

TOWN OF SIMSBURY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
JANUARY 28, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members John Hampton, Moira Wertheimer, Robert Hensley, Richard Hogan and Michael Long. Others in attendance included Brandon Robertson, Kevin Kane, Colleen O'Connor, Chief Ingvertsen, Captain Matthew Catania, Tom Roy, Joel Mandell and other interested parties.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joel Mandell spoke on behalf of the VFW Post 1926 and American Legion Post 84. He said they are planning their budget and would like to help the Town by submitting their budget for \$2500 instead of \$3900. Hopefully, the \$1400 will help the Board in their budget plans.

DISCUSS FIRST SELECTMAN'S PROPOSED FY 10 OPERATING BUDGET AND  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Kevin Kane said Tab 1 of the budget manual gave them a memo and a briefing document from the Board of Finance.

Mr. Kane said the Board of Finance set a spending guideline between 0 and 1.25% this year. He said the Debt Service is already fixed. It is a decrease of 2.31%. If there is a zero spending increase, there would be a 1.35% tax increase. If spending increased 1.25% and tax increase would be 2.70%. Mr. Kane said the Grand List would be filed shortly.

Mr. Kane said the Board of Finance was looking into using some reserves. They just have reached a consensus. There was also some discussion on changing the collection rate as well. Mr. Kane showed the Board different mil rates on his presentation.

Mr. Kane will e-mail the Board more information on the Board of Selectmen's budget.

Ms. Glassman said the next meeting of the Board of Finance is February 10th at 6:00 p.m. They should then have the Governor's budget numbers and might change their guidelines.

Ms. Glassman said she received a Board of Education capital request. This request will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Kane spoke about Tab 2, the Board of Selectmen's General Fund Budget. The Board of Finance looks at this and he discusses it with them. There was some discussion about give-backs. Mr. Kane said this is a Charter/legal issue. He doesn't feel that revenues will cover expenses.

Mr. Kane said Tab 3 is a comparison of the Board of Selectmen budget. This budget has been adjusted for the CSEA contracts that were approved Monday. This is a total budget of 2.15%. Mr. Kane said better numbers will be in on health coverage and benefits. He feels insurance will go up 14%. He thinks workmen's compensation will decrease \$6,000.

Mr. Kane said Tab 4 is general government, which includes the Selectmen's office, Commissioners, Fire Department, Town Clerk's office and Registrars of Voters.

Ms. Glassman noted that the Registrars want two referendums this year and she will get the figures for that.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 5 is the Police Department, which will be discussed later.

Mr. Kane said Tab 6 is Planning and Development, which includes salaries, consultants and support systems.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 7 is Facilities Management, which includes building and grounds, highway, public works and landfill.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 8 is the Farmington Valley Health District, which shows an increase.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 9 is Social Services, which shows a cut in the Visiting Nurse Services. Ms. Glassman said she would like to keep this program.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 10 is Culture, Parks & Recreation, which did meet their 5% decrease.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 11 is the Library, who also met their 5% decrease.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 12, Benefits and Insurances will be discussed in Executive Session.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 13 is for Special Projects, which will also be discussed in Executive Session as it is un-negotiated salaries.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 14 is the C & R budget. They have no proposal to discuss yet. Mr. Kane said this includes the Dog Fund and Simsbury Farms Fund and Vehicle Fund. The assumption of \$73,000 was charged against this.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 15 is the Debt Service. This discussion will take place after receipt of the Board of Education capital budget.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 16 Sewer Use; Tab 17 Residential Rental Fund, Tab 18 Animal Control Fund and Tab 19 Simsbury Farms/Special Programs Fund will be discussed at a later time.

Ms. Glassman said Tab 3 is for public agency support - CROGG, Greater Hartford Transit District and Metro Hartford Alliance. The EDC doesn't want to fund Metro Hartford Alliance out of their budget so they could meet their 5% reduction.

Chief Ingvertsen spoke about Tab 5, which does meet the 5% reduction request. They are looking for about \$3,800,000, which will not affect service to the public. This will also carry through on some programs that are already established.

Chief Ingvertsen said their budget included three patrol cruisers instead of four for this year. Hybrid vehicles were looked into, but the cost is more. However, they are looking at other "green" ideas.

Chief Ingvertsen said Public Agency Support includes a UConn paramedic service, CMED disaster service and Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance repeater repair. These are all necessary.

Chief Ingvertsen said he has been asked to find further cuts as long as they don't affect service to the community. He said the accreditation is necessary for Simsbury now as it establishes policies and other important work that needs to be done.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Long made motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss Collective Bargaining and discussion of wages. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Board of Selectmen adjourned to Executive Session to discuss the following:  
"Collective Bargaining and discussion of wages"

The following were present in Executive Session: The Board of Selectmen, Kevin Kane-Finance Director, and Brandon Robertson-Director of Administrative Services.

Adjourn from Executive Session-Possible Action

Mr. Hampton made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. Executive Session was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman