



accounts. First Selectman Glassman said that the utilities at some of the empty rental properties were not turned off. Public Works Director Roy discovered this and made sure they were turned off, so there will be some savings. Selectman Wertheimer said that Aquarion Water is proposing to go up on their rates, and was this figured into the budget. Finance Director Kevin Kane said that the utilities are fluid. Deputy Selectman Hampton said that he will be submitting a letter to the Department of Public Utility Control against this rate hike, as First Selectman Glassman has a conflict of interest.

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Selectman Wertheimer wants to restore the two part time Police Clerks and the Commission Clerks, even if there is a slight increase in the budget. She believes this would mean a .27% increase in the budget.

Selectman Hensley agrees and feels that a .27% is reasonable. First Selectman Glassman asked the Finance Director what that would mean for a tax increase. Mr. Kane said around \$50,000, and with the current Board of Education budget, a tax increase of approximately 1.6% to 1.9%. First Selectman Glassman said that additional clerical hours had been added to the Police Department during this fiscal year. She feels the Commission Clerks would be more important than the part time Clerks.

Chief of Police Ingvertsen said that the full time clerk handles the national and state accreditation. One part time person does all of the court work and if this person goes, than he would have to take a uniformed officer off the road and have him/her do this work. The second part time worker does data entry and fingerprinting. Patrol members will have to help with these clerical duties.

Selectman Hensley said that every single penny is important, but a .27% budget is an aggressive budget. Mr. Kane said that every \$1.00 does not affect the mill rate.

Selectman Herlihy apologized for being late. With the concessions that the employees gave last year, he asked the First Selectman if she still wants a zero budget. The First Selectman replied yes. Selectman Herlihy said that this was so disingenuous of her. Citizens do want a zero tax increase budget, but the First Selectman is trying to save the Board of Education's budget on the back of the Town. He said he wants to use some of the fund balance/reserves and/or raise the tax collection rate to arrive at a zero budget.

Deputy Selectman Hampton said that Selectman Herlihy shows

disrespect for the room by always coming in late and creating a hostile environment.

Selectman Wertheimer asked how much fringe benefits went up for next year. Mr. Kane said 9% for health insurance and 30% for pension. She said that a .27% increase to the budget is low compared to these percentages.

Selectman Hensley said that people want the Selectmen to be responsible with their money, but there is a cost to Town services. The Board should try and keep things under control and a .27% still gives people the services they need and want.

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First Selectman Glassman thanked the employees and said the Town did have a partnership with the employees last year. Citizens are concerned with taxes and people are hurting a lot. She did a zero budget to show the people what this would mean. Things will be more painful next year, so to put things back into the budget now, only to take them out next year does not make sense.

Selectman Heavner said that while going door to door, people were pleading for no new taxes. Some were even crying. She would like to put off the vote on the budget for one week to have the Department Heads look one more time at their budgets. She asked them to reprioritize their budgets to find more savings.

Deputy Selectman Hampton said he concurs with Selectman Heavner, but would prefer to vote on the budget tonight.

Selectman Herlihy said a zero budget is an emasculation of the budget when there were employee concessions last year. This is completely irresponsible and it is not appropriate to keep the Police Commission Clerks out of the budget. Citizens care how it affects their wallet. The collection rate is set at 98.6% but the collection rate right now is over 99%. The Selectmen should recommend to the Finance Board that they raise the collection rate to make up the difference. He will not vote for a budget where the Police and Commission clerks are eliminated.

Mr. Kane said there will be a tax increase if the Board of Education budget stays at 2%.

Selectman Herlihy said that the Town should decouple themselves

from the Board. The Town has to provide services. He said to Mr. Kane that he had spoken with Finance Board Chair Paul Henault, who said that with the use of reserves or by raising the tax collection rate, this budget can be brought in at a no tax increase. Mr. Kane said that the Board of Finance set a 1.33% cap, but the Board of Education is not following that guideline. Selectman Herlihy asked how much money was in reserves. Mr. Kane said \$8-\$9 million by the end of the year.

Selectman Hensley said that a .27% is a reasonable increase and the Board should present this to the Board of Finance.

Selectman Heavner said that you get what you pay for. She made a motion to ask the Department Heads to look for the monetary gap in bringing back the remaining priorities and delay the vote on the budget. Mr. Kane said that going back to the Department Heads will mean some one giving up a position as the largest part of the budget is personnel.

Selectman Hensley said that he wanted to vote tonight.

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Selectman Heavner's motion failed.

First Selectman Glassman made a motion to have the Board vote on the addition of three things they do have consensus on – Assistant Town Clerk, Human Services Aide and the opening of Memorial Pool at reduced hours. Deputy Selectman Hampton seconded the motion.

Selectman Herlihy said he wants to add in the other positions for a .27% increase in the budget.

First Selectman Glassman asked that the first vote be on the things that have consensus.

Selectman Herlihy asked who was not comfortable with the .27% increase. He urged his colleagues to vote down the First Selectman's motion.

The vote was 3-3 with Selectman Glassman, Hampton and Heavner voting yes and Selectman Herlihy, Hensley and Wertheimer voted no. The motion failed.

Selectman Herlihy made a motion to increase the budget .27% with the addition of the positions mentioned in First Selectman Glassman's motion along with the Commission Clerks and the two part time Police Clerk

positions; seconded by Selectman Hensley.

Deputy Selectman Hampton said that he still feels it is important the Board come in with a zero. Selectman Heavner said that a zero budget is stark, but things will be worse next year. She deeply appreciates what the Town employees did last year with their wages. This is a very hard decision for her.

Selectman Hensley said that he appreciates a zero, but that the public also expects a certain level of service. Not passing the .27% is not good business. He realizes how important education is to the residents, but the Board of Education has a big part in this budget and they must take another look at their budget.

Selectman Wertheimer said how frustrated she feels when she reads about how wealthy Simsbury is and yet there are so many residents hurting with this economy.

Selectman Herlihy said that the Board should be proud of a .27% budget. He will also be placing a motion on the floor to have the Board of Finance use reserves and/or raise the tax collection rate so the budget will be zero.

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Selectman Wertheimer thanked the First Selectman, Finance Director and Interim Director of Administrative Services for their help with the budget. She realizes not everyone will be happy.

First Selectman Glassman said she will not support the motion as so many people are financially hurting. Things will be worse next year. She represents all of the citizens of Simsbury. She respects the decision that each Selectman must make with this vote.

The motion was passed 4-2, with Selectmen Heavner, Hensley, Herlihy and Wertheimer voting yes; and First Selectman Glassman and Deputy Selectman Hampton voting no.

Selectman Herlihy made a motion to send forward the .27% budget, along with a request from the Selectmen to ask the Board of Finance for a zero tax increase using reserves and/or a higher tax collection rate.

Selectman Heavner seconded the motion for discussion only.

First Selectman Glassman said that she cannot support this motion as this is why the State is in trouble. Moody's Investment Services, when giving their bond rating to the Town, remarked on the Town's prudent budgeting with ample reserves and good collection numbers. The Selectmen should not recommend having the Finance Board play with numbers.

Selectman Hensley said that he thoroughly read Moody's report on the Town and it was very positive. It mentioned a lot of good financing methods the Town uses such as ample reserves and a prudent collection rate. He would not want to use reserves, as the Town may need them for the future. It is hard for him to support this motion.

Selectman Heavner said that she is reluctant to approve this motion and feels this would not be good fiscal management. If the Board of Finance wants to do this, than they can do that without the Selectmen's input.

Selectman Herlihy thanked Ms. Heavner for her second. He understands the comments from the other members. He feels that he is not directing the Board of Finance. The Town is lucky to have Paul Henault and the Board. Mr. Henault was the one who suggested saying to use reserves and/or raise tax collection rates. He feels it is pouring out now due to the economy and it is time to use these two ideas to have this budget get to zero.

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Selectman Hensley said that the Board of Finance will use the tools necessary to assist with the budget as they see fit. First Selectman Glassman agreed. Selectman Wertheimer said she will call the Finance Board members tomorrow.

The vote was 1-5 with Selectman Herlihy for and everyone else against the motion.

A motion was made by Selectman Herlihy; seconded by Deputy Selectman Hampton to approve the following motions:

1. Motion to approve the 2010-2011 Sewer Use Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,212,765 to include changes as outlined in the budget adjustment worksheet.
2. Motion to approve the 2010-2011 Residential Rental Properties Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$33,897 to include changes as outlined in the budget adjustment in the budget adjustment worksheet.

3. Motion to approve the 2010-2011 Animal Control Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$76,354.
4. Motion to approve the 2010-2011 Simsbury Farms Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,818,112 to include changes as outlined in the budget adjustment worksheet.
5. Motion to approve the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund Budget in the amount of \$523,925 to include an appropriation for Highway-Paving Management in the amount of \$158,925 for the LOCIP reimbursement grant.

The vote was unanimous.

Selectman Wertheimer thanked all of the staff for their help during the budget process.

A motion was made by Deputy Selectmen Hampton; seconded by Selectman Wertheimer to adjourn at 6:15 pm. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Therrien, Interim Director of Administrative Services