

**Board of Finance  
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 1, 2021, at 5:30 P.M.  
In Person Meeting/Simsbury Community Television Live Stream**

**PRESENT:**

Lisa Heavner, Arthur House, Robert Pomeroy, Kevin Prell, Derek Peterson and Linda Schofield.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Amy Meriwether, Director of Finance; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Matt Curtis, Superintendent of Schools; Neil Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent; Susan Lemke, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Eric Wellman, First Selectman; Sean Askham, Deputy First Selectman; Jackie Battos, Selectman; Wendy Mackstutis, Selectman; Chris Peterson, Selectman; Amber Abbuhl, Incoming Selectman; Heather Goetz, Incoming Selectman; Mike Doyle, Incoming BOF; Robert Helfand, Incoming BOF; Susan Salina, BOE Chair; Todd Burrick, BOE; Lydia Tedone, BOE; Brian Watson, BOE; Tara Willerup, BOE

**1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum**

Mr. Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. FY22/23 Budget Discussion with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education**

Mr. Pomeroy stated their goal is to serve the town by coming up with a balanced budget, and an efficient way to operate. The job of the Board of Finance is to ensure the town can afford what is being submitted, and maintain a good fiscal discipline. He noted each of the three boards will present their priorities and then discuss them as a group with the goal of achieving consensus.

Ms. Capriola started with the Town presentation and gave a high-level overview of their budget. She noted that the Board of Selectmen will be holding a goal setting session on December 11, 2021, where they will determine their policy goals and priorities for their two-year term. She outlined the current areas of focus for the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager. Budget challenges and issues were then reviewed, and the presentation concluded with the Town's estimated fixed costs.

Ms. Salina started off the Board of Education budget presentation noting that their budget planning process starts in October. She then outlined their strategic priorities which are reviewed every five years. Mr. Curtis went into the details of the presentation starting off with the 2022 – 2023 projected enrollment numbers mentioning that 5-year projections indicate an increase of 445 (11%) students. He then reviewed their estimated fixed costs and provided a snapshot of the enrollment and staffing trends between 2012 and 2022. Mr. Curtis concluded with a summary of the FY2022/23 COVID Recovery Grants, mentioning they have received \$1.2M overall since the start of the pandemic and outlined available funding totaling \$657,312.

Mr. Pomeroy presented the Board of Finance budget overview starting off by outlining their goals and decision points. Mr. Pomeroy mentioned the long-term obligations include \$41M in debt which shouldn't be lost sight of when planning the next years budget. He noted the target for the pension interest rate assumption has been reduced from 6.5% last year to 6.25% this year. Mr. Pomeroy concluded with sharing the standards of review and reminders of the current Town policies. He compared Simsbury data to neighboring towns, showed an order of magnitude on what a tax increase from their current mill rate meant on a per-household basis, and presented historical grand list numbers.

Further discussion ensued.

#### **4. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Mr. Prell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18P.M. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marion Lynott  
Commission Clerk