

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Budget Workshop was called to order at 5:33 PM in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices, 933 Hopmeadow Street. Present were First Selectman Lisa Heavner and Board members Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly, Elaine Lang and Michael Paine. Also in attendance were Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services, Sean Kimball, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works, Joseph Mancini, Finance Director, Jeff Shea, Town Engineer and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Ms. Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, voiced her displeasure on the expenditure of \$15,000 for the replacement of the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Utility Vehicle. She believes this expenditure should be paid for by the PAC and not the town of Simsbury. Ms. Coe noted that most of the Board members have not expressed their views on what form of government Simsbury should have and requested that the Charter Revision Commission place members of the BOS to give their testimony on Town Manager vs First Selectmen form of government. Ms. Coe also discussed the reduction in tax dollars which included the planned demolition of The Hartford building.

Mr. Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, noted that the minutes from the last Board of Selectmen meeting did not mention the \$15,000 Cushman Utility Vehicle that was discussed. He also stated his displeasure on this expenditure and noted other ways this money could be spent in Town.

Dr. Michael Rinaldi, 32 Pinnacle Mountain Road, discussed the Charter Revision Commission straw vote taken at the last meeting on what type of government should be in Simsbury. He stated that he believes that the Town residents should be the ones to decide what type of government Simsbury should have. Dr. Rinaldi noted that the mill rate should not be as important as how much the Town spends.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Approve draft letter to Charter Revision Commission regarding recommendation to add two additional “at large” members to the Open Space Committee.

Ms. Heavner noted that this is in response to public input. Board members discussed their opinions for and against voting on this action at this time.

Mr. Cooke noted that after the Charter Revision Commission passes this action, the Board of Selectman can add to the action.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the draft letter to Charter Revision Commission regarding the recommendation to add two additional “at large” members to the Open Space Committee with the stipulated revision. Ms. Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Approve expenditure of \$15,000 for replacement of Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Utility Vehicle and refer to the Board of Finance.

Mr. David Ryan, PAC Director, stated that the PAC center is owned by the town of Simsbury. The Performing Arts Center is a 501c3 and has contracted to rent this facility and operate at a cost of \$10,000 a year. He noted that, when they took over this facility, an older Cushman utility vehicle was housed in the red barn on the property. Mr. Ryan noted that this vehicle is used to transport signs, bags of ice, etc. around the property to set up for concerts and stated that it has become unreliable.

Mr. Mancini noted that this request originally came to the Town in May, 2015, but was denied at that time due to the budget process was just completed. It was suggested to submit this again in the next budget year.

Board members discussed their opinions for and against this expenditure.

Mr. Mancini explained where the money would be coming from for this expenditure and why it is not recommended to wait for transfers.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$15,000 for replacement of Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center Utility Vehicle and refer to the Board of Finance. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. Four (4) were in favor of the motion (Ms. Heavner, Mr. Askham, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Lang) and two (2) were against (Ms. Cook and Mr. Paine). The motion has passed.

PRESENTATION

- First Selectman’s Fiscal year 2017 Budget Presented to Board of Selectmen

Ms. Heavner stated that she is pleased to present the First Selectman’s budget and noted that it will be online tomorrow for the public to review.

Ms. Heavner recognized Mr. Mancini, Mr. Kimball, who will help with the Powerpoint presentation, and Mr. Cook. The slide presentation included:

- Highlights of Simsbury
- Recommended Budget – FY 2016-2017 of \$19,679,268
- Budget Objectives – Listed Objectives
- Major Town Accomplishments
- Budget Context
- State Legislation Impact
- Cost Drivers of the Budget
- Cost Saving Efforts
- Median Net Taxable Assessments
- Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go
- What Do Your Tax Dollars Pay For
- Mill Rate Distribution
- BOS Budget History
- First Selectman Recommended Budget

Ms. Heavner thanked Town employees for preparing their budgets and noted that this presentation will be available online for residents to review.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET

Board members commented on the budget which included the Connecticut state cap of 2.5% on the municipal budgets.

DISCUSSION

Board members discussed the impact on taxes with the proposed State Cap on municipal budgets.

Mr. Cooke thanked Mr. Mancini for his excellent service to the Town in the past two years.

ADJOURN

Ms. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lang seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Brigham