

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET ADOPTION MINUTES – MARCH 15, 2023
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CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Amber Abbuhl; Board members Chris Peterson, Eric Wellman, Sean Askham and Heather Goetz. Others in attendance included Treasurer/Finance Director Amy Meriwether; Management Specialist Tom Fitzgerald; Police Chief Nicholas Boulter; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Tyburski; Engineer/Public Works Director Tom Roy, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW

There was a lot of discussion on decreasing operating expenses, reducing energy costs, vacancies, Police holiday pay and increase in overtime, open contracts and early voting, CNR funding, CIP, the bridge, the dam, conferences, the Town Manager vacancy, etc. Ms. Meriwether made the changes in the budget for review.

There was also discussion on health insurance reserves, lowering the debt service, the Fire District, how to use ARPA funding for expenses, freeing up bond capacity, interest rates, the housing authority needs, etc. After discussing the changes to be made, the mill rate will change and the 10-year debt service would change.

Mr. Askham said there are three scenarios including the Board changes to the budget which would increase the rate \$19/year to median homeowners; the second scenario has an implication for the next year budget. The Town Manager did not recommend this scenario. The third scenario would increase the rate \$8 of what the Town Manager proposed. This would increase the budget by 5.93%. There was a lot of discussion on all of these scenarios and what changes should be made.

After Ms. Meriwether made all the changes proposed by the Board, Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective March 15, 2023, to approve the Board of Selectmen 2023-2023 Operating Budget in the amount of \$31.618,710, to include the following changes from the Town Manager's Proposed Budget:

- \$ 2,500 – Increase to Hartford Interval House
- \$ 4,000 – Increase to DEI Council
- \$ 4,250 – Increase to Children's Program Expenditures
- \$ 4,500 – Increase Teen Reference Materials
- \$ 2,000 – Increase Library Conference & Education
- \$ 3,300 – Increase Simsbury Celebrates
- \$ 99,569 – Increase Parks Maintainer
- \$153,122 – Increase Police Officer w/Sergeant upgrade
- \$102,933 – Increase Mechanic/Truck Driver
- \$ 20,000 – Increase Engineering On Call Services
- (\$20,000) – Decrease in Energy Savings
- \$ 20,000 – Increase in Police Overtime
- (\$53,000) – Decrease Police Holiday Pay
- (\$140,000) – Decrease in Debt Service

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(\$35,000) - Increase in the Vacancy Rate

Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 15, 2023, to approve the Water Pollution Control 2023-2024 Operating Budget in the amount of \$5,771,930 (including Avon and Granby CWF share). Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Wellman made a motion, effective March 15, 2023, Residential Property 2023-2023 Operating Budget in the amount of \$47,122. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective, March 15, 2023, to approve the Simsbury Parks and Recreation Fund 2023-2024 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,918,369. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective March 15, 2023, to approve the Debt Service 2023-2024 Operating Budget in the amount of \$8,147,216. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective March 15, 2023, to approve the Capital and Non-Recurring Plan for 2023-2024 in the amount of \$2,446,031 including:

- \$416,250 – to be funded by the General Fund via the Five-Year Payback Method
- \$275,715 – to be funded by the General Fund
- \$686,947 – to be funded by the Capital Reserve Fund
- \$249,760 – to be funded by Grants
- \$ 16,359 – to be funded by Donations
- \$367,000 – to be funded by the Town Aid Road Fund
- \$225,000 – to be funded by the Sewer Use Fund
- \$ 40,000 – to be funded by the Gellert Estate Fund
- \$ 24,000 – from Project Savings
- \$ 40,000 – from the Belden Trust Fund
- \$105,000 from the Golf Equipment Fund

Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 15, 2023, to add the following new projects to the Capital Improvement Plan for 2023-2024 in accordance with Charter Section 803(b):

Meadowood Barn Restoration	\$300,000
Sewer Replacement – Pine Hill	\$350,000

Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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Mr. Askham made a motion, effective March 15, 2023, to approve the Capital Improvement Program to include the following projects in 2023-2024, with total funding of \$11,266,840:

		<u>Recommended Funding</u>
Golf Course Irrigation System Replacement	\$ 454,000	Special Revenue Fund
Highway Pavement Management	\$1,700,000	Bonds/Grants/Cash
Public Works Truck Replacement and Plow	\$ 261,000	Cash
Sidewalk Reconstruction	\$ 223,400	Bonds
Refurbish Elevators	\$ 877,500	Bonds
Old Drake Hill Road/Flower Bridge Repairs	\$1,989,000	Capital Reserve Fund (American Rescue Plan Act Themed Funds)
Meadowood Barn Restoration	\$ 650,000	Capital Reserve Fund/Grants/ Donations
Multi-use Connections/Trails Development (Rt. 10 to Curtiss Park)	\$ 873,000	Bonds/Grants/Cash
Eno Building Infrastructure	\$ 389,440	Capital Reserve Fund (American Rescue Plan Act Themed Funds)/Bonds
Bridge Improvements (Climax Road Bridge Over Nod Brook)	\$ 372,000	Bonds/Grants
Bridge Improvements (Firetown Road and Barndoor Hills Rehab)	\$ 402,500	Grants
Primary Clarifier	\$1,000,000	Sewer Use Fund
Sewer Replacement – Pine Hill	\$1,075,000	Sewer Use Fund
Grit System Upgrade	\$ 250,000	Sewer Use Fund
District Security Improvements	\$ 250,000	Bonds
Tariffville School – Replace 1984 Modulares	\$ 500,000	Bonds

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

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion, effective March 15, 2023, to refer the following capital projects to the Planning Commission in accordance with CGS Section 8-24:

Golf Course Irrigation System Replacement
Highway Pavement Management
Public Works Truck Replacement and Ploq
Sidewalk Reconstruction
Refurbish Elevators
Old Drake Hill Road/Flower Bridge Repairs
Meadowood Barn Restoration
Multi-use Connections/Trails Development (Rte. 10 to Curtiss Park)
Eno Building Infrastructure
Bridge Improvements (Climax Road Bridge over Nod Brook)
Bridge Improvements (Firetown Road and Barndoor Hills Rehab)
Primary Clarifier

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Sewer Replacement – Pine Hill
Grit System Upgrade
District Security Improvements
Tariffville School – Replace 1984 Modulares

Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

After no further discussion, Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk