

From: Susan Mazurski November 15, 2011 2:32:34 PM
Subject: Board of Selectmen Minutes 11/03/2011 SPECIAL APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SelectMin
Cc:

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Special Meeting
Thursday, November 3, 2011
3:00 p.m. – Simsbury Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy First Selectman John Hampton called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Also present were Robert Hensley, Lisa Heavner, Nancy Haase and Moira Wertheimer. Town safety and administrative personnel were also present to report on the status of the power outage. First Selectman Mary Glassman joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Storm update and possible action

The Board of Selectmen received reports from Town safety and administrative personnel on the status of the power outage in Simsbury. Kevin Kowalski, Director of the Town's Emergency Operations Center, described actions underway to work with CL&P to restore power, to ensure that residents had appropriate food, water and shelter and specific efforts to ensure the safety of Town residents. Chief of Police Peter Ingvertsen reported on police staffing levels and coverage and on coordinated efforts with the Fire Department to make sure that the Town can reach residents on badly damaged streets. Public Works Director Tom Roy reported on the status of clean-up operations and the Town's efforts to coordinate with CL&P. He noted that the situation was still dynamic with trees likely to fall as a result of high winds. Reports were also received from Charity Folk of the Chamber of Commerce, Town Engineer Richard Sawitzke and State Representative Linda Schofield.

b) Municipal Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2011 and possible resolution re: consolidation of four town polling places into one polling place at Henry James School per recommendation of Democratic and Republican Registrars of Voters

Town Clerk Carolyn Keily and Registrars of Voters Karen Cortes and Margaret Diachenko informed the Board of Selectmen that in spite of the storm, the State of Connecticut had decided to move forward with municipal elections on November 8, 2011. They indicated that after a meeting with Town Counsel on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 they had decided to change the location of three of the four polling places and to combine all polling places into one location at Henry James Memorial School (District #1). Voters who would have voted at Latimer Lane School (District #2), Tootin' Hills School (District #3) or Tariffville Grammar School (District #4) will now vote at Henry James.

The Town Clerk and Registrars asked the Board of Selectmen for endorsement of their decision and cited the following reasons for the change:

- the possibility that power would not be restored at all polling places before election day;

- the high costs involved with installing generators at four polling places;

- the inability to provide heat at polling places using generators;

- the difficulty of and safety risks associated with lighting parking lots, particularly after the end of Day Light Savings;

- the possibility that school will resume on Tuesday and safety concerns related to polling at schools with children returning to school (citing a letter from School Superintendent Diane Ullman); and

- a serious risk to the integrity of the elections given the challenges in staffing four polling places – many of the certified poll workers have left town and are inaccessible, and many of the students who would have worked the polls could be returning to school.

The Town Clerk and Registrars noted that Henry James has already been noticed as a polling place. They indicated that in conversations with counsel for the Secretary of State, the Registrars would make their best efforts to advertise the consolidation of polling places.

Ms. Glassman stated that the Town would make its best efforts to publicize the consolidation, using the Town's website, "reverse 911" and sandwich boards. After further discussion of the consolidation, Ms. Glassman asked for a motion to endorse the decision of the Registrars and Town Clerk to consolidate polling places into one polling place at Henry James. Ms. Heavner made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hampton. The Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There were no speakers for public audience.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mr. Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Wertheimer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman
First Selectman