

From: Susan Mazurski February 13, 2009 10:02:36 AM
Subject: Board of Selectmen Minutes 01/31/2009 BUDGET WORKSHOP
APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SelectMin
Cc:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
JANUARY 31, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 9:07 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members John Hampton, Moira Wertheimer, Michael Long and Robert Hensley. Absent was Richard Hogan. Others in attendance included: Brandon Robertson, Kevin Kane, Richard Sawitzke, Ed LaMontagne, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Jim Clifton, Tom Roy, Kathy Marschall and other interested parties.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There were no public comments at this time.

Social Services

Ms. Lecours-Beck gave the Board of Diversity Campaign handout. She said their budget is \$400,000 + and when she took out salaries and Dial-A-Ride she was left with a \$60,000 budget. Half of that is the VNA support. She therefore had to cut the VNA service to meet their 5% reduction.

Ms. Lecours-Beck said they received a new commercial copy machine and now do their printing in-house. They use recycled paper and other "green" supplies.

Ms. Lecours-Beck said the Aging and Disabilities Commission did reduce their budget from \$3,500 to \$1,500.

Ms. Lecours-Beck had a list of programs that were not Town funded. They receive grants and get a lot of donations that they are very grateful for.

Ms. Lecours-Beck spoke about the Darling and Southwell Trust Fund monies

that are used for specific programs. She said fuel assistance has gone up 50%.

There was some discussion on cutting the VNA service. After some discussion, it was the feeling of the Board that the VNA program not be eliminated.

Public Works

Tom Roy discussed the Public Works budget. He gave the Board a handout of different items in his budget and their breakdown.

Mr. Roy said there is a 65% increase in Administration, which includes engineering support, pavement management and sand sale, as well as preventative fertilization of Sycamore trees.

There was a lot of discussion on sand vs. salt. Mr. Roy said the Town has a lot of natural resources. They are trying to avoid hard packed ice/snow on the roads and sand doesn't help this. Sand is tracked into every building/house when used.

We can sell our sand to other municipalities and purchase liquid salt. He has an agreement with Granby to use their salt so we can do a direct comparison. The Board agreed with the pilot program of using salt from Granby as there is no exchange of money in this program. There will be an update at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Roy noted that the heat has been turned down in all buildings and feels this should be handled remotely so it can go on before meetings/activities and then lowered. They are also looking into alternative meeting sites with buildings that are already open.

Mr. Roy noted that in the Rental portion, the Sugar Loaf Cut buildings are finished and look great. There is \$15,000 for power washing and sealing foundations to prevent leakage.

Mr. Roy said Steve Markie has done a great job on cost through his own initiatives.

Mr. Roy then went through the Capital programs in Buildings and Grounds. He noted the increase in paving costs. Ms. Glassman will discuss State money with the Representatives.

There was also some discussion on purchasing a plow truck as it wouldn't be received until late summer.

Mr. Sawitzke said the Town did send a package for funding to the State Representatives and Governor for review as well. DOT projects have become very challenging, but DEP are easier because of their more efficient process.

Mr. Clifton discussed Tab 16 the Sewer Use Budget. He said it was pretty easy to come under budget as there was no clean water fund repayment this year. He noted a significant increase in utilities.

Mr. Clifton also noted that supplies went up 14% due to the cost of chemicals. He said the tractor, which is under capital expense will be deferred. Using one riser ring instead of three on manholes will also reduce costs.

Wages

Ms. Glassman said there was a staff meeting and the non-union employees volunteered a 0% wage increase. They will also give back one furlough day. The Town will pay 85% on insurance and the staff will pay the balance on the HMO and PPO plans. This will produce a \$70,000 to \$75,000 savings. Ms. Glassman gave credit to the staff for their decisions.

Executive Session

Mr. Hampton made motion to adjourn to Executive Session for Collective Bargaining and discussion of wages at 11:20 a.m. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Kevin Kane, Director of Finance and Brandon Robertson, Director of Administrative Services were present in Executive Session.

Mr. Long made motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 11:45 a.m. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Adjournment

Mr. Long made motion to adjourn at 11:47 a.m. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman

