

From: Susan Mazurski February 28, 2012 11:11:36 AM  
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Approved  
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Cc:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 15, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members Nancy Haase, Moira Wertheimer, John Hampton, Lisa Heavner and Sean Askham. Others in attendance included Chief Ingvertsen, Jim Clifton, Richard Sawitzke, Tom Roy, Gerry Toner, Tom Cooke, Mary Ann Harris, Sean Kimball, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive spoke about the Ethel Walker property expense of \$2,000,000. She feels this property should be given back to Ethel Walker as it is not wise during this bad economic time to be in the business of purchasing property. She feels more projects are needed on Town property and this should come before purchasing more property.

Jefferson Wilkes, student representative to the Board of Education and senior class president of Simsbury High School spoke about the West Street improvement program. He feels the crossing on West Street is extremely dangerous right now. There is no crosswalk there and no safe way to cross the road. Something really needs to be done there. Mr. Wilkes said the State did look at the issue and they will support part of the project for safety.

David Blume, 11 Musket Trail, of the Library Board of Trustees, thanked the Board for the extra 3 hours per week to be added back to the Library hours.

He feels they really need 6 hours, and asked the Board to consider that. He also recognized Diane Fiske, Anne Erickson, Charmaine Glew who were also here.

#### REVIEW OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Ms. Glassman noted that there are no actions will be taken tonight; this is a budget workshop. This information is all on the Town website for everyone to look at. The staff has made recommendations of projects they feel need to be looked at. Two projects will need to go to referendum - Ethel Walker Phase 2A and the Infrastructure Network Project.

Ms. Harris said all projects will be within the 7% guidelines. She said in fiscal year 2014 and 2015 they do exceed the 7% debt limit. This is because there are older projects that are still being funded on the 10 year capital plan.

Ms. Harris spoke about short-term financing, called Bond Anticipation Notes. She said the Town could utilize bond anticipation notes to get over the bump in the debt limit for the short term. She said the notes are used prior to issuing permanent debt and the Town just pays interest on the notes until the project is bonded.

Ms. Harris said the Town could utilize 20 year bonds for some or all of the projects. She said the Simsbury Farms Complex, Latimer Lane School Roof, Ethel Walker Phase 2A, Tariffville Connection Greenway, DPW Owens Brook West Street Sidewalks and Greenway Improvement, and the Henry James Middle School Science Classrooms could fall under these bonds.

Ms. Harris said \$340,000 would have to be reduced in the cost of capital improvements in 2014 to achieve a 7% projected debt limit, assuming the issuance of 10 year bonds.

Ms. Glassman said short-term bonding will need to go to the Board of Finance and agreed to by them as well and the Board of Selectmen.

#### OVERVIEW OF BUDGET

Mr. Sawitzke went through the Capital Improvement Program for 2013-2018. He said all projects were listed previously in the 2012-2013 CIP with one exception. That is the Emergency Generator Improvements.

Mr. Sawitzke said the first project is the Ethel Walker School - Phase 2A.

This is a parcel of about 42 acres and there is a grant for \$691,000 to offset the cost.

Mr. Sawitzke said the extension of the Greenway was actually on the CIP on 2011-2012, but not able to be accepted then. Therefore, it was moved to this year. This is for Rte. 10 & 315 extending into Curtiss Park. This is a first phase program.

Mr. Sawitzke said the dispatch radio console for the Police Department is to replace the present console that has been there since 1999.

Mr. Sawitzke spoke about the Emergency Generator Improvements which really needs to be done, especially after Hurricane Irene and Storm Alfred. The old system just did not work as well as it used to and both of these storms helped to show the need for these systems. Also

included in this program is the study of the Tariffville School for the possible use of that facility for an emergency shelter and possible generator at the facility.

Ms. Glassman thanked Mr. Sawitzke and all staff and volunteers for their help during these storms. This is a very important issue to look into further.

Mr. Sawitzke said there is a great need for a Public Works Truck Wash. He said the vehicles do need to be washed after every job they do, especially with the new road salt being used. If they aren't washed, the salt residue will accelerate the deterioration of the exposed metal parts which will reduce the life expectancy of the vehicles.

Mr. Sawitzke said there is a combination of three inter-related projects: improvements on greenway and sidewalks, including the West Street crossing issue. The State will install the hardware part of this issue on West Street. There is money needed every year for maintenance and upkeep of the Greenway.

Mr. Sawitzke said the HVAC, MMR, Carpeting programs were in the CNR individually last year. He said this building has been operating since 1989 and there are some safe hazards here. Improvements will also save cost of maintenance.

Mr. Sawitzke said the Teledata Infrastructure will help with the connectivity of other buildings. The project includes a fiber optic cable connection. Savings will be realized by eliminating conventional land

lines.

Mr. Sawitzke said the Wolcott Pump Station Rehabilitation would be paid for out of the Sewer Use Fund. This is an old, major facility and really needs to be taken care of. Granby will also be paying for part of this.

Mr. Sawitzke spoke about the District Network Infrastructure program which are continually in the CIP. This is designed to improve overall network performance and management efficiency, and to provide a platform for remote access. This is the first and most expensive year for this program.

Mr. Sawitzke spoke about the Henry James Phase I - Science Classroom Modernization. They are proposing eight science classrooms, including code updates equipment and furnishings. They really do need updating to the 20th century. The third project of the Board of Education is their share of the generator.

Ms. Heavner spoke about the crossing on West Street and how dangerous it is there without a crosswalk and signage. This project is desperately needed before someone gets badly hurt.

Chief Ingvertsen also spoke about the difficulty crossing on West Street and they will try to make people more aware of the situation.

Ms. Glassman said this is a lot of information to look at and review. All of the information is also on the website. Public comment is still welcomed.

The next budget workshop will be held on February 27th at 5 p.m

ADJOURN

Mr. Hampton made motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman