

From: Susan Mazurski August 14, 2008 9:05:49 AM
Subject: Board of Selectmen Minutes 07/14/2008
To: SimsburyCT_SelectMin
Cc:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members Moira Wertheimer, Robert Hensley, John Hampton, Michael Long and Richard Hogan. Others in attendance included: Brandon Robertson, John Loomis, Howard Beach, Sarah Floroski, Emil Dahlquist, and other interested parties.

Recognition of Beth & Glenn Gerber and the America Legion for their efforts with the Simsbury Support our Troops Initiative

Mr. Hampton said that Mr. & Mrs. Gerber contacted him as they were inspired by their nephew who is in Afghanistan. They realized that our troops need support and their morale lifted by people in communities. Therefore, they asked residents to donate items to send to the troops. They ended up with 25 boxes of items to send. They asked how to pay to send the boxes to Afghanistan. The American Legion stepped in to get the boxes of donated items sent to our troops.

Mr. Hampton presented the Gerber's and the American Legion members with special Simsbury pins for their efforts.

Mr. Gerber thanked the Selectmen for their support and the Town support for our troops. They would like to be as successful next year as well.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Grace Connors, of the Board of Directors of the Simsbury Main Street Partnership, said she was bringing the public something special. She introduced Sherry, the Market Master for the Simsmore Square Farmer's Market. Sherry said everyone is tired of wasting gas going from market to market to purchase different foods. She, therefore, started this community market of 28 vendors, which will run from June 19 through October 2, 2008. It is open from 3 - 7 pm.

Sherry said they not only have produce and vegetables, but also crafts, a coffee roaster, soaps, etc. She can't wait for this market to grow and expand each year.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, said a Town Management form of government is needed now. She said as a result of her FOI request from the Police Department, the Captain's file was received and reviewed by her. She said he has been reprimanded several times and more needs to be done about the problems with him. She also asked why the Police Commission minutes are not posted on the internet.

Ms. Coe said she has recently seen several articles highlighting speeding on neighborhood roads. There are three different speed limits on the same road. She feels the Public Safety Committee should study the speed limits in Town and come up with a plan for road safety.

Ms. Coe said the taxpayers here pay the highest taxes in the valley. She feels a taxpayers group is needed that would discuss budget issues in Town.

Ms. Coe showed pictures, as attached, of a tree at Town Forest Pond that is a hazard. She also showed a picture of a vent in the Police Department dispatch area that shows mold and dirt. She said there is a lack of maintenance there. Ms. Coe showed a picture of a building in Town Forest Park that needs repair. She also showed a picture of the Memorial Field swim house that needs maintenance and roof repair. Ms. Coe showed a picture of the Skate Board Park at Memorial Field with rules for helmets and pads. This sign has been vandalized and needs repair. In the lower part of the picture it shows a boy without any helmet or pads and skating alone, but him in danger. Ms. Coe showed a picture of the bathroom in Town Forest Parks with boarded windows, where maintenance is needed. Ms. Coe also showed a picture of the pavilion in Town Forest Park in disrepair. She feels there is failure in the Town staff to maintain the Town's buildings. A professional manager is needed.

Ms. Coe said all of her comments can be read on Simsbury.com/forum.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, thanked the people for their service to the Veterans. He would like to amend the remarks to read, not only Afghanistan, but to include Iraq also and the death of Sargent Felix DelGrecco in Iraq.

Mr. Kalechman had an editorial and pictures from the Hartford Courant about Senator Dodd. He asked everyone to read these articles.

Mr. Kalechman said he felt the last meeting was out of order as there was

no quorum. Ms. Glassman noted that the Board members just heard Public Audience. Mr. Kalechman read Roberts Rules of Order, number 43 about a quorum.

Mr. Kalechman spoke about the Simsbury Music Festival budget. He asked for the budget, salaries and expenditures. He feels the Board has given broken promises and he wants change.

Sue Bednarczyk, 119 E. Weatogue Street asked for help with planting at the gravestone on her street that has been taken care of by her father. She gets poison ivy very badly and would like people who are interested in helping her to call 651-5130.

Ms. Bednarczyk also said she feels the Charrette is good for land use planning and good zoning. There are many grants available and this Charrette needs to be done.

Robert Wise said he asked to be put on the agenda to discuss the completion of a contract. Ms. Glassman said this will be discussed with item #14. Mr. Wise said he would wait for his comments until then.

Kirsten Griebel, Chairman of Simsbury Citizens First, spoke about the appointment of Nancy Miller to the Aging & Disabilities Commission. She feels she would be a great asset to this Commission, but to this day she has heard nothing about being appointed. She would like this appointment to be put on the agenda again.

Mr. Hensley said there was some confusion as he thought the Republican Town Committee would be contacting Ms. Miller, but they thought he would make the call. Mr. Hensley will contact the Republican Town Committee chairman to straighten this out. He apologized for the error.

Steve Mitchell, 422 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about the Rails-to-Trails issues. He gave the Board a list of five items that need to be handled as soon as possible. Mr. Mitchell also mentioned that other Towns have taken notice of the project and are trying to complete their own projects to the Rails-to-Trails. The trail will be paved from Farmington to the Mass. line.

John Loomis, 500 Firetown Road, chairman of the Planning Commission, said there were eight respondents to the Charrette initiative. He feels it is very important that the Land Use Boards and Commission are involved in this process.

1. Review, discuss and possibly authorize the First Selectman to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to consultants to conduct a Charrette and Form-

Based Zoning Code work as described in the RFQ/RFP Document approved by the Board of Selectmen.

After some discussion about sending out a RFP to all or some of the respondents, Mr. Hogan made motion to authorize the sending out of a RFP to the eight firms that responded to the RFQ and, in addition, to form a committee to evaluate the information which would be made up of the First Selectman and designee, the Zoning Commission Chairman or his designee, Planning Chairman or his designee, Conservation Chairman or his designee, Inland/Wetlands Chairman or his designee, Economic Development Chairman or his designee, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman or his designee, Design Review Board Chairman or his designee, and Board of Finance Chairman or his designee. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Ms. Glassman said the Committee would be under FOI and the public is invited to attend the meetings.

2. Review, discuss and possibly approve Policies and Procedures to govern a Special Revenue Fund entitled "Planning Charrette Revenue and Operating Fund."

Mr. Hensley made motion: "Be it resolved, that the Board of Selectmen hereby adopt the Policies and Procedures to govern the Simsbury Planning Charrette Revenue and Operating Fund as recommended by the Town Attorney and recommends the adoption of same to the Board of Finance." Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

3. Welcome to Simsbury Sign Project Update

Mr. Hensley said there were 19 members on the committee to discuss the "Welcome to Simsbury" signs. He introduced Terri-Ann Hahn, of LADA, P.C. Land Planners. She showed everyone different signs that were discussed during the committee meetings. They are looking for signs to improve the signs, but still reflect the character of the Town. She showed different designs of ground/wall signs and column signs that were discussed.

Ms. Hahn also showed different materials used in the different signs and different sizes of signs. She said the Committee still needs to come up with a final design and cost of the signs. They also need to go to the D.O.T. for their consideration and then to bid before installing the new signs. This issue will be discussed at future meetings.

Ms. Glassman said they would place pictures on the website for public comments. She also noted that the Town received a \$10,000 grant for this project.

Mr. Hensley noted that the Civic Organizations have been contacted about

placing their logos on the signs as well. There would have to be some type of procedure for their logos to be placed on the sign.

4. Review, discuss and possibly approve a request by the Director of Finance to transfer \$30,000 from reserves to establish an appropriation for the expenditure grant funds awarded by the Office of Policy and Management.

Mr. Hampton made motion that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves an appropriation, in the amount of \$30,000.00, from reserves, pursuant to Section 909 (a) of the Town Charter for the purposes of establishing an appropriation for grant funds. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

5. Review, discuss and possibly authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Ms. Glassman said the State received funds from Homeland Security and the Town received money, which Homeland Security decides where it is allocated.

Ms. Wertheimer made motion: "Authorizing Resolution of the Board of Selectmen; CERTIFICATION: I, Mary Glassman, the First Selectman, of the Town of Simsbury do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on July 14, 2008, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mary Glassman, as First Selectman of the Town of Simsbury, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Simsbury and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents." Mr. Long seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

6. Review, discuss and possibly approve a request by the Finance Director to close the following Capital Projects Funds.

Capital Project Fund 340-Economic Development Fund Est. 5/02

Capital Project Fund 339-Development Rights Est. 5/02

After some discussion, Mr. Hampton made motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to close the Capital Project Fund, the 340 Economic Development Fund and 339 Development Rights, to fund balances as recommended by the Director of Finance in a memo dated July 8, 2008. Mr. Long seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

7. Review, discuss and possibly approve FY 08 budget transfers totaling \$658,175 as recommended by the Director of Finance.

Ms. Glassman said the books have been closed for last year's budget. Therefore, \$658,175 needs to be returned. The Board of Finance and Director of Finance decided where to put the funds.

After discussion, Mr. Long made motion to adopt the budget transfers as recommended by the Director of Finance in a memo dated June 10, 2008 totaling \$658,175.00. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

8. Review, discuss and possibly authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement with Fiddler's LLC, for the provision of a Visitor's Center Agreement.

After review, Mr. Hampton made motion to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a revised agreement with Fiddler's, LLC as presented in a July 11, 2008 memo. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

9. Review, discuss and possibly authorize the disposal of surplus equipment as requested by the Director of Social Services.

Mr. Hogan made motion, "Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes the disposal of surplus equipment as outlined in a memo by the Director of Social Services, dated July 9, 2008. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

10. Review, discuss and possibly approve Tax Refunds as requested and recommended by the Tax Collector.

Mr. Hampton made motion to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$897.01 for the period covering June 18, 2008 - July 9, 2008 as presented by the Tax Collector. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

11. LIAISON REPORTS

There were no liaison reports at this time.

12. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Glassman asked that the Board approve a 0% increase in the First Selectman's salary. Also, she recommended a 2.5% increase for the unaffiliated employees. She then recused herself from this portion of the meeting and turned the meeting over to Mr. Hampton, the Deputy First Selectman.

Personnel

a. Review, discuss and possibly approve a recommendation from the Personnel Sub-Committee regarding the FY 09 Compensation Package for Unaffiliated Employees.

Mr. Long said the Sub-Committee met and discussed several salary ranges from other Towns in the area. They discussed the consumer price index as well. Therefore, the Committee recommended a 2.5% across the board increase for unaffiliated employees with no increase in cost sharing for benefits for next year.

Mr. Long said the Sub-Committee also recommends that the Town set aside \$6,000 for merit increases to be used at the discretion of the First Selectman.

After some discussion, Mr. Long made motion to increase salaries 2.5% across the board, with no change in cost sharing. Also, to institute a cost sharing study to relate to salary level, and to set aside \$6,000 merit increase account for the First Selectman to administer this year. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Review, discuss and possibly approve carry over of vacation time accumulated in excess of the amount permitted under Section 9.10 c of the Personnel Rules and Regulations as recommended by the Personnel Sub-Committee.

Mr. Long said a few meetings ago the Board adopted a resolution to change the language about vacation policies. They acknowledged that there are existing employees who are in excess of the policies. This time would be worked off before the end of the fiscal year '09-'10. Great progress has been made with this time.

Ms. Glassman returned to the meeting.

c. Review, discuss and possibly adopt a policy as recommended by the

Personnel Sub-Committee concerning the use of Town Vehicles.

Mr. Long said there was a lot of discussion on this issue.

After some discussion, Mr. Hampton made motion to adopt the "Use of Town Vehicles Policy" as recommended by the Personnel Sub-Committee. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hampton made motion that any new or replacement vehicle purchases need to come before the Board of Selectmen before purchasing vehicle. Ms. Glassman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Welfare

There was no Welfare report at this time.

Public Safety

Mr. Hampton said there would be a Public Safety meeting on Thursday at 7 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a. Review, discuss and possibly appoint members to a Clean Energy Task Force.

Ms. Glassman made motion to approve the following volunteers to serve on the Clean Energy Task Force: Patrick Boeshans, Lori Fernand, Alfred Weisbrich, James A. Ray, Susan VanKleef, and Carol Kruse. The Board of Selectmen will direct them to elect a chairman among themselves. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Review, discuss and possibly appoint Liz Banco as the Town's representative to the Central Regional Tourism District Board.

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to appoint Liz Banco as the Town's representative to the Central Regional Tourism District Board of Directors. Ms. Hogan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

LEGAL ACTION

Review, discuss and possibly take action regarding Robert J. Wise v. Town of Simsbury HHD-CV-08-5017253-S.

Ms. Glassman said this issue has been discussed many times and has been pending for a long time. There is litigation pending on this issue, but

the Board can re-authorize a \$10,000 claim to settle this action.

After some discussion, Mr. Hampton made motion to re-authorize the settlement offer of \$10,000.00 in total as a final offer in this legal action regarding Robert J. Wise v. Town of Simsbury. If this \$10,000.00 is not accepted, then proceed with the claim. Mr. Long seconded the motion. Four were in favor with Ms. Wertheimer and Mr. Hogan against the motion. The motion, therefore, passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Review, discuss and possibly approve Special Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2008.

Mr. Hogan made motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2008. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b. Review, discuss and possibly approve Regular Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2008.

Mr. Long made motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2008. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion. All were in favor, with Ms. Wertheimer and Mr. Hampton abstaining. Therefore, the motion passed.

c. Review, discuss and possibly approve Special Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2008.

Mr. Hogan made motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2008. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor with Mr. Long abstaining. Therefore, the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Hensley made motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman

