

From: Susan Mazurski February 24, 2009 12:27:28 PM
Subject: Board of Selectmen Minutes 02/04/2009 BUDGET WORKSHOP
APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SelectMin
Cc:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members John Hampton, Michael Long, Richard Hogan, and Robert Hensley. Absent was Moira Wertheimer. Others in attendance included Brandon Robertson, Kevin Kane and Richard Sawitzke.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No one spoke in Public Audience.

BUDGET

Ms. Glassman handed out updates on the Main Street funding as requested by Mr. Hampton.

Ms. Glassman handed out a memo from Tom Roy about purchasing bi-fuel cars. They would replace two old cars the Town has right now.

Mr. Long made motion to purchase two used bi-fuel Chevy Cavaliers from the State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services as presented in a memo from Thomas J. Roy, February 2, 2009 for \$1,000 each, to replace the 1995 and 1996 Crown Victorias. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Glassman said the Governor released her budget and the Town will receive funds. Mr. Kane said he sent the Governor's projections of \$750,000 to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Kane said that Workmen's Compensation will now show a 0% increase, but Education shows a slight increase of \$5,000. He had also put in a figure of 12% increase for health insurance, but understands that it should be about 7%, which would mean a \$100,000 decrease in the budget. If the budget is accepted right now, there will be a 0% increase.

Ms. Glassman noted that the Board of Selectmen has to give their budget to the Board of Finance by February 15th. She said the wage freeze, give back and furloughs are prudent in this budget process.

Mr. Hogan made motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Long made motion to return to the Regular Budget Workshop meeting at 7:18 p.m. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Glassman said she would like to see the Visiting Nurse Service added back to the budget. She received a letter from the Greater Hartford Arts Council asking for \$2,300. This will not be funded.

Ms. Glassman said the Registrars were budgeting for two referendums. Mr. Long and the Board felt this was prudent.

Ms. Glassman said Mr. Roy reported that 1500 homes use the leaf collection program at a cost of \$11,000. This is a contracted pick-up service. Mr. Hensley noted that Church groups and other service organizations could take over the program. This will be put on the wish list of the budget.

Ms. Glassman said that the Police Chief said they can defer purchasing one car this year. There will also be personnel changes made.

Ms. Glassman said that SCTV is also asking for some equipment and re-wiring. She will ask them to give the Board a detailed report.

Mr. Hampton noted that the Main Street Partnership had overwhelming support, but they were supposed to remove themselves off the Town budget for years now. Mr. Hampton said they should at least take the 5% decrease. Mr. Hensley said they do get things done. He will discuss this further with Mr. Long. After further discussion, Ms. Glassman will ask them for a scope of services and will mention that they were supposed to be self-funding. This issue will be on the Board's Monday night agenda to discuss further.

Ms. Glassman said that the Board of Education capital budget also needs to be discussed as they have two items on it. They are having a meeting on Monday and will report back to the Board.

Mr. Hogan asked about the CNR budget. After discussion the following items were to be removed: Firetown Road Bridge at \$88,000; Scout Hall improvements for \$23,000; 3/4 ton pick-up truck for \$35,000; 1 ton pick-up truck for \$45,000 and a Trap Rake for \$17,500. The total removed was \$208,500. The other items will be discussed further.

The Board asked that Simsbury Farms prioritize their lists and costs for their items.

Mr. Kane noted that the Performing Arts Center does have a fund and maybe Mr. Toner should take some money out of that funding for his CNR requests. Mr. Sawitzke will check the numbers on the Town Hall improvements as well.

Mr. Hogan asked that a breakdown of money spent on Land Use Board consultants be given at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday. There should also be a scope of service for new consultants.

Ms. Glassman said the Board of Ethics is meeting on February 26th to discuss the change of ethics codes. She did interview potential new members to the Board of Ethics and told the other members they could also interview them.

There was some discussion on the Capital Improvement Plan Budget. Mr. Hensley said the Boards need to re-engineer their plans. Mr. Sawitzke was asked to look at page two and explain what is really necessary and where grants would be coming.

Mr. Sawitzke said the Firetown Road Bridge would have to be done if the grant is coming. Also, the water extension and sewer is needed; fiber communications is optional; Tariffville greenway should be coordinated with other efforts in the East Coast Greenway; Simsbury Meadows backstage can be taken out; and the fields could be looked at again. Mr. Hampton noted that the Simsbury Farms Main Building Renovations number is huge, but long over due.

Mr. Kane noted that next year's debt service is already set.

Ms. Glassman recused herself at 8:40 p.m. to discuss Aquarion. Mr. Hampton said the Aquarion building at 6 Station Street could become a Town owned building. Mr. Robertson said he received a call stating that Aquarion is moving forward with the D.P.U.C. to transfer their building to the Town.

After some discussion, the Board decided to go look at the building and ask Tom Roy to come up with a proposal of uses for the building. Mr. Long noted that maybe it could be donated to Main Street Partnership, Tourism, SCTV and/or the Visitor's Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Long made motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Hogan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman