

DRAFT
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting with Chamber of Commerce
75 Great Pond Road
February 11, 2011 – 8:00 a.m.

The Board of Selectmen convened the meeting at 8:05 a.m. Attending was: First Selectman Mary Glassman, Deputy First Selectman John Hampton, Lisa Heavner and Moira Wertheimer.

Peter Pabich of the Chamber thanked everyone for coming and explained the informal format.

Mrs. Glassman gave a brief update on the economic conditions facing the Town. She stated that the Board of Selectmen will receive the 2012 budget at the February 14, 2011 meeting. She said the budget proposal is 0.21 % increase or a \$36,961 increase over last year. She explained a big increase in residents in need of financial assistance and food donations. The Town of Simsbury is also waiting to find out the details of the Governor's budget address on February 16, 2011. Early reports indicate the Town's Education Cost Sharing funds will remain static.

Hiram Peck, Director of Planning and Development, reported on the Town Center Code stating the Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on March 21st. Mr. Peck also updated the group on the Route 10 corridor study which was very well attended; more than 100 people attended the introductory meeting and more than 100 people were at the closing session. He stated all of the information on the study is posted at www.crcog.org and will go the Steering Committee and the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Mr. Pabich asked about the status of the sewer usage and installation charges and impact on development and business community. Phil Richardson, chair of the Water Pollution Control Authority and Paul Gilmore, secretary of WPCA attended to address concerns. Mr. Richardson explained that the WPCA is open to the idea of amortizing commercial hookups similar to residential hookups which allow a 10-year payback. Mr. Peck said he will draft suggested language to forward to the WPCA.

Mr. Pabich also asked for an update of the fee in lieu of open space policy. Chip Houlihan and Mike Paine, members of the Planning Commission, said the commission will consider the draft policy at their next meeting. He said there was concern that the fees be used for passive recreational or agricultural purposes. Mrs. Glassman reported that Lou George, member of the Economic Development Commission, questioned whether the policy could be used for recreational fields. The group agreed that comments concerning the policy should be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

In other business, Chamber President Dennis Jacobs urged the Town to support the proposed Septemberfest. He said it was a good proposal for the Town. Mrs. Glassman said the Performing Arts Center Board and PAC manager Tom Vincent are preparing a plan for the Board of Selectmen to review. Mrs. Glassman said while the Board is supportive of the plan, the board made clear it should not cost the taxpayers money. She also said she was concerned that the compensation of 50 percent profits distributed to Mr. Vincent may make it difficult to attract volunteers. She said the Board of Selectmen is expected to receive the proposal in March. Mrs. Heavner added that the numbers show that Septemberfest is not a money maker for the Town like other PAC events but that it brought good will to the Town. She said the Board is supportive as long as the Town doesn't lose money. Mrs. Wertheimer asked Mr. Jacobs if Septemberfest brings people to downtown and if it helps local business. Mr. Jacobs said it brings thousands of people to Town.

Charity Folk, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, urged the Town to participate this year in the Real Estate Exchange to promote local business. She also reported the Chamber is working with the Town to establish a cell phone walking tour of the downtown, which would include the Simsbury Cemetery and other historic locations and businesses.

Ms. Folk also informed the group that a new men's barber shop will have a ribbon cutting on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 11 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman