

**Simsbury Board of Finance
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
SPECIAL TRI-BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 5:45PM
Simsbury Public Library – Large Program Room
725 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Robert Pomeroy, Jeff Blumenthal, Derek Peterson, Kevin Prell, Linda Schofield and Moira Wertheimer.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Sean Kimball, Deputy Director of Administrative Services Melissa Appleby, State Representative John Hampton; First Selectman Lisa Heavner, Selectmen: Chris Kelly, Cheryl Cook, Mike Paine, and Sean Askham and First Selectman-Elect Eric Wellman; Superintendent of Schools Matthew Curtis, Simsbury Schools Business Manager Burke LaClair, Director of Personnel Neil Sullivan, Board of Education Chair Tara Donohue Willerup, Members: Susan Salina, Lydia Tedone, Thomas Frank, Jeffrey Tindall and Todd Burrick and other interested parties.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 5:45PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. TRI-BOARD MEETING TO DISCUSS FY19 BUDGET WITH BOARD OF SELECTMEN & BOARD OF EDUCATION:

As it was Mr. Blumenthal's last meeting as a Board of Finance member, he was acknowledged and thanked for his many years volunteering in Simsbury.

A PowerPoint presentation prepared by Mr. Pomeroy and Mr. Kimball entitled "FY18-19 Budget Preparation" was shared with the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. The importance of beginning the dialogue among the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education and their respective staffs was indicated as a driver to this tri-board meeting. Included in the slides were: Budget Sensitivity, reflecting the impact of various changes to either expenditures or revenues in terms of dollars and mill rates; FY19 Preliminary Expenditure View, providing guidance of a cap on increased expenditures for the BOS and BOE expense budgets at 1.75% and FY19 Cash for Capital Expenditure; FY19 Preliminary BOS Expenditure View and BOE Expenditure View; FY19 State Revenue Challenges, including the Renter's Rebate and Elderly Circuit Breaker, teacher's pension and other cuts in municipal aid; Preliminary Revenue Picture, providing early projections of the grand list increase as well as assumed State aid cuts; Possible Reserve Commitment, reflecting FY17, FY18, and FY19 Unassigned Fund Balance; and FY19 Capital Planning/Financing, a bar graph first created by Mr. Kimball and former BOF Chairman Barbara Petitjean providing a forward-looking model for how to fit large capital projects into future plans.

Mr. Kimball shared an Excel document functioning as a preliminary mill rate worksheet.

Mr. Curtis noted a possible increase in insurance of \$700K and suggested an assessment of assessing the values in the OPEB account (\$15M) along with the simultaneous housing question of the internal service fund.

Ms. Heavner noted that \$80K is anticipated for EMS. She noted that the Medicare program was cut \$1.3M for the Part B and Part D, having a very negative effect for the Town's seniors and suggested that some type of tax abatement policy for that segment of the population may be worthy of consideration. Ms. Heavner also reported that the Deepwater Wind Solar Project has incurred extensive legal fees as part of FY18, noting that the \$36K contingency has been completely used.

The BOE was encouraged to seek consultation for long-term planning around school composition in the year 2025. Mr. Curtis noted that an initial capacity study has been undertaken at Henry James. Mr. Sullivan reviewed some preliminary findings in the review of facilities and enrollment.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 17, 2017 REGULAR MEETING:

The portion of text in the last paragraph of the first page that reads, "...*It was also advised that the Town and the Board of Education ought to review...*" should instead read, "...*It was also suggested that the Town and the Board of Education ought to review...*".

MOTION: Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Wertheimer second, to approve the October 17, 2017 Minutes; unanimously approved.

5. APPROVE FY17 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR \$15,846 TO CLOSE CAPITAL PROJECTS:

MOTION: Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Schofield second, to approve FY17 supplemental appropriations totaling \$15,846 pursuant to Section 809(c) of the Simsbury Town Charter to close three completed capital projects as presented; unanimously approved.

6. APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR \$5,000 TO COVER THE COST OF THE "CLOSE-VOTE" RECOUNT:

MOTION: Ms. Wertheimer, Mr. Prell second, to approve a supplemental appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to cover the costs associated with a statutorily-mandated "close-vote" recanvass of the November 7, 2017 municipal election; unanimously approved.

7. APPROVE SIMSBURY REGIONAL PROBATE COURT FY18 CAPITAL REQUEST for \$6,000:

It was noted that the Probate Court, with an office in Simsbury Town Hall, serves three other towns with each sharing proportionately the operating costs. An ongoing incident prompted that office to request installation of a glass wall similar to that of a bank teller's.

MOTION: Mr. Prell, Mr. Peterson second, to appropriate the capital request of \$6K for the Simsbury Regional Probate Court; unanimously approved.

8. APPROVE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018:

MOTION: Ms. Schofield, Mr. Peterson second, to approve the regular meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2018; unanimously approved.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Schofield second, to adjourn at 6:49PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk**