

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING - BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting - Budget Workshop of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:08 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room in the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members: Nancy Haase, Moira Wertheimer, Sean Askham, Lisa Heavner, and John Hampton. Others in attendance included Gerry Toner, Dave Gardner, Chief Ingvertsen, Mary Ann Harris and Sean Kimball.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Glassman noted that there is also a revenue side of the budget along with the expense side. The Board needs to be aware of the Grand List also, which affects the budget revenues and expenditures.

Ms. Glassman said the Board needs to review the "wish list" tonight as well as the CNR and CIP lists.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive spoke about disrespectful tones at the last Finance Meeting. She feels this is Ms. Harris's first budget process and she is trying her best with all of the changes made. The Board of Finance should show her more respect.

Ms. Coe asked about the contingency fund, bank fees, and data processing fees. She spoke about the Capital "wish list". She also spoke about the Town Meeting and what needs to go to referendum. She doesn't think the Town Meeting is where "pet projects" should go as only 50 people are there to vote. It isn't fair.

Ms. Coe doesn't understand why the Town Garage needs a vehicle wash as the new salt that is laid down gets on everyone's car.

Sarah Hart, 90 High Ridge Road asked that the Library hours be increased to help everyone enjoy the Library as much as they can.

REVIEW OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET AND CIP AND CNR ACCOUNTS
FOR POSSIBLE ACTION AND REFERRAL

Ms. Glassman said the legal fees are for general fees and outside counsel for other projects that are needed by the Commissioners. The CNR \$93,000 "charge back" on tab 16, is all itemized in the budget and is the charge back to the general fund. This process has been going on for a long time.

Ms. Harris said the bank fees are for credit card use. This allows residents to pay their taxes, etc. by credit cards. There are different credit card companies that are used by the Town and they are trying to merge these companies into one company.

Ms. Glassman said the data processing budget was allocated for added hours that were for public safety. This is to better communicate with the residents especially during emergencies.

Ms. Glassman said the Capital Program has items that are too large to be in the CNR and are not big enough to go to referendum. Residents are giving time to comment on them during the Town Meeting.

Ms. Glassman said the bonding this year is being identified under "other costs". This is some of the bonding costs and some of the design costs as well, depending on how the Finance Director finances items.

Mr. Gardner said the comparison between the 2010 grand list and 2011 grand list was basically the same. The increase in the list is .001%. Ms. Glassman noted that there is not much growth to offset the operating budget, so it is a challenge.

The Board then went over the "wish list" and decided which items should be kept and put aside until the next budget process.

Ms. Glassman said it was very helpful for the staff to do a ranking list of projects in CNR. She did note that the tobacco shed would be torn down now. She also noted that grants are still be looked at, so hopefully more money will come from them.

After discussions on the budget items and changes to be made, Mr. Askham made motion to recess for 15 minutes at 7:45 p.m. Ms. Haase seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made motion to reconvene at 8:05 p.m. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Harris said the Capital Improvement Plan public hearing is now March 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School. The Board of Selectmen operating budget goes to the Board of Finance to Tuesday, March 13th along with the Board of Education budget.

Ms. Glassman said the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education have to go back and make a new 6 year plan, re-prioritizing items. She noted that the Board of Education is being asked to make the Henry James project a two phase project.

BOARD ACTIONS

Mr. Hampton made motion to move Ethel Walker Phase 2A for \$2,050,000 and District Network Infrastructure for \$1,800,000 to referendum. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Haase made motion to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan to include: Dispatch Radio Console Replacement (value of 185,000); Owens Brook/West St/Greenway Improvement (value of 358,000); DPW Vehicle Wash (value of 257,500); High School Re-circuit, EOC/Dispatch re-circuit & standby generator, Tariffville Emergency Shelter Study (value of 162,000); Town Tele-date Infrastructure (value of 125,000); and Re-circuit Eno/Library; B & G Service Center OR Tariffville Generator (value of 80,000) and forward to the Board of Finance. This is with the understanding that items 7-10 would not be forwarded at this time, but would be considered for future capital improvements. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made motion to approve the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund Budget in the amount of \$930,281 to include an appropriation for Highway-Paving Management in the amount of \$157,471 for the LOCIP reimbursement grant \$350,000 for a STEAP Grant for the Transportation Facility Improvement and \$53,500 for Simsbury Farms. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Haase made motion to approve the 2012-2013 Sewer Use Fund operating budget in the amount of \$3,523,510. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Hampton made motion to approve the 2012-2013- Residential Rental Properties Fund operating budget in the amount of \$55,655. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Heavner made motion to approve the 2012-2013 Simsbury Farms Fund operating budget in the amount of \$1,915,295. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Wertheimer made motion to approve the 2012-2013 Board of Selectmen operating budget in the amount of \$18,038,600 to include changes as itemized as follows: Copy and printing to Town Clerk's budget \$1000; a reduction in Town Counsel service account of \$4,000; the additional of

\$40,000 to Director of Community Development for contractual services; \$4,465 for Police

training overtime; \$12,000 for buildings and maintenance part-time custodian; \$4,635 for Library administration part-time staff; \$6,825 for Library adult & young adult part-time staff; \$5,600 for Library children services part-time staff; \$2,240 for Library building & grounds; \$4,000 for Social Security; operating transfer for FY 2013 CNR (19,460) - total changes amount to \$57,305. Mr. Hampton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Glassman thanked everyone for all of their hard work to come up with a good budget.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman, First Selectman