. It is also to delegate the tennis courts.

Mr. Askham made a motion “Resolved, that, in accordance with Section 612 of the Simsbury Town Charter, as amended, the Board of Selectmen hereby charges the Public Building Committee with the responsibility for carrying out the design and construction oversight for the Simsbury Farms Skating Rink and Pools Project and Tennis Courts.” Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) Approve submission of and authorize the First Selectman to sign a Connecticut State Department of Education Youth Service Bureau Grant Application in the amount of \$14,000 with a local match of \$8,000 which has been budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget**

Ms. Heavner noted that Mickey Le-Cours-Beck applies for this Grant every year. There are programs included in the Board packets.

Ms. Cook made a motion to approve submission of and authorize the First Selectman to sign a Connecticut State Department of Education Youth Service Bureau Grant Application in the amount of \$14,000 with a local match of \$8,000, which has been budgeted for in FY 2015-16. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**f) Review and Possible Action on Affordable Housing Policy Statement**

Ms. Heavner said this policy statement is not ready for Board of Selectmen review at this time. She is recommending referring it to the Land Use Boards and Town Counsel at this time.

Mr. Askham made a motion to refer the Affordable Housing Policy Statement to the Land Use Boards and Town Counsel for review. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**g) Authorize the First Selectman to sign a Letter of Intent and related to documents for Investigation and Potential Purchase of the Town's Street Lights**

Ms. Heavner said this is a request from Tom Roy, which satisfies the bid requirements. This purchase will allow for better customer service and greatly reduce energy costs. The anticipated electricity savings are approximately \$96,369 per year. This was not part of the budget process as this information was just obtained last week.

Mr. Roy said the Public Works Department has been looking to purchase and maintaining street lights in Simsbury for a number of years now. This offers a great opportunity and greater customer service. ESCO will go through Town and document what street lights we have and will work directly with Eversource to come up with final number. He feels it makes great financial and environmental sense.

Mr. Askham made a motion to authorize the First Selectmen to sign a "letter of intent" with ESCO Energy Services Company. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Update on Senior Community Center Project**

Ms. Heavner said they are in the process of hiring a consultant on the senior center programming and what space is needed for programming. They are also anticipating that the survey results will be in by the end of this week or beginning of next week. The Architect

Selection Committee is meeting Wednesday to solicit questions to the public as to what they are looking for in an architect. The Committee will be making the final decision.

Mr. Cooke said Town staff met with the Performing Arts Center representatives on their programming issues, including an architect they have to help them. They just want to make sure what each side needs when an event is put on.

Ms. Heavner recused herself from the meeting and turned the chair over to Ms. Haase.

**b) Update on The Hartford Insurance Property**

Mr. Cooke said he spoke to representatives of The Hartford and they said there is a lot of interest in that property. They are not able to announce anything at this point. They also confirmed that they will be continuing to use the buildings throughout 2015 for employees who are temporarily displaced as they are finishing the restructuring and refurbishing of the downtown offices. They repeatedly said that the charrette was very successful in keeping interest in that space.

Ms. Haase said the update on this property will remain on the agenda monthly to keep residents informed.

Ms. Heavner rejoined the meeting.

**c) Update on the State Budget**

Ms. Heavner spoke about the memo from Joseph Mancini, Finance Director/Treasurer. He said the Simsbury is fortunate to have received additional funding for fiscal year 2016 over and above the recently approved budget. He said the only material change in town will receive ECS funding over and above what was approved by the town in the amount of \$321,696. The ECS funds will be a direct pick-up to the general fund revenue and correlate to roughly 0.15 mills. He also said the State is capping the mill rate on motor vehicles at 32.00 mills.

**d) Discuss Public Hearing Date for Simsbury Business Incentive Program**

The Public Hearing date for Simsbury Business Incentive Program will be held on June 22, 2015 at 6 p.m. No motion is necessary as this is not an ordinance. Mr. Cooke will make sure a 10 day notice is given.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

Ms. Heavner said there were no appointments or resignations at this time.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

#### **a) Special Meeting of May 11, 2015 – Public Forum**

No action was taken and therefore the minutes were adopted.

#### **b) Special Meeting of May 11, 2015 – Hometown Hero**

Ms. Haase made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2015 – Hometown Hero- as amended. Mr. Paine seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- **Amendment to Page 1 – Selectmen action (a) Wanda Coleman (change to Wanda Colman). Also, Mr. Paine introduced Wanda Coleman (change to Mr. Paine introduced Wanda Colman).**

#### **c) Regular Meeting of May 11, 2015**

No action was taken and therefore the minutes were adopted.

#### **d) Special Meeting of May 15, 2015**

No action was taken and therefore the minutes were adopted.

Ms. Heavner said there will be a joint meeting of Open Space, Conservation and Parks and Recreation on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Library to discuss the Ethel Walker Woods master plan. No action will be taken. There will also be discussion on the Betty Hudson property. Recommendations will then be made to this Board.

### **SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. Personnel:**

##### **a. Approval of Building Department Specialist Job Description**

Mr. Kelly said this position was discussed during the budget process. This was formerly the Administrative Secretary II – Building position. This position is being expanded with added technological functions.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve job description, title and salary range changes for the position of Building Department Specialist from T8 to T 10. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b. Approval of Deputy Building Office Job Description**

Mr. Kelly said this position was discussed during the budget process also. This was formerly the Assistant Building Official position. The responsibilities are being expanded as well.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve job description, title, and salary range changes for the position of Deputy Building Official A2 to A 6. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. Mr. Paine made a spelling correction on the word “manner”. Mr. Kelly amended his motion to include the correction. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Kelly said the Personnel Sub-Committee developed a draft proposal of language for the Charter Revision. This will be brought forward at the next Board meeting. Mr. Askham suggested that the Board move on this at the next meeting.

**2. Finance** – Ms. Heavner noted that Mr. Mancini is in the process of setting up a Finance Committee meeting to review the capital planning process.

Mr. Kelly spoke about the Community for Care, which provides access for people who need help for social services and health and mental health support. They have developed a website as well. He gave a magnet out to the Board with information on it. He thanked everyone for their help and information. This is a great way to get help.

**3. Welfare** – no report at this time.

**4. Public Safety** – no report at this time.

**5. Board of Education** – Mr. Kelly said graduation is Friday. A new High School Principal was appointed. He was formerly from Woodbury and it was an exhausting process.

Ms. Heavner thanked Ms. Cook for handling Senior Citizen Art Night. Ms. Cooke said it was a great event for seniors, students and teachers.

Mr. Askham said the Iron Horse ½ Marathon volunteers did a great job on making sure residents got out of their streets when they needed to. It was a great event.

Ms. Haase said the Economic Development Task Force is meeting Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

Ms. Haase reminded everyone that it is Handicapped Parking Awareness Month. People need to be mindful of parking spaces and the lines so handicapped people have access to their vans.

Ms. Haase said June 19<sup>th</sup> is wear purple to work day. June is Alzheimer’s Awareness Month also.

Ms. Heavner said Mike Jennings met Tom Roy and Mr. Cooke at Eno Memorial Hall and went through with his wheelchair to try to do some problem solving with Mr. Roy. It just helped to show the challenges at Eno that the handicapped residents have.

Mr. Cooke said problems were all high-tech problems. Somethings were very simple to solve.

#### **ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

##### **a) Simsbury Hopmeadow Street, LLC vs Town of Simsbury with Town Counsel**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, to discuss Simsbury Hopmeadow Street, LLC vs Town of Simsbury with Town Counsel, at 8:17 p.m. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

In addition to the Board of Selectmen, Town Assessor David Gardner, Town Counsel Robert DeCrescenzo and Director of Administrative Services Thomas Cooke were present. Ms. Haase noted for the record that she was no longer providing services to Ensign Bickford and that she was no longer required to recuse herself.

#### **ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Cook made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **POSSIBLE ACTION**

Ms. Cook made a motion to accept the proposed settlement in the matter of Simsbury Hopmeadow Street, LLC vs. Town of Simsbury based upon proposed market values for the subject property of \$11,000,000 for Assessment Year 2013; \$11,000,000 for Assessment Year 2014; \$9,000,000 for Assessment Year 2015; and \$8,250,000 for Assessment Year 2016 with all assessments to be based on these values. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **ADJOURN**

Ms. Haase made a motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk