

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 28, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Workshop Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members Moira Wertheimer, John Hampton, Lisa Heavner, Gerald Post and Robert Hensley. Other interested parties in attendance were Thomas Cooke, Sean Kimball and Kevin Kane.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

No one spoke in Public Audience.

DISCUSSION –

Ms. Glassman stated that the Board would like to take action as a follow up to the Board of Finance meeting to add Golf Course improvement project to the Capital Improvement Projects for the fiscal year 2012 rather than wait until next year. The entire project will be sent to the Special Town Meeting and then Referendum if approved by the voters.

Ms. Heavner made motion to add the Golf Course improvement project to the Capital Improvement Projects for the fiscal year 2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hampton. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Glassman thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance for their thoughtful discussions on this matter. She feels that these are worthwhile improvements for the Town.

Adoption of Revised Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Glassman questioned Mr. Kane about adopting the revised CIP; he replied that it should be done.

Revised Cap Plan would be to move the Golf Course Improvement project to the 6 Year Capital Plan for FY 2012 and remove the Memorial Park Improvements and the Central School Parking Lot and at a later date we will be transferring funds from reserves to cover those costs. At this point the revised plan will include the Golf Course Improvements and removing the 2 capital projects.

Mr. Hensley made motion to adopt the revised CIP to include the Simsbury Farms Project at \$2,836,000 and the Golf Course Improvement Project in the amount of \$225,000 to the 6 Year Capital Plan for FY 2012 and remove the Memorial Park Improvements and the Central School

Parking Lot and at a later date transfer funds from reserves to cover those costs. The motion was seconded by Ms. Heavner. All were in favor and the motion passed.

First Public Hearing is March 8, 2011 at Board of Finance meeting. Ms. Glassman thanked the public for coming to our meetings and Board for input into workshops

Ms. Glassman addressed the issue of a Wish List, items that Town staff would like to have restored to their budgets. The Library's wishes are the largest; EDC asked for three items to be reinstated and the Tourism Committee has asked for Gateway signs. Also Public Safety asked to restore hours and the Public Works department would like to restore a truck and the truck wash.

Ms. Glassman advised that as of July 1, 2011 there will be no grant funding. The Town would have to back fill the positions in the Library with Town taxpayer money. The Board was up front that it would not fund these positions with taxpayer money.

Ms. Glassman stated that all of items on the Wish List are valuable to the Town. To come in with a 0% budget some things have to go. Given the scenario of the State budget it is clear that our taxpayers have a difficult time paying their taxes. We are at 0.21%. We should have a discussion if we want to go to 0% we have to cut more, etc., negative 1 we cut more or raise taxes. We could increase taxes, but at some point we have to realize that there is not enough to squeeze. She asked the Board to acknowledge that if we did want to go to negative 1% that would mean about 3 staff positions would be eliminated. If we go to 0% we would need to knock \$30,000 out of the budget. She is not recommending we go to 1% but shared Mr. Kane's memo.

With regard to a \$6,000 line item amount that is available Ms. Glassman asked for suggestions for using this money. After much discussion it was decided that the money would go to the Library and Ms. Bullock stated that it would go into Acct. 47200-0321, to support job seekers classes.

Mr. Hampton made motion to approve the 2011-2012 Sewer Use Fund operating Budget in the amount of \$3,609,625. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to approve the 2011-2012 Residential Rental Properties fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$33,897. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hampton made motion to approve the 2011-2012 Animal Control Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$76,354. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner made motion to approve the 2011-2012 Simsbury Farms Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,835,755. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hensley made motion to approve the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund Budget in the amount of \$526,441 to include an appropriation for Highway – Paving Management in the amount of \$161,442 for the LOCIP reimbursement grant and substitution of \$10,000 for the Gateway signs instead of the barn. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hampton made motion to approve the 2011-2012 Board of Selectmen Operating Budget in the amount of \$17,860,913 to include changes as itemized as follows: General Liability; Worker's Compensation, \$12,500; Employee Group Medical change reduction, \$18,572; Library financial line item, \$6,000. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner made motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman