

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room in Simsbury Town Hall. Present were First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Steven Antonio; Board members Curtis Looney, Diana Yeisley and Kevin Beal. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Marc Nelson; Deputy Town Manager Tom Fitzgerald; Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether, Budget Director Melissa Appleby, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- Participants can address the Board of Selectmen in person at the meeting
- Email townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov by noon on Monday, March 25, 2024 to register to address the Board of Selectmen live through Zoom
- Written comments can be emailed to townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov. Written comments will not be read into the record, but forwarded to all Selectmen via email

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the March 11th meeting, free speech, demolishing the pool and putting in a splash pad, the skateboard park removal, pickleball, the Police Department, staff retirements, and other issues.

Lori Boyko, 15 Oakhurst Road, spoke about why the Board of Selectmen run for the office, serving the community, preserving freedom of speech, and setting rules for the Board and not for people they serve, and other issues.

FIRST SELECTMEN'S REPORT

First Selectman, Wendy Mackstutis, reviewed her First Selectman's report.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager, Marc Nelson, reviewed his Town Manager's report.

SELECTMEN LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Personnel** – there was no report at this time.
- Finance** – there was no report at this time.
- Public Safety** – Ms. Yeisley said their meeting is on Thursday.
- Board of Education** – Ms. Yeisley said their meeting is tomorrow.

Mr. Antonio said there are positions open on the Board of Zoning Appeals. He asked residents to step-up and volunteer to help the Town. You can go to the Town website or go to your political affiliation for more information.

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Mr. Antonio also said the Historical Society is having a funding drive as they are looking to have an Executive Director. It is a worthy cause.

Ms. Yeisley said Parks and Recreation is having a Flashlight Egg Hunt on Thursday at Simsbury Meadows starting at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Yeisley said the Aging and Disability Commission movie event showing Luca was well attended. There will be more events upcoming including the picnic in July.

Mr. Beal said the Human Library event was well attended. It encouraged people to discuss the content with other people and great conversations were had.

Mr. Beal said today is National Medal of Honor Day and he thanked those for our nation's freedom.

Ms. Mackstutis said the Fair Rent Commission is getting ready to do fair rent interviews sometime in April.

Mr. Antonio made a motion to amend the agenda to add item g: Capital Region Council of Government. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

(20:59)

Mr. Beal made a motion to move item a) tax refund requests to the Consent Agenda. Also, to move a through d under Appointments and Resignations to the consent agenda. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Tax Refund Requests

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

b) Schedule a Public Hearing for Proposed Amendments to the Town of Simsbury Retirement Income Plan (27:05)

Ms. Mackstutis said there is a lot to read on this item. It started as a discussion on the Police Department's classification of people and their age of retirement while keeping the leadership in place. Labor Counsel said to include other leadership positions not just the Police Department. The Police Commission created a resolution stating they are in favor of the changes as they are the best thing for the Town. Mr. Nelson also sent a letter stating the changes were favorable for the Town.

After some discussion about how this impacts two parts of the plan, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective March 25, 2024, to schedule a Public Hearing to receive public comment concerning proposed amendments to the Town of Simsbury Retirement Income Plan for 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting on Monday, April 15, 2024. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

c) FY 24/25 Budget Discussion (48:37)

There was discussion on changes made after reviewing the proposed budget with the Board of Finance including the revisions to the CIP and CNR bonding changes. The \$10,000,000 bonding will be bi-annually moving forward. We do have a looming debt service issue. There was also discussion on the Board of Education flooring projects and amphitheater, Flower Bridget, Memorial Pool, etc.

Ms. Yeisley noted that the Public Hearing on the budget is on April 3, 2024.

After discussion, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective March 25, 2024, to recommend the revised FY 24/25 Capital Improvement Plan and FY 24/25 Capital Non-Recurring Plan to the Board of Finance. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

d) Board of Selectmen Rules and Procedures Discussion

Mr. Beal said the Board listens to public comments about the concerns on the rules and procedures at the Board of Selectmen meetings. They have a right to address grievances to the Board, but the Board also needs to make time to conduct its business. He supports free speech, but there is a time, place and manner of speaking. He also wanted to know if the Board wanted to allow visual aids or even power-point presentations.

Mr. Antonio said he feels the Town Charter needs to be updated as it hasn't been done in 8 years. The rules and procedures could be part of the Charter.

At this time, the Board follows Roberts Rules. The Board could always ask for a recess if needed and then come back to the meeting. Let people know how to address their grievances. There was no motion at this time.

e) Proposed Updates to Library Job Description (1:10:54)

Mr. Fitzgerald said there are three division heads, one of which is open, and one is being filled as an acting role. He said the Library Director was looking at the job descriptions before posting for the openings and there was one sentence about who becomes acting the head of the Library in the Library Directors absence. The current descriptions say the acting head of the Library would be the Head of Adult Services. They wanted this sentence removed so the Library Director could choose who it should be based on experience and other criteria.

Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective March 25, 2024, to adopt the updated job descriptions for Head of Borrowing and Technology Services, Head of Adult Services and Head of Children Services with the friendly amendment changes. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Proposed Review to Hometown Hero Program Guidelines (1:14:40)

Ms. Mackstutis said the Hometown Hero Committee discussed the guidelines for Hometown Hero and made a few suggestions. The advertising for this starts April 1st.

Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective March 25, 2024, to adopt the proposed Hometown Hero Program Guidelines with changes made tonight. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

g) Capital Region Council of Government (1:16:35)

Ms. Mackstutis said the CRCOG has the Town's chief elected officials attend their meetings. They are also asking for an alternate member to attend. Most other towns elect their Town Manager's to attend the meetings and she is hoping that she and Mr. Nelson can both go to the meetings. The Town needs to approve this and send it to CRCOG.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective March 25, 2024, to appoint Marc Nelson as an alternate to the Capital Region Council of Government Policy Board. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Reappointment of Sheree Landerman to the Board of Assessment Appeals

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

b) Resignation of Mark Freeman from the Zoning Board of Appeals

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda

c) Resignation of David Moore from the Zoning Commission

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

d) Appointment of Matthew Lidestri to the Technology Task Force

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

REVIEW OF MINUTES (1:17:50)

a) Review Minutes of March 9, 2024 Budget Workshop

Mr. Beal made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2024 Budget Workshop. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Review Minutes of March 11, 2024 Regular Meeting

Mr. Beal had a correction: Page 8 a) Amy McLean Salls (not Salle);

Ms. Mackstutis had corrections: Page 2 – the Public Meeting is on March 28th not March 20th

Page 4 – There was no motion on the table to change Main Street Partnership from \$50,000 to \$75,000

Ms. Yeisley had a correction on Page 2 – under Sub-Committee Reports – Super Tuesday should be spelled Souper.

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective March 25, 2024, to adopt the Regular Meeting minutes with corrections made. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communication discussions at this time.

ADJOURN

Mr. Looney made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk