

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 26, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members Nancy Haase, Moira Wertheimer, John Hampton, Lisa Heavner and Sean Askham. Others in attendance included Tom Cooke, Colleen O'Connor, Ed LaMontagne, and other interested parties.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive complained that the Town didn't have this agenda posted early enough and the website didn't have the agenda posted either. The meeting did meet FOI guidelines, but did not meet transparent distribution of information by the Town staff.

Ms. Coe is concerned that the public audience part of the agenda isn't going well. The Board has allowed it to become confrontational with the First Selectman losing control of the meeting. The Board was ordered, by the court on November 14, 1990, to maintain public audience and set aside a half-hour for the public to speak, with each person having 5 minutes. It also states that the Board serves at the pleasure of the residents, not the Board. She feels that the Board is not interested in concerns of the people because there is a large timer on the screen and the bell goes off in 5 minutes. She feels there needs to be change. A Board needs to be elected who are interested in what the residents feel, not just the lobbyist.

Ms. Coe said the golfers donated a \$5,000.00 gift to the Town, which the First Selectman said the Town would match. She said the First Selectman noted she would find the \$5,000.00 in the budget. Is this an appropriate use of Town money? At a Housing Authority meeting, the First Selectman said the Highway Department would plow the private road. She asked if the Housing Authority paid for this service. The Town also paid for a Performing Arts study. Ms. Coe doesn't feel this is the best way to spend Town money.

Ms. Coe said the Board was asked about a deal from the Land Trust about selling Pharos Farm. This was supposed to be used for athletic fields. There should be an environmental study on the property before anyone purchases the property. She doesn't feel the Board should be in a partnership with the Land Trust.

Ms. Coe spoke about Powder Forest and said this land was set-up for affordable housing for people over 55. She feels that now that the age restriction has been lifted and younger people

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with children will be moving in, the taxpayers will have to pay for their education. Now, the affordable housing restriction is in question. She feels the Board should not lift the restrictions for affordable housing.

Ms. Coe said Eno Farms has not been sold because of ongoing negotiations. There is a sign there stating the property is for lease. This is deceptive advertising. Ms. Coe asked if there has been any further communications on this issue.

Ms. Coe showed a picture of the garbage barrel at the paddle courts. It is full of alcoholic beverage bottles and she can't understand who could play while intoxicated. She asked if there are designated drivers for people after play. The Board needs to review the drinking alcoholic beverages on Town property again.

Ms. Coe also spoke about the budget and feels there shouldn't be any increased taxes for the residents.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke again about politics. He said, when he was running against Ms. Schofield, she said everything was going to be cut. However, taxes and fees were all increased. He doesn't feel the Democratic Party is doing a good job.

Mr. Kalechman said he feels that Mr. Hampton should resign from the Board as he now works for the State of Connecticut and there will be conflict between the two positions. Once again, Mr. Kalechman did congratulate Mr. Hampton on his State Representative position.

Mr. Kalechman said there are not too many State grants coming and cuts can't really come from Education or Public Safety. He wanted to know where the cuts are going to come from. He feels the Board needs to start doing the homework as serious issues are coming up at the beginning of the year.

**PRESENTATION**

**North Central Regional Mental Health Board Update - Ed LaMontagne**

Mr. LaMontagne said the North Central Regional Mental Health Board is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization which includes 37 towns in Region IV.

They examine different issues of different groups including housing, mental health, employment, etc. The Board is also comprised of six Catchment Area Councils (CAC's) of which our Town is CAC 18. He gave the Board a written report as attached.

Mr. LaMontagne said the total number of Simsbury residents who receive mental health services

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was 184, which is a decrease from SFY 2010. The priorities for the Town of Simsbury including working with Social Services to identify any special mental health issues or needs; developing and coordinating transportation resources; investigating “clubhouse” activities in the Farmington Valley, and working with the legislature on legislation relative to mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Glassman noted some concerns about how the Town can help to get the word out that there is help. Mr. LaMontagne’s speaking at this meeting will help. Everyone needs to know that all information is confidential. There was some discussion on putting the new flyer on the website and getting help by accessing 211 as well.

**FIRST SELECTMAN’ REPORT**

Ms. Glassman thanked those in the community for their generosity and thoughtfulness to the Town. She said Marion Strindberg passed away at the age of 90. There was a \$10,000.00 donation made in her name to the Social Services Department. The Social Services Department would like to rename the Wednesday lunch program the Strindberg Lunch Program.

Ms. Glassman said if anyone wishes to make a donation they may contact the Social Services Department. She said the Town is involved with an Adopt a Toy Program; Helping a Neighbor Program and a Non-perishable food donation program.

Ms. Glassman also said that the State will be recognizing Veterans on their driver’s licenses. They will also receive ID cards to define what benefits they can receive. There is a form that needs to be filled out that is available on the DMV website. The Town website will also have a link. The Town can help the Veterans if they need help with the form.

**SELECTMEN ACTIONS**

**a) Approve Tax Refunds**

Mr. Hampton made a motion to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$1,142.38 as requested and approved by the Tax Collector. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Accept a financial donation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Estate of Marian E. Strindberg**

Ms. Haase made a motion to accept a financial donation from the Estate of Marion E. Strindberg in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Social Services Department. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**c) Approve Communication Specialist job description**

Ms. Haase made a motion to approve the Communication Specialist job description. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**d) Approve CROCOG Regional Performance Incentive Grant**

Ms. Wertheimer made a motion to endorse the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal referenced in Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) for the following proposals to be submitted by the Capitol Region Council of Governments:

1. Code Enforcement Software
2. Human Resources On-line Clearinghouse and Templates
3. Human Resources Town Employee Portal - Regional Development
4. Local call Log and Management System
5. Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory
6. Regional Mutual Disaster Recovery

Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**e) Set public hearing of December 10, 2012 for possible sale of Pharos Farm to the Simsbury Land Trust**

Mr. Hampton made a motion to set a public hearing of December 10, 2012 for possible sale of Pharos Farms to the Simsbury Land Trust and to spend up to \$3,000.00 for an independent appraisal. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**f) Approve proposed Board of Selectmen meeting dates for 2013**

Ms. Wertheimer made a motion to approve the proposed Board of Selectmen meeting dates for 2013. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Update on public hearings regarding the Senior Center**

Ms. Glassman thanked the Public Building Committee for all their hard work on this project. She said there are four sites being considered: Eno Memorial Hall; Stratton Brook/Bushy Hill Roads; Performing Arts Center and Iron Horse Boulevard lot.

Ms. Glassman said the findings will be presented on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 12:45

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p.m. at Eno Hall and again on Monday, December 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall. All of the information has been sent out to the seniors.

**b) Budget Calendar for FY14**

Ms. Glassman said the March 26<sup>th</sup> budget meeting has been changed to March 25<sup>th</sup> due to the Jewish holiday. These dates comply with the changes being made to the Charter in January 2013.

**c) Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update**

Ms. Glassman said the Town is working on a plan to update the FEMA model for identifying risks with potential disasters. She said there will be public input on the process, which will be conducted early next year. This will allow us to prioritize infrastructure and services needed to better withstand disasters. She will keep everyone informed of the progress and schedule of presentations.

**d) Update on ProAct Prescription Program Update**

Ms. Glassman said this is the first update on the ProAct Prescription Program as it has only been running for two months now. There have been 118 claims with 57 cards being used so far. The total costs were \$8,211.00 with resident savings of \$4,138.66. This program is off to a good start with people saving money.

**APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

**a) Re-appoint James A. Ray as a regular member of the Clean Energy Task Force with a term of 2 years from December 5, 2011 to December 2, 2013**

Ms. Wertheimer made a motion to re-appoint James A. Ray as a regular member of the Clean Energy Task Force with a term of 2 years from December 5, 2011 to December 2, 2013. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**b) Appoint Melissa Valentin to fill a vacancy as a regular member of the Clean Energy Task Force filling the vacancy of Ned Cosgrove, May 30, 2012**

Mr. Hampton made a motion to appoint Melissa Valentin as a regular member of the Clean Energy Task Force. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**a) Regular Meeting of November 14, 2012**

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2012. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion with corrections. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Personnel** - no report at this time
2. **Finance** - no report at this time
3. **Welfare** - no report at this time
4. **Public Safety** - Mr. Hampton thanked everyone involved with Simsbury Celebrates including the committee members, sponsors and public safety officials. He said it was a great event.

Mr. Hampton reminded everyone that on Saturday, December 1, 2012 Tariffville will be holding their holiday event. Food donations will be collected at 1 p.m. at the gazebo and the holiday sing begins at 4 p.m.

5. **Board of Education** - no report at this time

**ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk