

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order in the Main Meeting Room at 5:33 p.m. Present were: First Selectman Lisa Heavner; Board members Michael Paine, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly, Elaine Lang and Sean Askham. Others in attendance included Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Sean Kimball, Director of Finance, and other interested parties.

Ms. Heavner said she put out the poster of Money Magazine’s “Best Places to Live in America”. She said Simsbury is a great place to live, not because of what we have, but because of the people who make it such a great community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There was no public audience at this time.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approval of the Hometown Hero Nominees

Ms. Lang made a motion to approve the Hometown Hero Nominees for 2016; Peter Askham, Roger Coombes, Pam Kelley, and Nick Mason. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner said this is an opportunity to recognize and thank all of you who are shining of the community who step up to help this community.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Hometown Hero Awards Presentation Ceremony:**
 - **Peter Askham**

Ms. S. Askham congratulated his dad, Peter, who has served the Town for many years in a variety of volunteer positions. His posts include 19 years on the Simsbury Board of Finance; the Simsbury Economic Development Commission and the Board of the Simsbury Public Library.

Mr. Askham was also a Simsbury youth soccer coach for 12 years and has earned several levels of coaching licenses. He was also on the Friends of Simsbury Crew Board and has volunteered preparing its tax returns for 12 years.

Mr. Askham is a member of the St. Mary's credit union board and he was the founder of Simsbury Bank. He has also been a member of the Simsbury Republican Town Committee for 27 years.

Mr. Askham said a large reason why he is standing here is because his dad's volunteerism and selflessness to give to the community has inspired not only him but many others. He thanked his dad and said this is very much deserved.

Mr. P. Askham thanked the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and the Home Town Hero selection committee for this honor. He also thanked the residents for their volunteerism. It takes a lot of people and a lot of effort to make this town so great and he appreciates them. He also thanked his wife and family for always allowing him to follow his passion. He said his parents instilled community involvement in him.

Mr. Askham gave everyone a challenge: that residents get involved; that everyone work together for improvement; and to leave the town in a better place from when you started here.

Ms. Heavner recognized and thanked Michael Paine, Tom Horan, Roger Spear, T. J. Donohue and Len Lanza who were part of the 2015 Hometown Hero Selection Committee.

- **Roger Coombes**

Mr. Kelly said he and Mr. Coombes have been friends since the 7th grade. He said he can vouch for everything that was put into this nomination. He said Mr. Coombes and his family have been a part of sports in Simsbury since the 60's and 70's. He said Mr. Coombes coached little league, and the travel basketball team for 15 years. Mr. Coombes has had a positive impact on so many of our youth. He teaches tactic, strategy, and fun, but also value to athletes. He has been the voice of SCTV basketball and football for 10 years. In fact, he bleeds blue and gold. Mr. Kelly was very pleased to recognize Mr. Coombes tonight.

Mr. Coombes said it is always exciting to coach our youth. He still sees graduating athletes who still talk to him. It's very gratifying. Mr. Coombes thanked the Town and Selection Committee for this great honor. It's very exciting. He was born and raised in Simsbury and he thanked his family for all their support. He also thanked Farmington YMCA, St. Mary's of Simsbury, Simsbury Little League, Simsbury Travel Basketball, Simsbury Babe Ruth and Simsbury High School.

- **Pam Kelley**

Mr. Paine said Ms. Kelley is beyond a wonderful asset to the Town and especially for the Simsbury Public Library, where she has been an active volunteer with the Friends of the Simsbury Public Library. She has also been a “sorter” and “packer” for the annual used book sale. She has also been the sole organizer of the ongoing bookstore. She does all this in her free time while also helping care for her grandchildren and working at Tulmeadow Farm.

Mr. Paine said Ms. Kelley also continues to serve on the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary which she has done for 15 years.

Mr. Paine congratulated and thanked Ms. Kelley for all she does.

Ms. Kelley thanked everyone for this honor and said it was a great thing to stand amongst the other Hometown Heroes. She said she came to volunteering as everyone in her family was a volunteer. She said you just get up and just do it. Ms. Kelley said it is great to live in the greatest Town.

- **Nick Mason**

Ms. Heavner thanked Mr. Askham and Mr. Mason for helping her with the budget. She said they never put politics into their positions but look at it as being public servants.

Ms. Heavner said Mr. Mason is a very good person and it is an honor to know him. She feels the community is better for what he and the others have done for the community. Mr. Mason is also a very kind man who can be counted on.

Mr. Heavner said Mr. Mason has been a member of the Board of Finance for 14 years. He is the treasurer for Simsbury Community Television, the Old Drake Hill Flower Bride, and the Powder Forest Homeowners’ Association. He is the board president and past treasurer of the Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association and active on the Simsbury Democratic Town Committee. Mr. Mason is also active in the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce and on the board of Simsbury Bank.

Ms. Heavner said Mr. Mason is a long-time member of the Simsbury Light Opera Company and he teaches an annual seminar/class in the “banking school”.

Mr. Mason is a frequent rower on the Farmington River, a marathon runner, a devoted husband, father and grandpa.

Mr. Mason said he retired from his job 15 years ago. He feels it is good to be involved in different things. He feels Simsbury is a great place to live, work and volunteer and he feels grateful to be a part of it. It has been a lot of fun. He read his horoscope from yesterday's paper. He thanked his wife and the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Heavner said there were refreshments in Room 103 for everyone.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Sincerely,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk