

Subject to Approval

**Town of Simsbury Board of Finance
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 8:15PM
Henry James, Junior High School – Cafeteria
155 Firetown Road, Simsbury, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Barbara Petitjean, Jeff Blumenthal, Robert Pomeroy, Kevin Prell, Linda Schofield, and Moira Wertheimer.

ABSENT: None.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Barbara Petitjean called the Special Meeting to order at 8:16PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. DISCUSS RESULTS OF REFERENDUM (POSSIBLE ACTION):

The Board reviewed the results of the referendum. Mr. Pomeroy read off the vote tallies for each question put forth at the referendum:

Of the 922 votes cast regarding the first question pertaining to the Board of Selectmen's budget, 722 were in the affirmative, representing 78% of the electorate casting a ballot, resulting in this question passing.

Of the 922 votes cast regarding the second question pertaining to the Board of Education's budget, 679 were in the affirmative, representing 73.6% of the electorate casting a ballot, resulting in this question passing.

Of the 922 votes cast regarding the third question pertaining to the Sewer Use Fund (Sewer Treatment Plant), Residential Rental Properties, Simsbury Farms/Special Programs, Non-Public Schools, Debt Retirement/Capital and Capital Non-Recurring annual budgets, 748 were in the affirmative, representing 81.1% of the electorate casting a ballot, resulting in this question passing.

Of the 922 votes cast regarding the fourth question pertaining to the appropriation for the Trails, 635 were in the affirmative, representing 68.9% of the electorate casting a ballot, resulting in this question passing.

Of the 922 votes cast regarding the fifth question pertaining to the expenditure for the Roads, 812 were in the affirmative, representing 88.1% of the electorate casting a ballot, resulting in this question passing.

Of the 922 votes cast regarding the sixth question pertaining to the Junior High School, 689 were in the affirmative, representing 74.7% of the electorate casting a ballot, resulting in this question passing.

Of the 922 votes cast regarding the seventh question pertaining to cooling for the Junior High School, 683 were in the affirmative, representing 74.1% of the electorate casting a ballot, resulting in this question passing.

Ms. Petitjean thanked all the people who voted.

4. MILL RATE CONSIDERATION:

Ms. Petitjean reminded the Board that they had spent a lot of time with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education and reviewed several iterations to be able to deliver a zero increase mill rate. Ms. Petitjean reported that there has been word of another threat coming from the State level to take more money away from towns. She explained that the Board's budget was done based on the latest information from what the state legislature had put forward. Ms. Petitjean noted that the threats of cuts coming from Hartford has been an ongoing story and that the estimates received were numbers the Town would be able to cover through its reserve levels. Ms. Petitjean explained that the Town won't know whether a possible governor's cut would even stand after the legislature gets back in session. This is why Simsbury maintains a healthy reserve position although it is not fair that the State would consider changing the numbers down after the fact, or after the Towns have created and approved their budgets, Ms. Petitjean noted.

Ms. Petitjean reported that with what has been approved through the referendum allows the Board to hold the mill rate at the same level. Interim Finance Director Sean Kimball explained that the mill rate will actually be lower than that of two years ago.

Mr. Pomeroy noted that the interaction between the boards was very good and positive and thanked the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education for that, noting that when faced with possible changes, they were all very responsive. He also opined that the levels of debt repayment have been appropriately set and are consistent with the policies of the Board of Finance. Ms. Schofield echoed these sentiments. Additionally, she noted that a concern commonly heard from residents is how critical it is to hold taxes flat as the Town continues to compete with neighboring communities.

MOTION: Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal second, **to set the real estate Mill Rate for the 2017 Fiscal Year of 37.12 mills; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal second, **to follow Connecticut's state law and cap the Mill Rate on motor vehicles at 36 mills; unanimously approved.**

MOTION: Ms. Wertheimer, Mr. Prell second, **to adjourn at 8:28PM; unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela A. Colombie
Commission Clerk**