



Town of Simsbury

933 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury, Connecticut 06070

Board of Finance Agenda Submission

March 30, 2023

Trish Munroe
Town Clerk
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Ms. Munroe:

A **Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on the Budget** of the Board of Finance will be held at **6:00 PM**, on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023**, in the Tariffville Room of the Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut.

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Presentation of the FY23/24 Budget Process and Overview
4. Presentation of the Proposed FY23/24 Board of Education and Board of Selectmen Operating and Capital Budgets
5. Public Hearing on FY23/24 Operating and Capital Budgets
Then Close or Continue the Public Hearing to April 18th at 6pm
6. Budget Discussion and Possible Action
7. Approval of Minutes
 - February 27, 2023
 - March 1, 2023
 - March 7, 2023

Board of Finance
April 4, 2023

8. Adjourn

Lisa Heavner
Chair

Board of Finance Meeting Schedule:

4/18/23, 4/19/23, 5/16/23, 6/20/23, 7/18/23, 8/22/23, 9/19/23, 10/17/23, 11/17/23, 12/19/23, 1/16/24



Board of Finance

Public Hearing April 4, 2023

Operating and Capital Budgets

Board of Education

Board of Selectmen

Public Hearing Agenda

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Presentations

Budget Process Overview – Lisa Heavner, Board of Finance Chair

Board of Education - Susan Salina, Board of Education Chair

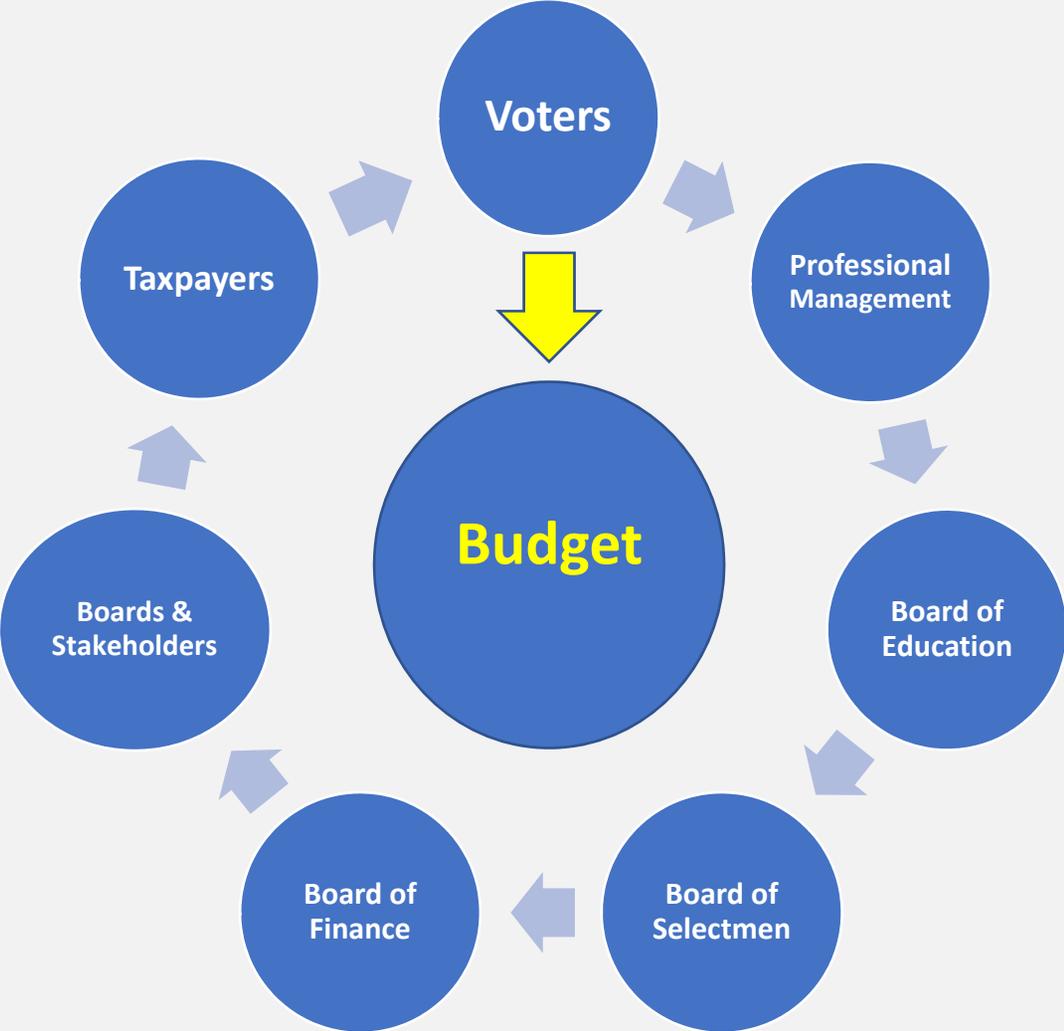
Board of Selectmen - Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman

III. Public Audience on Operating and Capital Budgets

IV. Closing Remarks

V. Board of Finance Discussion and Next Steps

Working Together



Board of Finance Budget Responsibilities

Hold a Public Hearing

Approve a balanced budget for referendum

Board of Education – Total Amount

Board of Selectmen – Line Item Approval

Establish a mill rate sufficient to pay expenses

Balance

Selectmen
Education

**Needs
Priorities**

Fiscal Health

Reserves
Assumptions
Best Practices

Capital Debt
Pensions
OPEB*

Obligations

Affordability

Residents
Businesses

* OPEB – Other Post Employment Benefits

Balance the Budget

Expenditures

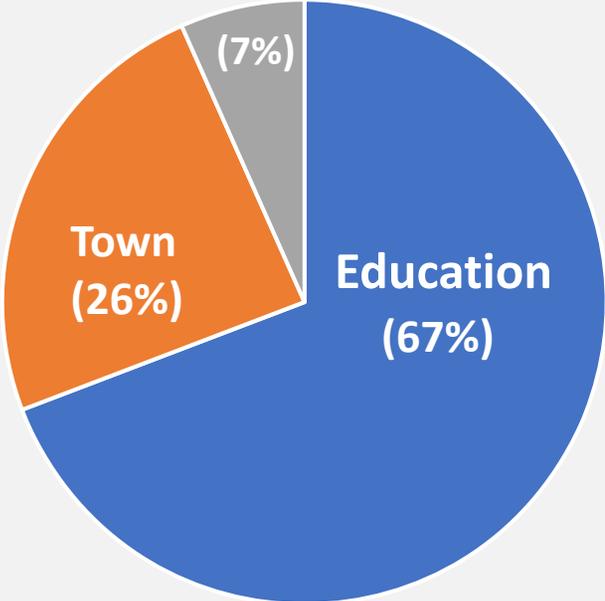
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Revenues

\$121,948,062

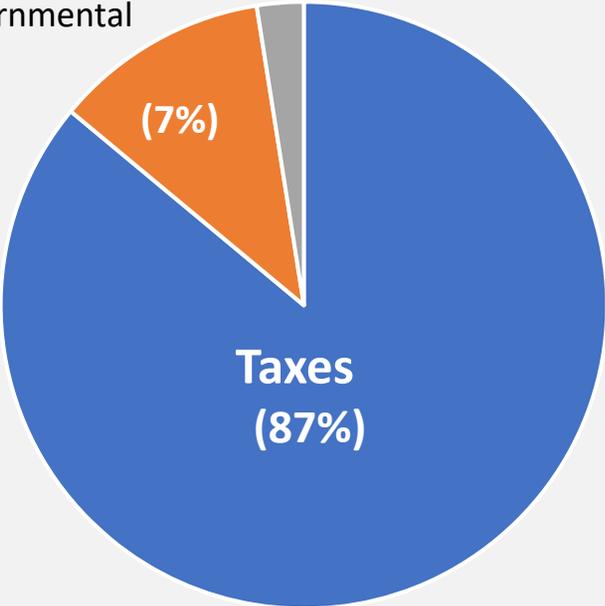
\$121,948,062

Debt Service/Capital



Other (6%)

Intergovernmental



FY 2024 Budget

BUDGETS	Adopted 2022-2023	Proposed 2023-2024	\$ Change	% Change
Town Operating	30,260,354	31,618,710	1,358,356	4.49%
Education	76,456,785	81,576,437	5,119,652	6.70%
Non-Public Schools*	574,034	605,699	31,665	5.52%
Debt Service & Capital	7,670,099	8,147,216	477,117	6.22%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	114,961,272	121,948,062	6,986,790	6.08%
Total Non-Property Tax Revenues	16,772,998	16,596,566	(176,432)	-1.05%
TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	98,188,274	105,351,496	7,163,222	7.30%

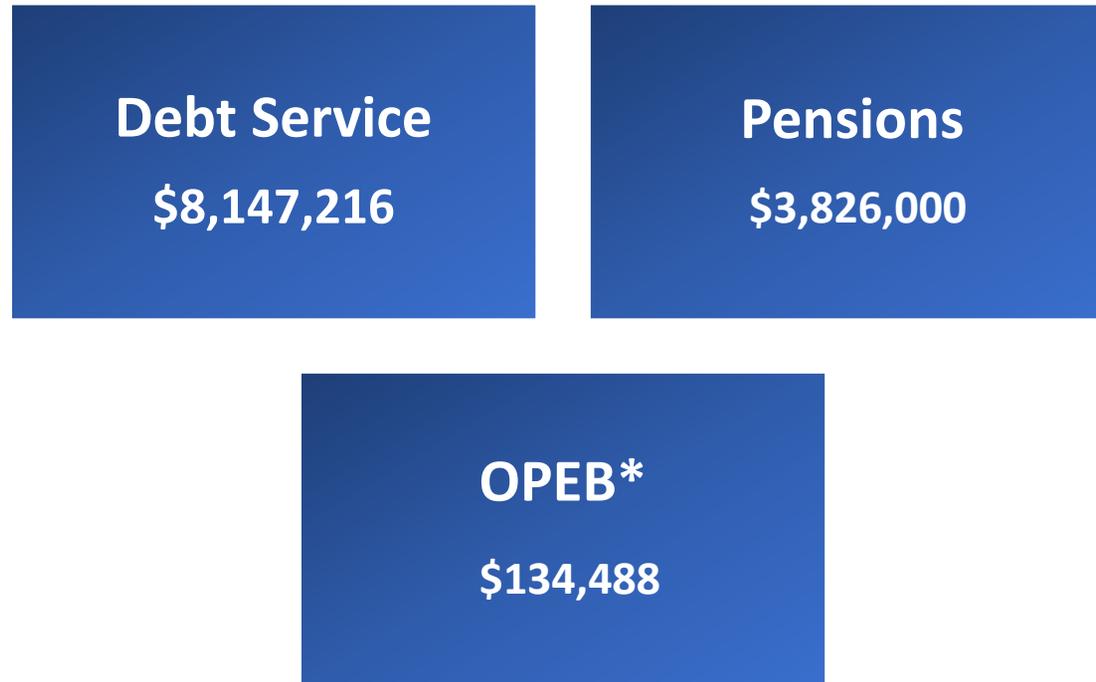
Non-Property Tax Dollars Fees and Major Grants

TOWN	
Water Pollution Control Fund	5,771,930
Simsbury Farms Fund	2,918,370
American Rescue Plan Act	3,757,833
Town Aid Road	610,500
LoCIP*	156,500
Residential Rental Prop	47,122
EDUCATION	
Federal & State Grants	5,728,783
TOTAL	18,943,916

**LoCIP: Local Capital Improvement Program (State Grant)*

Long-Term Obligations

Promises made



Total Capital Debt: \$67,804,036 (estimated)

Total Pension: \$28,121,000

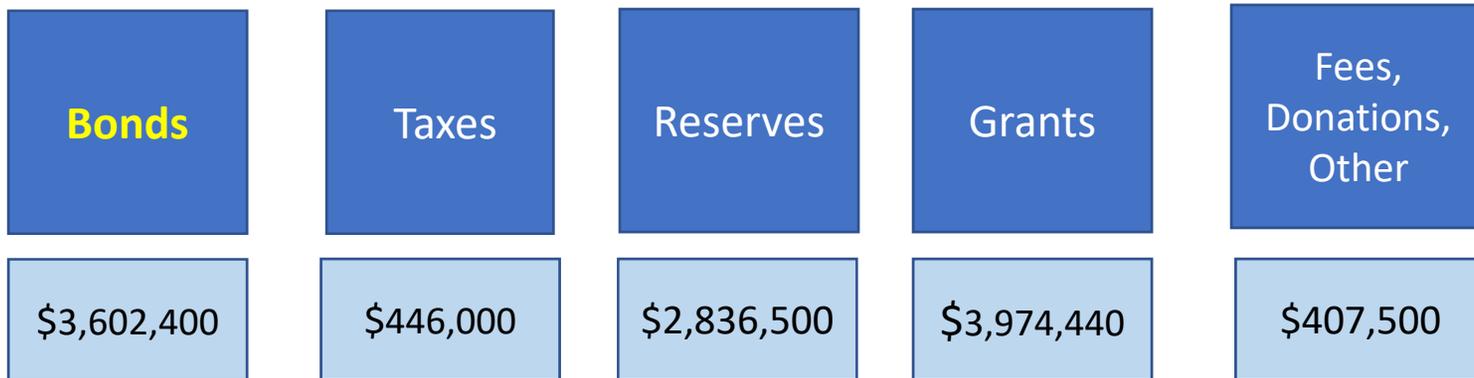
Total OPEB :\$0

TOTAL DEBT: 94,325,258

**OPEB – Other Post-Employment Benefits*

Major Capital Projects

\$11,266,840



Bonded:

<u>TOWN</u>		<u>EDUCATION</u>	
Three Town Elevators	\$877,500	District Security Improvements	\$250,000
Highway Management	\$1,100,000	Tariffville Modular Classrooms	\$500,000
Sidewalks	\$223,400		
Multi-Use Trail Development	\$279,500		
Bridge Improvements	\$372,000		

Estimated Mill Rate of 32.04

Median tax increase of 5.93%

Mill Rate	
31.04	Town
1.00	Fire District
32.04	Town & Fire District

Why are taxes going up?

New Spending
\$7,384,458

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New Revenue
~\$2,000,000

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Tax Increase
5.93%

Change in Home Value Will Impact Taxes

	Tax Impact	
18% Increase in Home Value	-2.13%	
20% Increase in Home Value	-0.47%	
25% Increase in Home Value	3.68%	
27.7% Increase in Home Value	5.93%	Median
30% Increase in Home Value	7.82%	
35% Increase in Home Value	11.97%	
40% Increase in Home Value	16.12%	

Median Home: 5.93% tax increase
9% of homes will enjoy a tax decrease
21% of homes will have a tax Increase > 12%

Revaluation

\$350,000



27.7% Median increase in Value



\$446,950



Sample Home	FY 2023	FY 2024
Home Value	350,000	446,950
Mill Rate	38.63	32.04
Sample Assessment*	245,000	312,865
Taxes	9,464	10,024
\$ Increase	0	\$560
% Increase	0	5.92%

27.7%

*Assessments are 70% of the Appraisal Value

Historical Tax Data

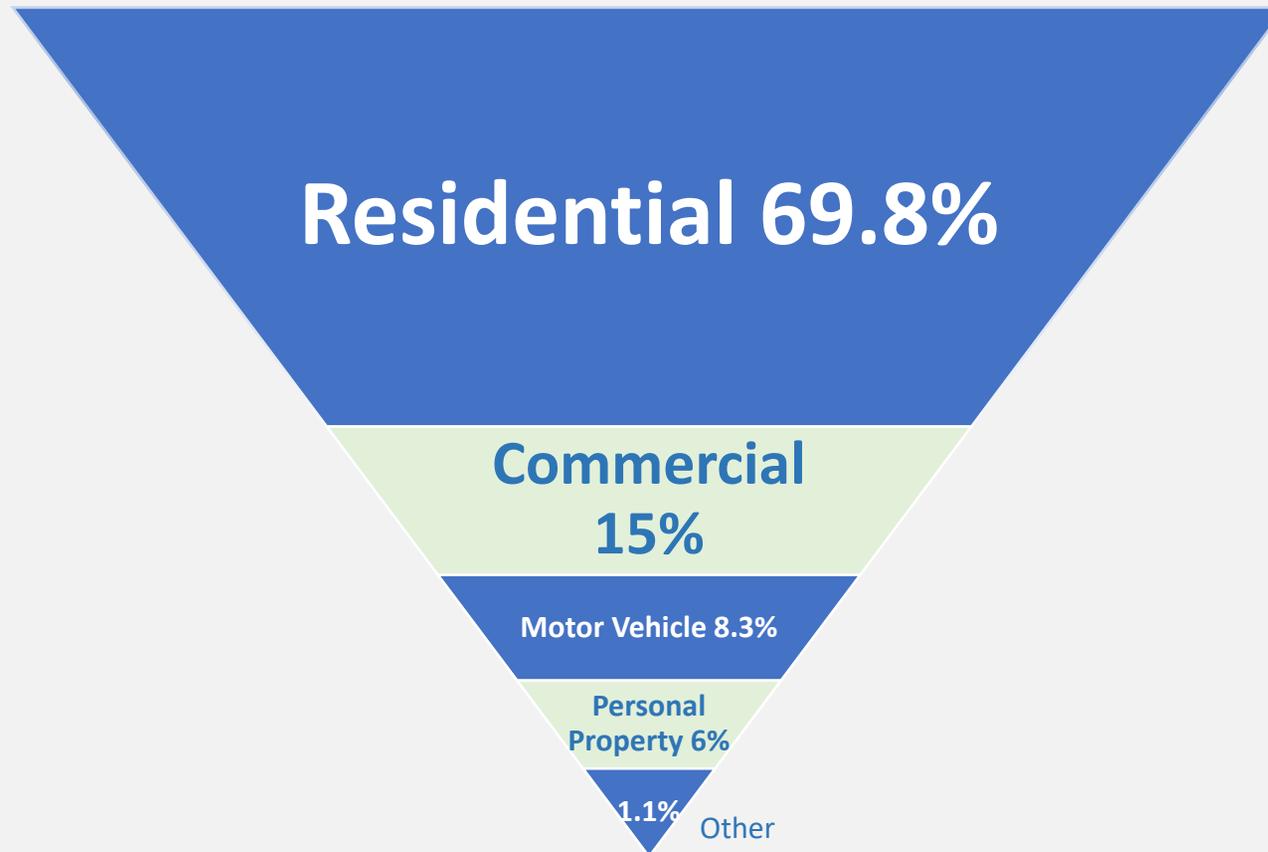
Fiscal Year	Mill Rate	Home Value (\$350,000)	% Change	CPI
2015	38.33	9,391	-0.47%	1.00%
2016	38.31	9,386	-0.05%	1.70%
2017	38.35	9,396	0.10%	0.20%
2018**	39.99	9,798	4.28%	1.60%
2019*	37.59	9,210	-6.00%	2.00%
2020	38.52	9,437	2.47%	2.50%
2021	38.28	9,379	-0.62%	1.80%
2022	38.63	9,464	0.91%	1.20%
2023	38.63	9,464	0%	6.0%***
2024*	32.04	10,024	5.92%	

*Revaluation Impact Year

** R.E. & P.P. 38.76; MV 31

***February CPI released 03/14/2023

Who Pays Taxes?

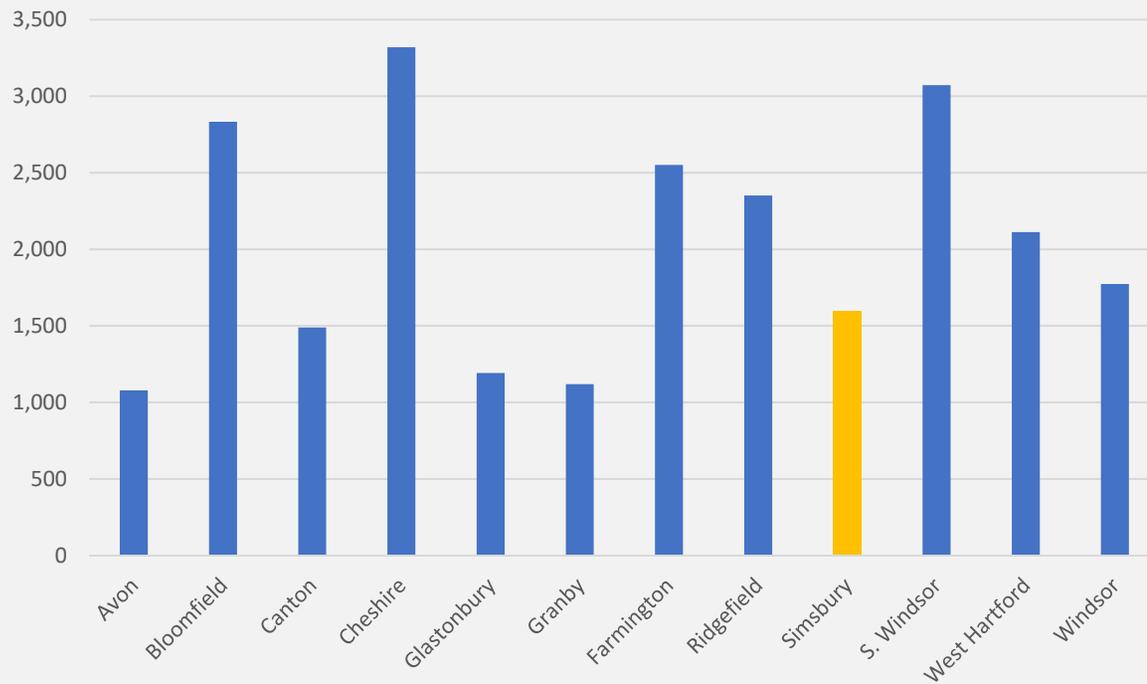


Source: OPM CT Municipal Fiscal Indicators (2022)

Debt Service Allocation Between Town and Board of Education

Issuance/Anticipated Issuance	Town	Board of Education	Total
2015	1,270,000	-	1,270,000
2017	3,491,000	1,374,000	4,865,000
2019	3,742,200	1,357,800	5,100,000
2020	-	7,280,000	7,280,000
2021	2,170,000	10,105,000	12,275,000
2023	7,966,860	3,344,000	11,310,860
Latimer	-	25,703,176	25,703,176
Total Estimated Debt	18,640,060	49,163,976	67,804,036
% of Total Debt	27.49%	72.51%	100%

Per Capita Debt



Source: OPM Municipal Fiscal Indicators 2022

Fiscal Health of Town

15-17%

General Reserves

8%

Debt Service Cap, targeted at 7%

98.5%

Conservative Tax Collection Assumption

6.5%

Pension Investment Assumption

20-25%

Health Internal Service Fund Reserve

Simsbury Recognized as a Fiscally Strong Community

S&P's Aaa Rating:

- Historically stable financial operations
- Healthy reserve levels
- Strong fiscal policies
- Conservative revenue projections
- Always fund debt service, pension, and OPEB liabilities
- Engage in long-term planning
- 22 Year Recipient of GFOA Excellence in Financial Reporting Award



And going forward...

Affordability - Economic Condition

- **24,799** Population
- **\$332,800** Median Home Value
- **\$123,905** Median Income
- **\$2,160** Avg. Rent
- **3.3%** Unemployment (Feb.)
- **6.0%** Inflation (March)
- **8.7%** Social Security Increase
- **3%** Poverty Rate

Sources: CERC Town Profiles 2021, CT Dept. of Labor, Rentcafe.com, Social Security Administration

Town Comparisons

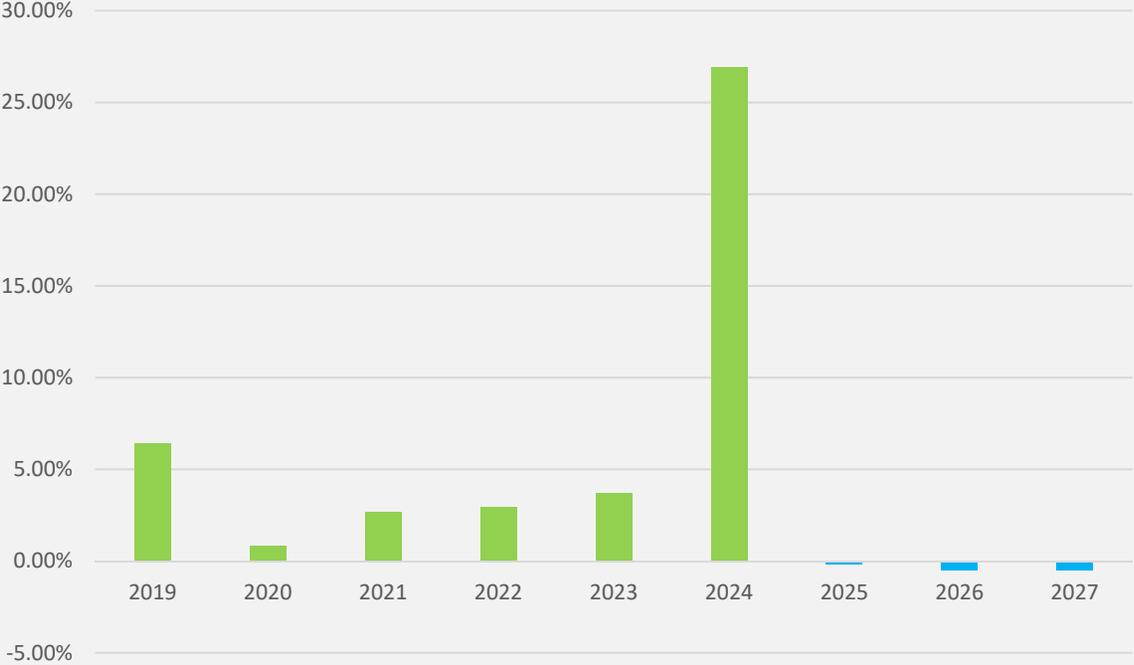
Budgets*	Education	Town	Debt Service	Capital	TOTAL	Tax Increase	Mill Rate	Revaluation
Simsbury	6.70%	4.49%	27.40%	-100%	6.08%	5.92%	32.04**	Yes
Glastonbury	2.8%	2.80%	2.81%	3.54%	2.76%	5%	31.01	Yes
Farmington	2.00%	1.97%	7.07%	-74.23%	0%	9.75%	24.21	Yes
South Windsor	7.95%	5.05%	14.08%	78%	8.84%	11.11%	33.41	Yes
West Hartford***	4.83%	4.37%	-3.24%		4.23%	1.87%	40.96	Yes/No
Cheshire	5.82%	7.25%	8.36%	0%	6.30%	5.16%	36.09	No
Avon	3.58%	5.08%	-2.48%	-13.83%	3.62%	3.21%	35.75	No

*Numbers subject to change as town budget processes are incomplete

**Simsbury's mill rate is inclusive of the Fire District.

***West Hartford in the second year of a two year phase in of their revaluation impact. West Hartford reduction is for total capital financing

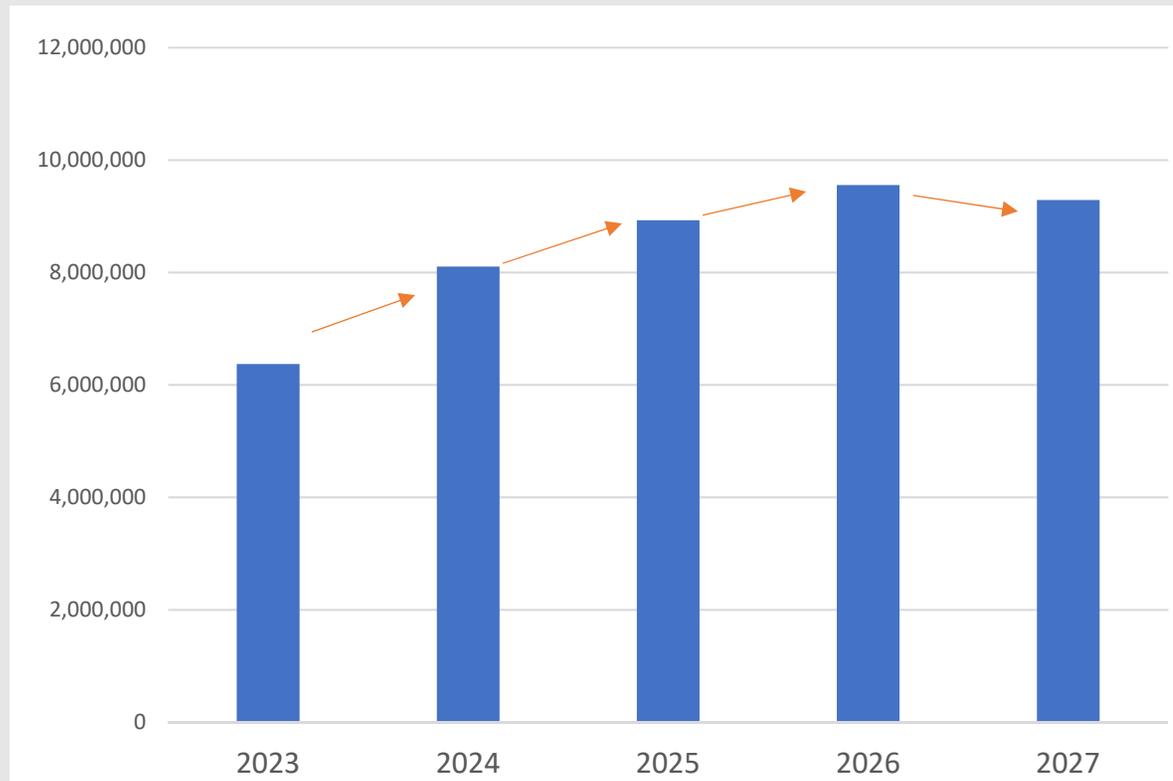
Grand List Projections



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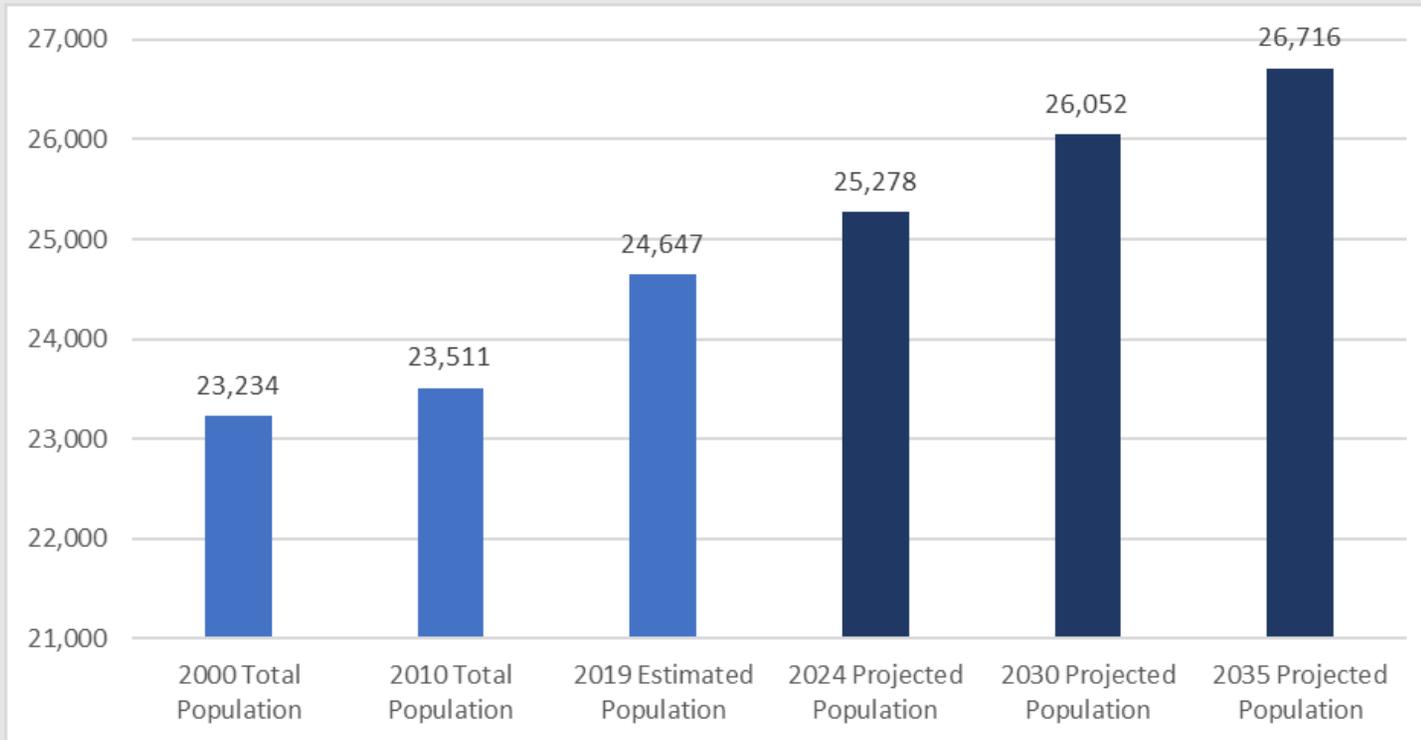
Looking Forward Estimated Debt Service



Next year debt service increases \$947,263

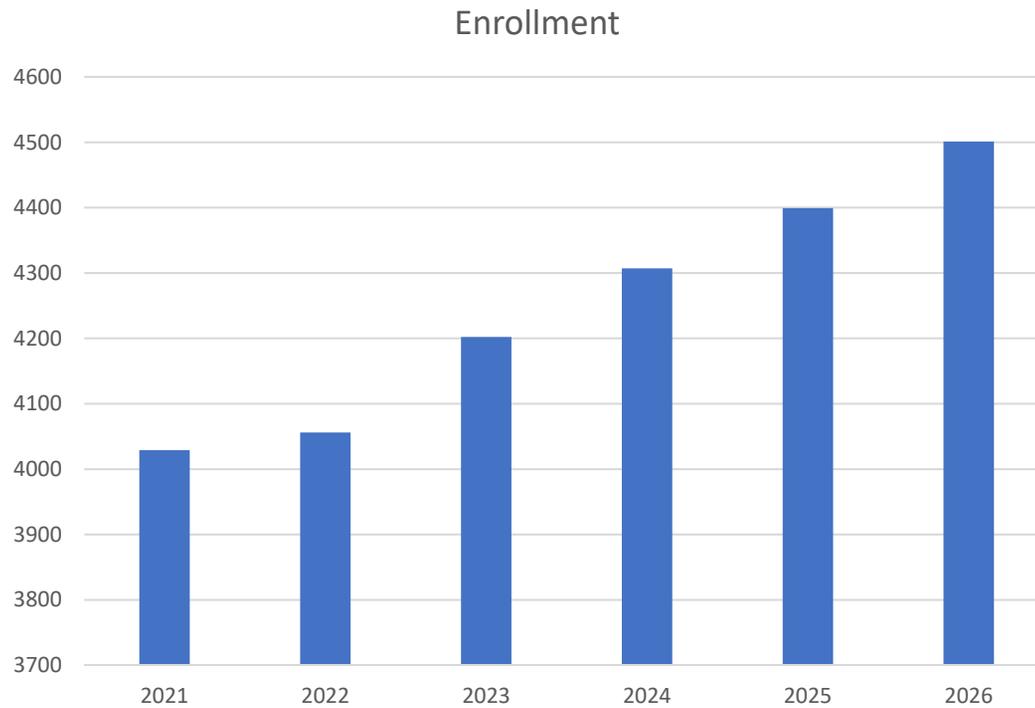
Looking Forward Population Trends

Population – 24,799



Source: Simsbury Parks & Open Space Master Plan; CERC Town Profile 2022

Looking Forward School Enrollment Trends



Source: Board of Education Budget Book

Local Tax Relief



Income Limit

- Elderly or Totally Disabled
- Additional Veterans Exemption

No Income Limit

- Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance
- Totally Disabled
- Blind Persons
- Motor Vehicle Retrofitted for use by Handicapped Persons
- Veterans, Surviving Spouse or For Those Still in Service
- Disabled Veterans
- Surviving Spouse Rights
- Motor Vehicle Exemption for Current Service Members

For more information visit the Simsbury Assessor Website at <https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/assessors-office> or call 860-658-3251

Tonight's Presentations

- **Board of Education Operating/Capital Budgets**
 - Susan Salina, BOE Chair
- **Board of Selectmen Operating/Capital Budgets**
 - Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman

Tonight's Presentations

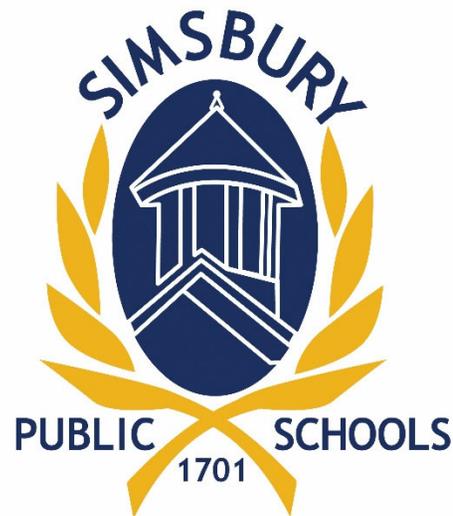
- **Board of Education Operating/Capital Budgets**
 - Susan Salina, BOE Chair

- **Board of Selectmen Operating/Capital Budgets**
 - Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman

Tonight's Public Hearing

- All public comments received via email have been read by Board of Finance members and are available on our agenda notice
- Request comments be limited to 3 minutes at a time
- After everyone has spoken once, additional comments are welcome
- Boards and staff will be given an opportunity to respond to questions and comments
- Board of Finance may increase or decrease the budget
- Continue the Public Hearing to April 18, 2023 at 5:45 pm or send an amended budget to referendum
- Board of Finance will set the mill rate after referendum

Board of Education 2023-24



Committed to Excellence Every Day

Board of Finance Public Hearing April 4, 2023

Strategic Priorities

Supporting the BOE Strategic Plan

Ensure Success For Every Student	Creating Compassionate And Connected School Culture
Premier Workforce	Sustainable and Strategic Capital Investments

Budget Themes and Priorities

- Meet increased contractual obligations.
- Adjust for market driven increases in operational costs.
- Address enrollment driven staffing needs.
- Special education tuition/transportation.
- Facilities and Maintenance needs.
- Utilize non-lapsing funds to phase in prior grant funded positions.
- Offset new staffing needs.

Board of Education Budget

\$82,182,136*

Increase of \$*5,151,317

6.69% increase

*Inclusive of Non-Public School budget

Overview of Presentation

- Budget Context
- Return on Investment
- Main Budget Drivers

Budget Context

BOE Approved Budget vs. Fixed Cost Analysis

	\$ Increase from FY22/23 Budget	% Increase from FY22/23 Budget
Fixed Cost Analysis	\$5,202,659	6.75%
Board of Education Approved Budget	\$5,151,317	6.69%
Budget Increase	\$51,342	0.06%

- Superintendent's proposed budget includes all presented market driven increases, enrollment driven staff needs and prior year budgetary deficits as outlined in the Budget Summary.
- Superintendent's proposed budget does *NOT* include additional \$300,000 CNR request for buses. This is a priority item that we may request adding back into budget as the budget process progresses.
- 9.35% budget presented at the Board of Education Budget Workshop was reduced by \$2,051,652 to get to the final Board of Education approved budget of 6.69%.

Per Pupil Expenditure

	2020-21 data	2021-22 data
Simsbury's Per Pupil Expenditure	\$18,993	\$19,123
State Average	\$20,740	\$21,438
Rank in DRG B (21 towns)	10	14
Rank in Hartford area (27 towns)	12	16

Peer Communities

Farmington	\$ 18,849
Simsbury	\$ 19,123
Avon	\$ 19,225
Glastonbury	\$ 19,655
West Hartford	\$ 19,915

Budget History

10 yr. avg.	1.79%
5 yr. avg.	2.24%

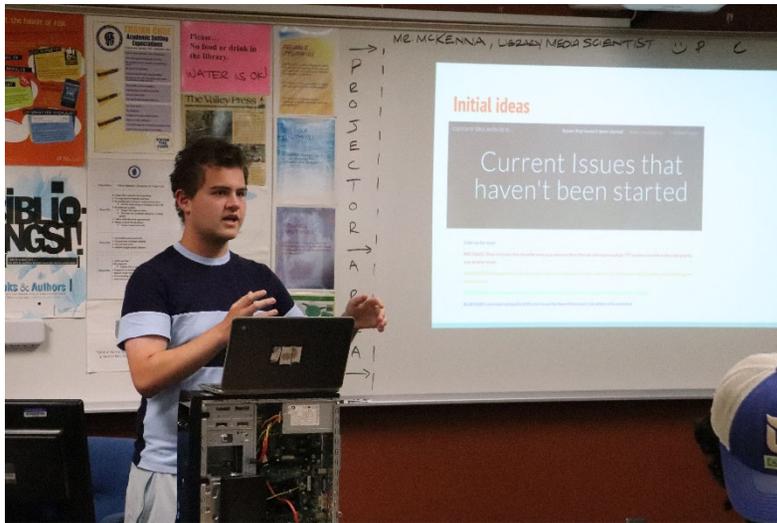
2023-24 Enrollment Projections

GRADES	2022-23	2023-24	CHANGE
9-12	1261	1298	+37
7-8	627	636	+9
K-6	<u>2176</u>	<u>2275</u>	<u>+99</u>
Total	4064	4209	+145

- The 2022 NESDEC projections suggest that K-12 student enrollment will increase by an average of approximately 113.6 students per year for the next five years.
- Enrollment, especially incoming K classes, will be important to monitor over the next few years.
- Latimer Lane project, scheduled to be completed during 2024-25 will address enrollment concerns in that area of town, and some Latimer Lane classrooms could be available to relocate programming from other schools.

Return On Investment

Student Growth and Success



Combined ELA and Math
Overall Performance
Grades 3-6

Woodbridge	78.6%
Cheshire	76.1%
Madison	75.9%
Simsbury 	74.5%
Fairfield	73.4%
South Windsor	73.0%
Greenwich	72.8%
Glastonbury	72.7%
Guilford	72.5%
Farmington	71.9%

%Goal+ for Both Math and ELA

DRG B Comparison

2022 DRG B High School Comparisons: CSDE Reporting

NGSS	11 SCI	SAT	11 MAT	SAT	11 ELA
Simsbury 	87.9	Avon	66.5	Region 5	86.6
Greenwich	79.9	Region 5	66.4	Simsbury	84.0
Granby	77.4	Simsbury	66.2	Farmington	81.6
Avon	76.9	Glastonbury	65.1	Avon	81.1
Farmington	75.3	Madison	64.7	Fairfield	80.3

Supporting Our Vision of a Graduate



Main Budget Drivers

Contractual Obligations

Teachers - operating budget only	\$	2,510,914	3.26%
Administrators		(43,422)	-0.06%
NAGE		132,004	0.17%
Nurses		16,013	0.02%
Support staff (Secretaries, Paraeducators, etc)		14,285	0.02%
Tutors		171,067	0.22%
Unaffiliated and Reserve		170,917	0.22%
Social Security/Medicare		<u>39,215</u>	<u>0.05%</u>
Sub-Total Contractual Obligations	\$	3,010,992	3.91%

Enrollment Driven Staffing

Certified Staff (4.0 FTE)	\$	390,380	0.51%
Non-Certified Staff		<u>19,057</u>	<u>0.02%</u>
Sub-Total Enrollment Driven Staffing	\$	409,437	0.53%

Market Driven Increases

Transportation	\$	133,179	0.17%
Utilities		153,101	0.20%
Supplies/Textbooks/Services		86,542	0.11%
Software & Technology		<u>110,107</u>	<u>0.14%</u>
Sub-Total Market Driven Increases	\$	482,929	0.63%

Prior Year Budgetary Deficits

Special Education	\$	500,044	0.65%
Facilities Maintenance		127,074	0.16%
Legal		<u>29,000</u>	<u>0.04%</u>
Sub-Total Prior Year Budgetary Deficits	\$	656,118	0.85%

Reductions

Non Lapsing Phase In	\$	(353,700)	-0.46%
Reallocation of Current Staff/Staffing Reductions		<u>(475,380)</u>	<u>-0.62%</u>
Additional Misc Reductions	\$	(204,543)	-0.27%
Sub-Total Reductions	\$	(1,033,623)	-1.34%

Summary of Main Drivers

Contractual Obligations	\$3,010,992	3.91%
Enrollment Driven Staffing	\$ 409,437	0.53%
Market Driven Increases	\$ 482,929	0.63%
Prior Year Deficits	\$ 656,118	0.85%
Insurance	\$1,625,465	2.11%
Reductions	<u>\$(1,033,623)</u>	-1.34%
Total	\$5,151,318	6.69%

Capital Improvements

Modular Classroom Replacement

Tariffville School modular classrooms
Originally built in 1984.

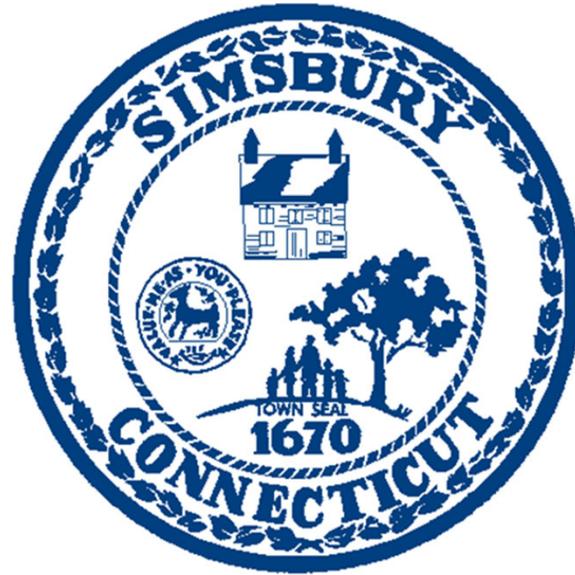
Security Improvements

District-wide replacement of aging security
cameras. Most were installed in 2008.

Capital Improvements

TARIFFVILLE SCHOOL		DISTRICT WIDE	
Replace 1984 Modulares	500,000	Security Improvements	250,000
FY23 Appropriation	<u>350,000</u>		
Total Project Cost	850,000		

TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS \$750,000



Town of Simsbury

FY 2023/2024 BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APPROVED BUDGET

MARCH 21, 2023

(UPDATED FOR THE BOF PUBLIC HEARING, APRIL 4, 2023)

Board of Selectmen 2021-2023

Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman

Amber Abbuhl, Deputy First Selectman

Sean Askham, Selectman

Heather Goetz, Selectman

Chris Peterson, Selectman

Eric Wellman, Selectman



Board of Selectmen Priorities



Public Safety

Infrastructure

Quality of Life & Well-Being

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Parks & Recreation

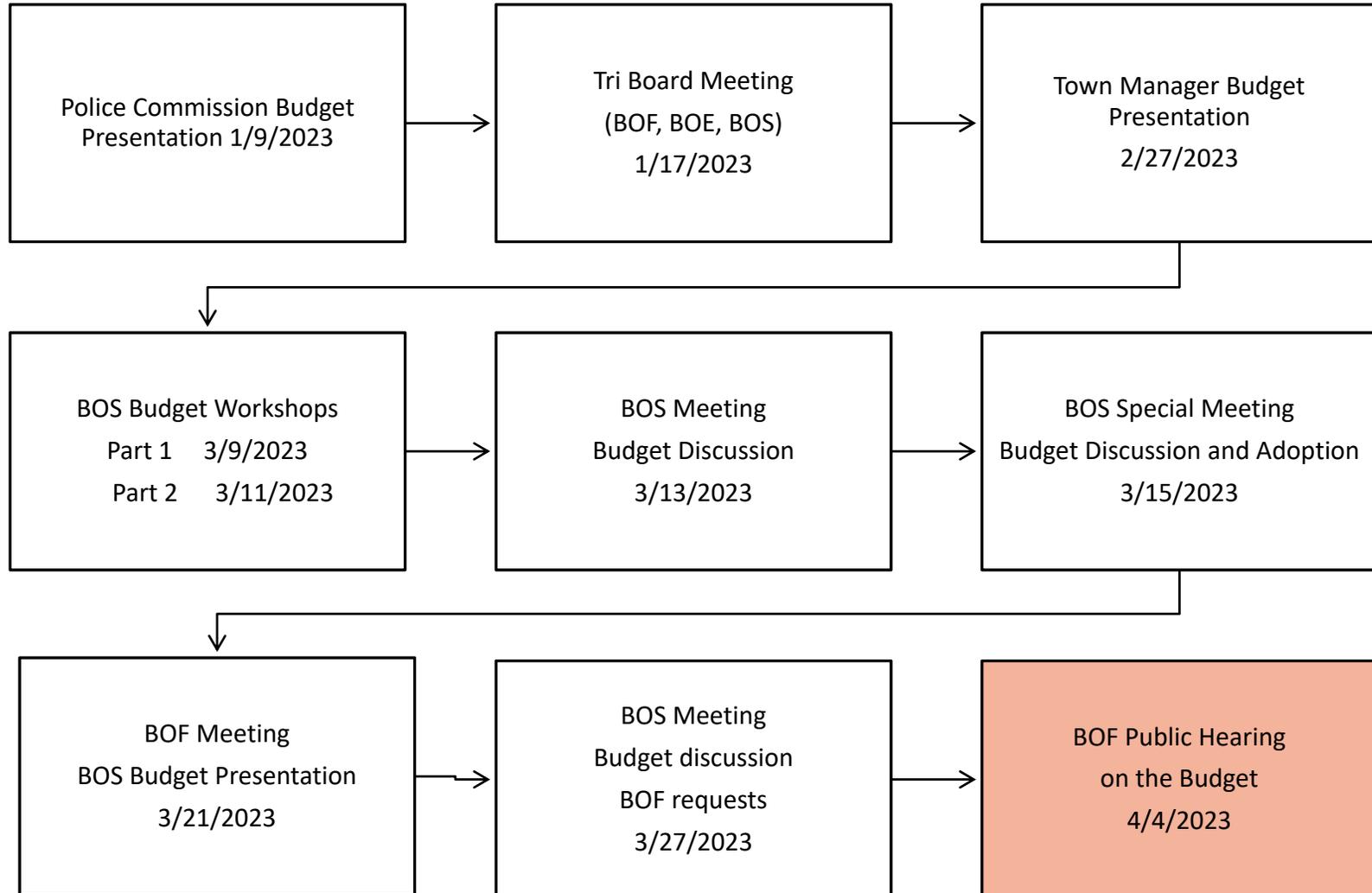
Financial Management

Economic Development

*Fostering an Engaged
Workforce*



FY 23/24 Budget Calendar

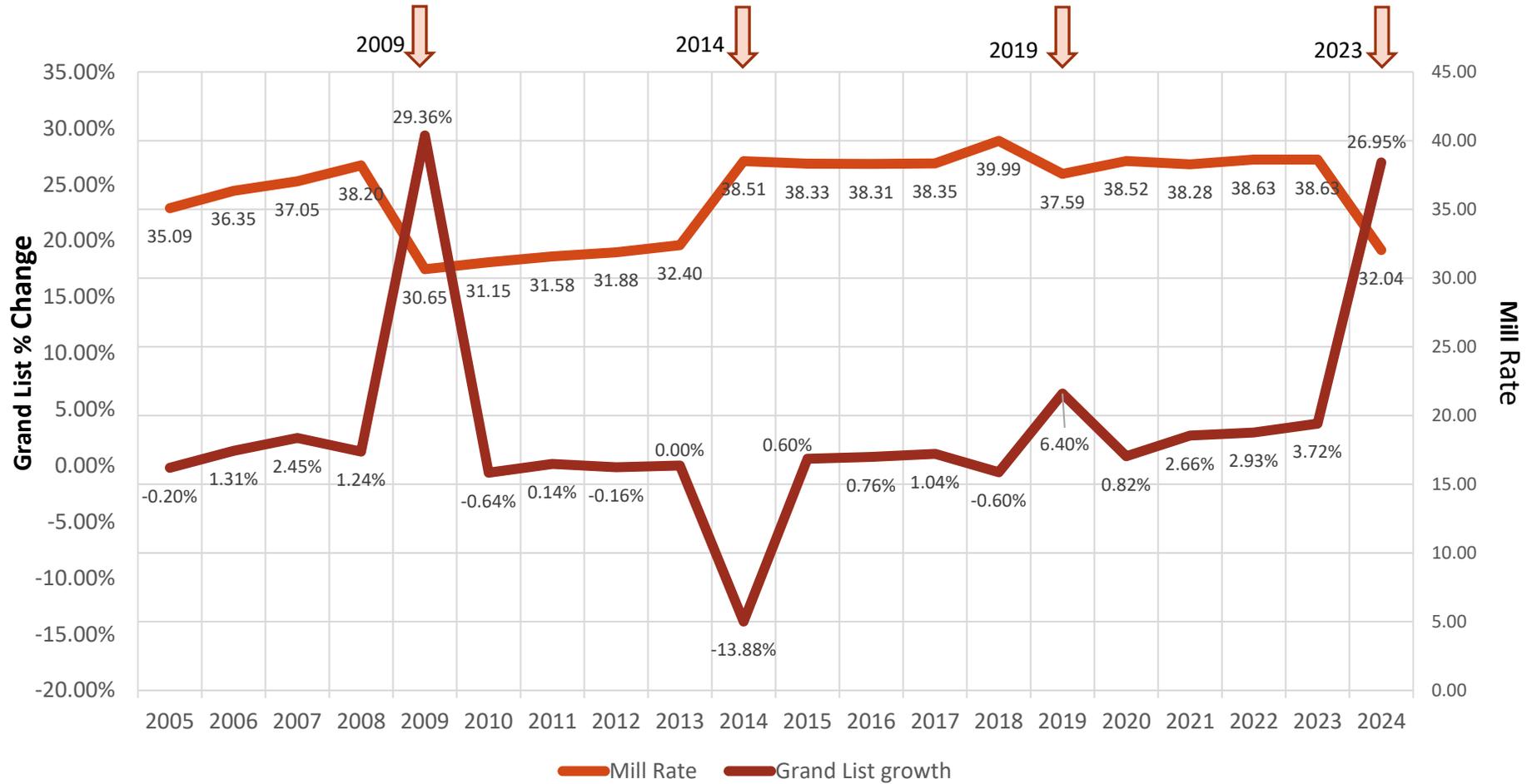


FY 23/24 Grand List - Reval Year

- Grand list increased by 26.95% or \$722,232,786, generating approximately \$22.4M in new revenue
 - Real estate increased by 31.44% or \$707,464,494
(State mandated revaluation every 5 years)
 - Motor vehicle increased by 5.06% or \$13,847,431
 - Personal property increased by 0.59% or \$920,861
- **New growth without revaluation is \$2,039,834, or 2.45%**
- Analysis of certified grand list growth to 20 years
 - 0.82% (median) to 1.02% (average) range of certified grand list growth over the last 20 years, without revaluation years
 - Six straight years of growth in the grand list
(6.40%*, 0.82%, 2.66%, 2.93%, 3.72%, 26.95%*).

* Revaluation years

20 Year View of Grand List Changes (with added overlay of Mill Rate)



Need actual grand list #'s



FY 23/24 Revenue Assumptions

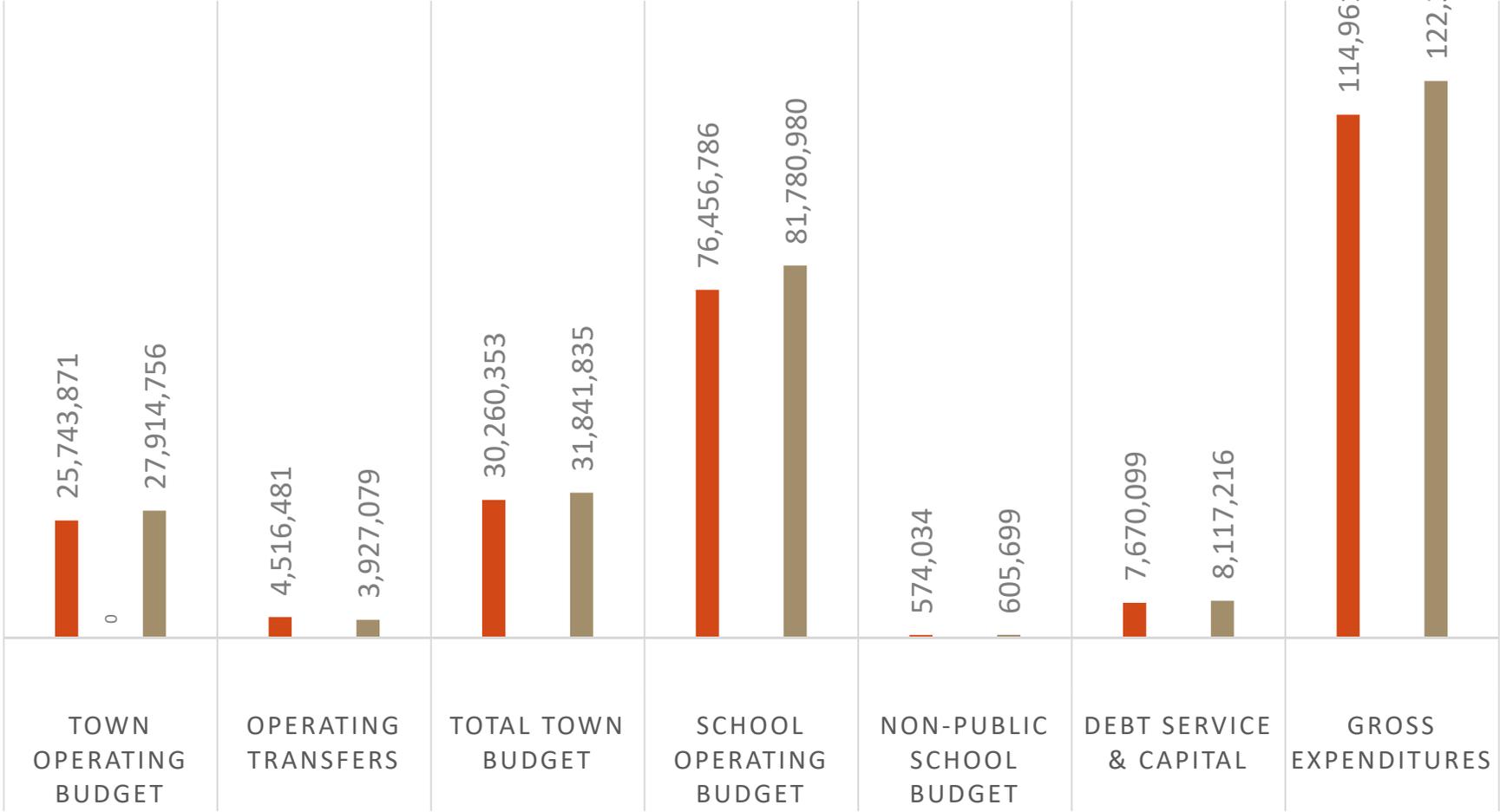
- Uses a tax collection rate of 98.5%
- 1 mill is approximately \$3M in revenue
- Town Clerk's Offices revenues have decreased slightly due to fewer homeowners refinancing mortgages due to interest rate increases
 - Conveyance Tax decreases by -\$150,000
 - Land Recording Fees decreases by -\$80,000
- Receipt of second round of ARPA funding, \$3,757,833
- Utilized Governor's proposed budget for state revenues
 - Most state revenues remain flat
 - ECS revenue increases by \$222,479, from \$7,000,416 (FY 22/23 Actual) to \$7,222,895 (FY23/24)
 - Motor vehicle tax reimbursement increases by \$373,907, from \$1,180,975 (FY 22/23 Actual) to \$1,554,882 (FY23/24)
 - Motor vehicle mill rate budgeted as the same mill rate as real estate and personal property

FY 23/24 Budget Summary Levy Calculation Worksheet

	FY2022/23 Budget	FY2023/24 Projected	Change	Percent Change
Town Operating Budget	\$ 25,743,871	\$ 27,914,756	\$ 2,170,885	8.43%
Operating Transfers	4,516,481	3,927,079	(589,402)	-13.05%
Total Town Budget	30,260,353	31,841,835	1,581,483	5.23%
School Operating Budget	76,456,786	81,780,980	5,324,194	6.96%
Non-Public School Budget	574,034	605,699	31,665	5.52%
Debt Service & Capital	7,670,099	8,117,216	447,117	5.83%
Gross Expenditures	114,961,272	122,345,730	7,384,459	6.42%
Anticipated Revenue	16,772,998	16,596,566	(176,432)	-1.05%
Total Revenue and Approp of Fund Balance	16,772,998	16,596,566	(176,432)	-1.05%
Net Expenditures	\$ 98,188,274	\$ 105,749,164	\$ 7,560,890	7.70%
Mill Rate Calculation				
Property Taxes				
Supplemental Auto	1,600,000	1,600,000		
Property Taxes	88,646,228	95,218,612		
Car Taxes	7,942,046	8,930,552		
Total Property Taxes	98,188,274	105,749,164		
Net Grand List (non-vehicle)	2,405,671,475	3,114,056,830		
Tax Collection Rate	98.50%	98.50%		
Mill Rate	37.41	31.04	(6.37)	-17.03%
Fire	1.22	1.00	(0.22)	-18.03%
Total Mill Rate	38.63	32.04	(6.59)	-17.06%
Median Home Impact	8,016	8,491	475	5.93%

FY 22/23 TO FY 23/24

■ FY2022/23 Budget ■ FY2023/24 Projected



FY 23/24 Budget Overview

- Mill Rate 32.04 (including fire district)
- New growth without revaluation is \$2,038,520, or 2.45%
- \$3.759M ARPA Tranche 2 (added CRF funds)
- Budget Increase of **\$1,581,483 or 5.23%**
- Total Operating is **\$31,841,835 or 5.23%**
- Debt Service/Capital Increase of **\$447,117 or 5.83%**
- Budget drivers include Wages/Benefits, Health Care and Inflationary increases
- Operating and Capital Cuts in the amount of \$685,650
- Service Improvements in the amount of \$393,674
- Funded one Outside Agency requested increase for Interval House
- ARPA funding used to eliminate Bonding and reduce Debt Service in addition to funding projects in line with the BOS ARPA policy recommendations

FY 23/24 Debt Service Reduction Approach

- Focus on the debt service from Latimer (the 8%)
- Save and smooth over a period of time
- ARPA/CRF provided the ability to do this

1. Use ARPA funding for Key 2023/2024 Bonded Project(s) to reduce Debt Service
Savings per year Chart on NOT bonding the Flower Bridge Project (\$1,989,000)

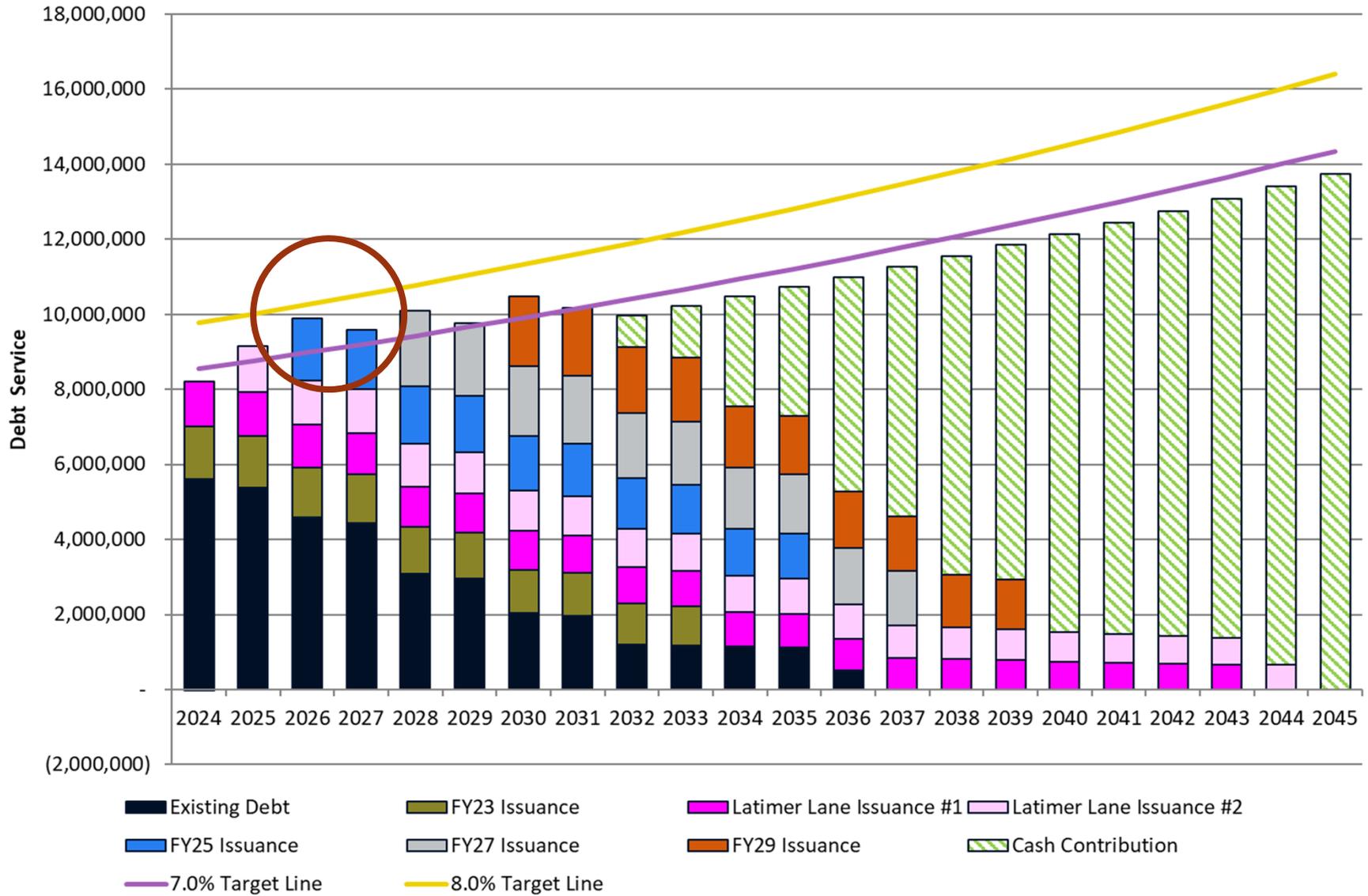
FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35
-	-	\$283,433	\$274,979	\$266,526	\$258,073	\$249,620	\$241,166	\$232,713	\$224,260	\$215,807	\$207,353

2. Use ARPA to directly reduce debt service in current year, and out years

Savings Chart on NOT bonding \$1,239,535 in FY23 (re-allocated proposed ARPA funding of \$739,535 and taking \$500K from Capital Reserve to pay down that amount rather than bond for it this year.

FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35
\$173,535	\$168,577	\$163,619	\$158,660	\$153,702	\$148,744	\$143,786	\$138,828	\$133,870	\$128,912	-	-

Capital Budget Planning FY24 - FY29 - Without Sewer Debt



FY 2023/2024 Service Improvements

Police Officer with Sergeant Upgrade	\$153,122	Police	Add'l Dept request (Study)
Mechanic/Truck Driver	\$102,933	Public Works	TM prioritized
On Call Engineering Services	\$20,000	Public Works	TM prioritized
Parks Maintainer	\$99,569	Culture, Parks and Rec	TM prioritized
Recreation Program Coordinator	SF fund	Culture, Parks and Rec	TM prioritized
Increase to Childrens Program Expenditures	\$4,250	Library	TM prioritized
Teen Reference Materials	\$4,500	Library	TM prioritized
Library Conferences and Education	\$2,000	Library	Add'l Dept request
DEI Council Funding	\$4,000	BOS-Community Services	TM prioritized \$2K
Simsbury Celebrates	\$3,300	BOS-Community Services	TM prioritized

Total \$393,674

Not funded

ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS						
0						
0						
Public Works	Truck driver	\$ 99,956		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,956
Public Works	Energy Manager	\$ 123,120		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 123,120
Public Works/Engineering	On-call services	\$ 50,000		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Police	Sworn officer (traffic)	\$ 136,286		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 136,286
Police	School resource officer	\$ 136,286		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 136,286
2						
Police	Full-time police clerk	\$ 90,582		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,582
Police	Additional hours for part-time police clerk	\$ 12,957		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,957

FY 2023/2024 Other Reductions and Additions

Energy Savings	(\$20,000)	Operating
Police Holiday Pay	(\$53,000)	Operating
Police Overtime	\$20,000	Operating
Vacancy Rate	(\$35,000)	Operating
Library Kiosk	(\$75,400)	CNR – ARPA request
Town Tourism Map	(\$58,250)	CNR – ARPA request
Debt Service	(\$170,000)	ARPA/CRF funding source <i>Business Grant Program \$250,000, Health Fund \$600,000, CRF \$500,000</i>
Interest Income	\$200,000	Revenue (recommended)
Iron Horse Median	(\$120,000)	CNR – ARPA (reduced to \$30K)
Town Manager Search	\$50,000	CNR – ARPA
Cart Path Base Prep	(\$20,000)	CNR
Cart Path Paving	(\$114,000)	CNR
Rebuild Tee #13	(\$20,000)	CNR

American Rescue Plan ACT (ARPA) FY 2023/2024 Budgeted Uses

Project Name/Description	Cost	Note
Eno Memorial Hall HVAC*	\$389,440	HVAC planned and recommended use
Latimer Lane Outdoor Learning Spaces	\$345,800	Previously Approved BOE need
Town Manager Search*	\$50,000	New Addition
Iron Horse Landscaping*	\$30,000	Reduced from \$150K
Flower Bridge*	\$1,989,000	Bonding changed to Cash
Library Literacy Summer Program (3 Years - Aggregate Cost Reflected)	\$12,905	Service Improvement
Housing Authority Capital Request #2	\$100,000	Request
Fire District Generators	\$123,125	Request
SVAA Outside Agency	\$150,000	Request
SVAA Radio System Loan Forgiveness	\$70,805	Request
TOTAL	\$3,261,075	

CIP/CNR	\$2,804,240
Operating	\$12,905
Outside Agency	\$443,930
Total	\$3,261,075

* Currently budgeted items

FY23/24 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Projects

Culture, Parks & Recreation - \$454,000

Golf Course Irrigation	SF	454,000
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Public Works/Engineering - \$,7737,840

Highway Pavement Management	(Bonds 1.1M, GF-OT 200,000, LOCIP 156,500, TAR 243,500)	1,700,000
Public Works Truck Replacement and Plow	GF-OT/VT	261,000
Sidewalk Reconstruction	B	223,400
Refurbish Elevators	B	877,500
Old Drake Hill Road/Flower Bridge Repairs	ARPA	1,989,000
Meadowood Barn Restoration	(CRF 57,500, Grants 450,000, Donation 85,000, Ag Lease 57,500)	650,000
Multi-Use Trail Connections and Development (Rt 10 to Curtiss Park)	(Grants 343,500, Bonds 279,500, PS 250,000)	373,000
Eno Building Infrastructure	ARPA/B	389,440
Bridge Improvements (Climax Road Bridge over Nod Brook)	B/G	372,000
Bridge Improvements (Firetown Road and Barndoor Hills Rehab)	G	402,500

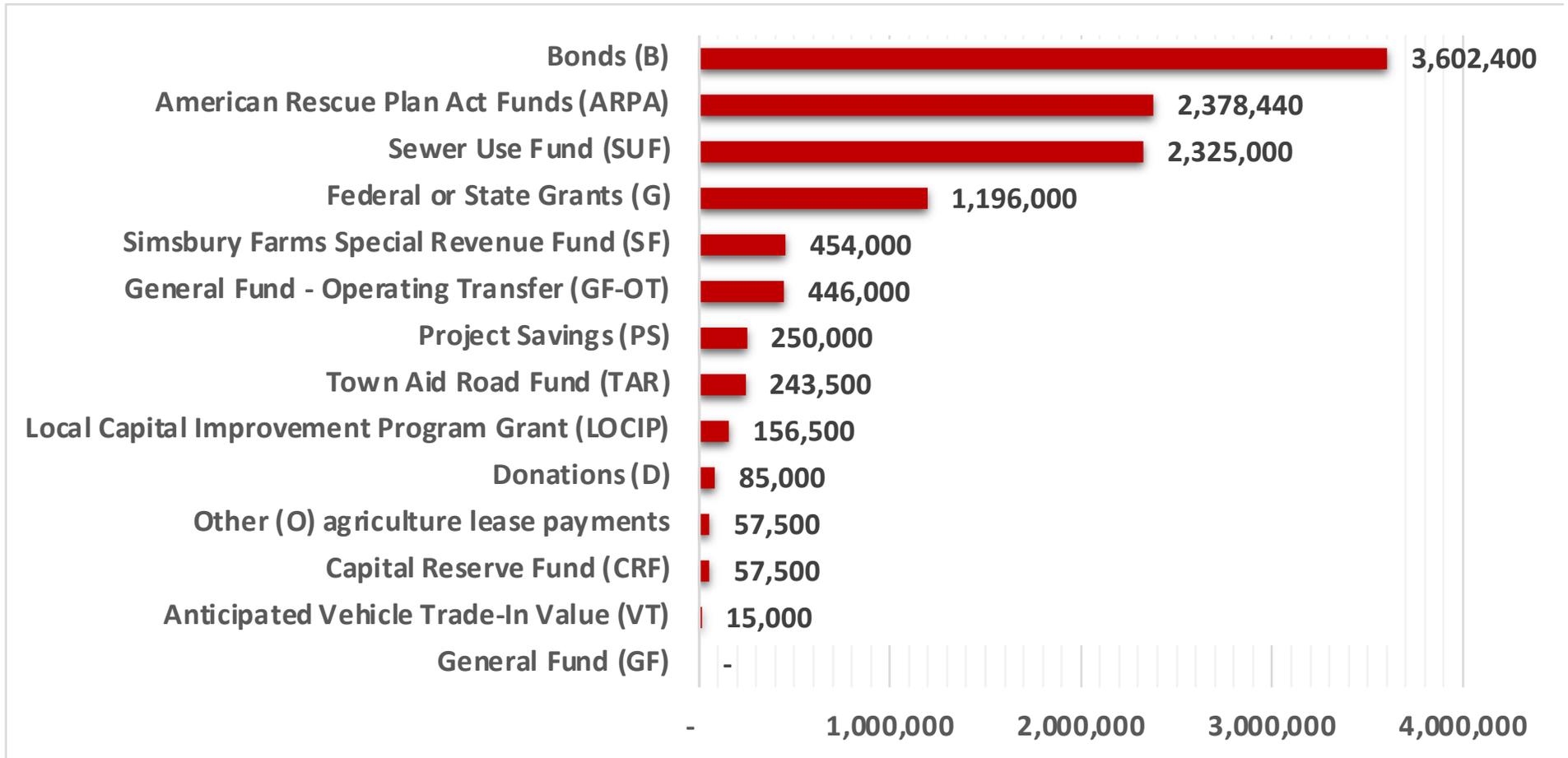
WPCA - \$2,275,000

Primary Clarifier	SUF	1,000,000
Sewer Replacement - Pine Hill	SUF	1,075,000
Grit System Upgrade	SUF	250,000

Board of Education - \$750,000

District Security Improvements	B	250,000
Tariffville School - Replace 1984 Modular Classrooms	B	500,000

FY23/24 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Funding Distribution Totals



FY23/24 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funded Projects

Public Works/Engineering - \$946,380

Material Recycling	GF-OT	25,000
Community Farm Maintenance & Repairs	GF-OT	5,000
North End Sidewalk (Town Contribution)	GF-TP	38,000
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (CRF 22,440, Grants 89,760)	CRF/G	112,200
Cross Walk Safety Improvements	CRF	46,680
Iron Horse Landscaping	ARPA/CRF	30,000
Station Street Reconfiguration (Grants 160,000, Belden Trust 40,000)	BT/G	200,000
Metacom Drive - Safety Improvements	CRF	46,000
GPS & Dash Cameras	TAR	45,000
Multi-Use Chip Truck	TAR	200,000
Various Drainage Improvements	TAR/GF	50,000
Personnel Lift	GF-TP	18,000
Fixed Vehicle Lift	TAR	27,000
Pickup F-150 4x4 (Highway)	TAR	45,000
John Deere Tractor 3320 (Facilities) - Replacement	GF-TP	58,500

FY23/24 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funded Projects

Culture, Parks & Recreation - \$366,359

Various Playscapes/Playground Refurbishments	GF-TP	35,000
Park Entrance Signs Replacement	GF-TP	16,000
Irrigation Replacement - Various Fields & Parks	CRF	100,000
Golf Course Rough Mower Replacement	E	80,000
Fairway Mower Cutting Reels	E	15,000
Greens Mower Reels	E	10,000
Parks/Golf Maintenance Garage Security Gate	GF-TP	19,000
Simsbury Farms Pools Wood Sundeck Replacement	GF-TP	60,000
Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Rubber Matting Replacement	GF-TP	15,000
Pollinator Pathway Initiative	D	16,359

Library - \$6,800

Computer Replacements (Public Terminals)	GF-TP	6,800
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FY23/24 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funded Projects

Water Pollution Control - \$225,000

Vehicle Replacement	SUF	15,000
Sewer Lining	SUF	100,000
HVAC Controls Replacement	SUF	50,000
Polymer Pumps	SUF	60,000

Police - \$451,542

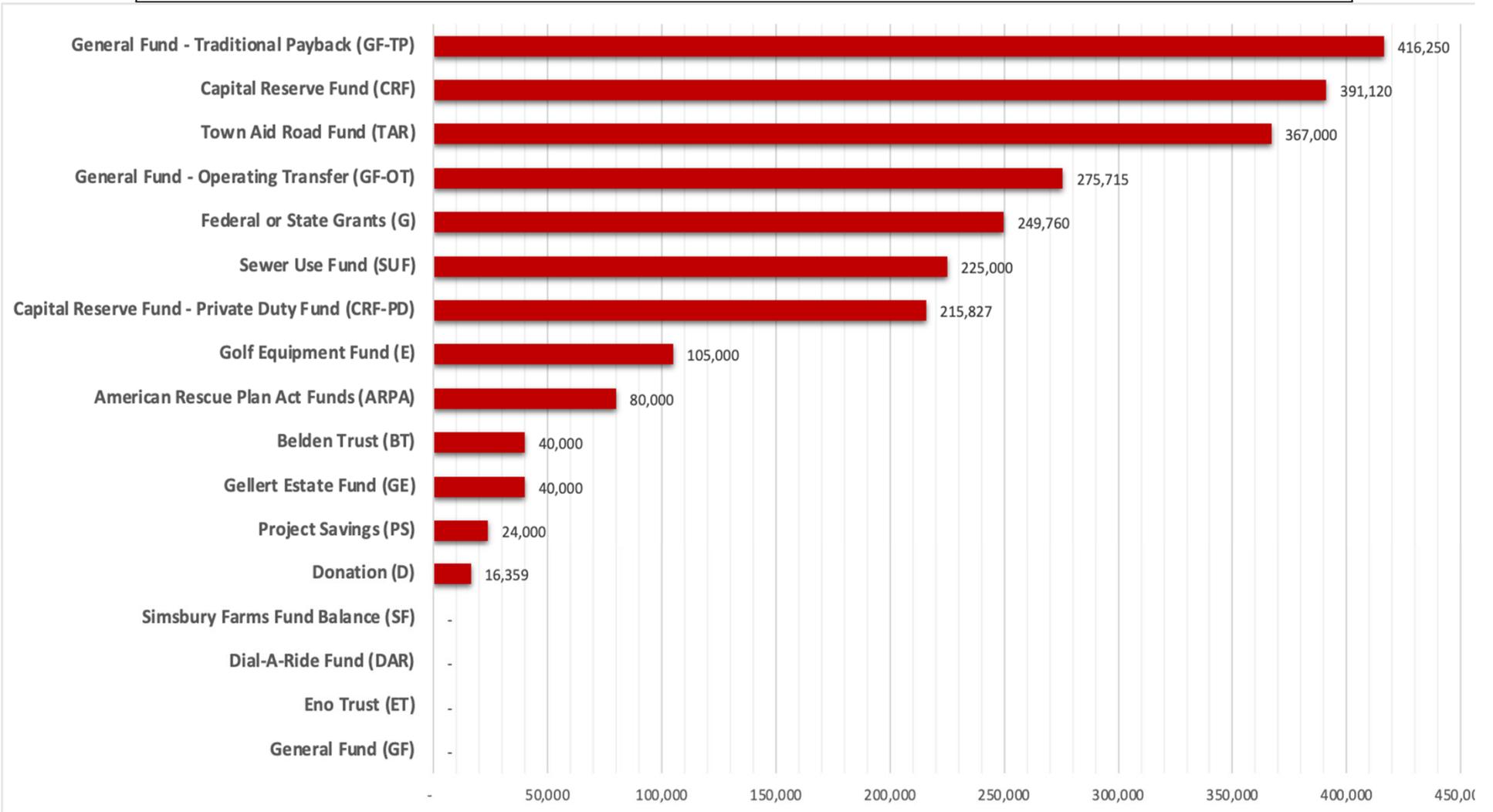
Police Cruisers (3)	GF-OT	185,000
Police Administrative Vehicles (GF-OT 50,715, CRF-PD 50,715)	GF-OT/CRF-PD	101,430
Training Room Technology Replacement	CRF-PD	10,000
Body Worn Cameras and Car Cameras	CRF-PD	54,512
Soft Body Armor/Vest Replacement	CRF-PD	7,000
Taser Replacements	CRF-PD	45,600
Launchers	CRF-PD	30,000
Scheduling Software	CRF-PD	18,000

FY23/24 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funded Projects

General Government - \$449,950

Revaluation	GF-TP	68,600
Computer Replacements (Staff)	GF-TP	30,240
Public Safety Radio System Maintenance/Repairs	GF-OT	10,000
Eno Hall Craft Room Renovation	GE	40,000
Network Storage & Virtual Environment	CRF	35,000
Network Switches	GF-TP	42,000
Security Camera Infrastructure & Equipment	GF-TP	9,110
Financial Fraud Risk Assessment	CRF	50,000
Employee Satisfaction Survey	CRF	20,000
Charter Revision	CRF	45,000
Tariffville Area Plan (PS 24,000, CRF 24,000)	PS/CRF	50,000
Town Manager Search	ARPA	50,000

FY23/24 Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Funding Distribution Totals



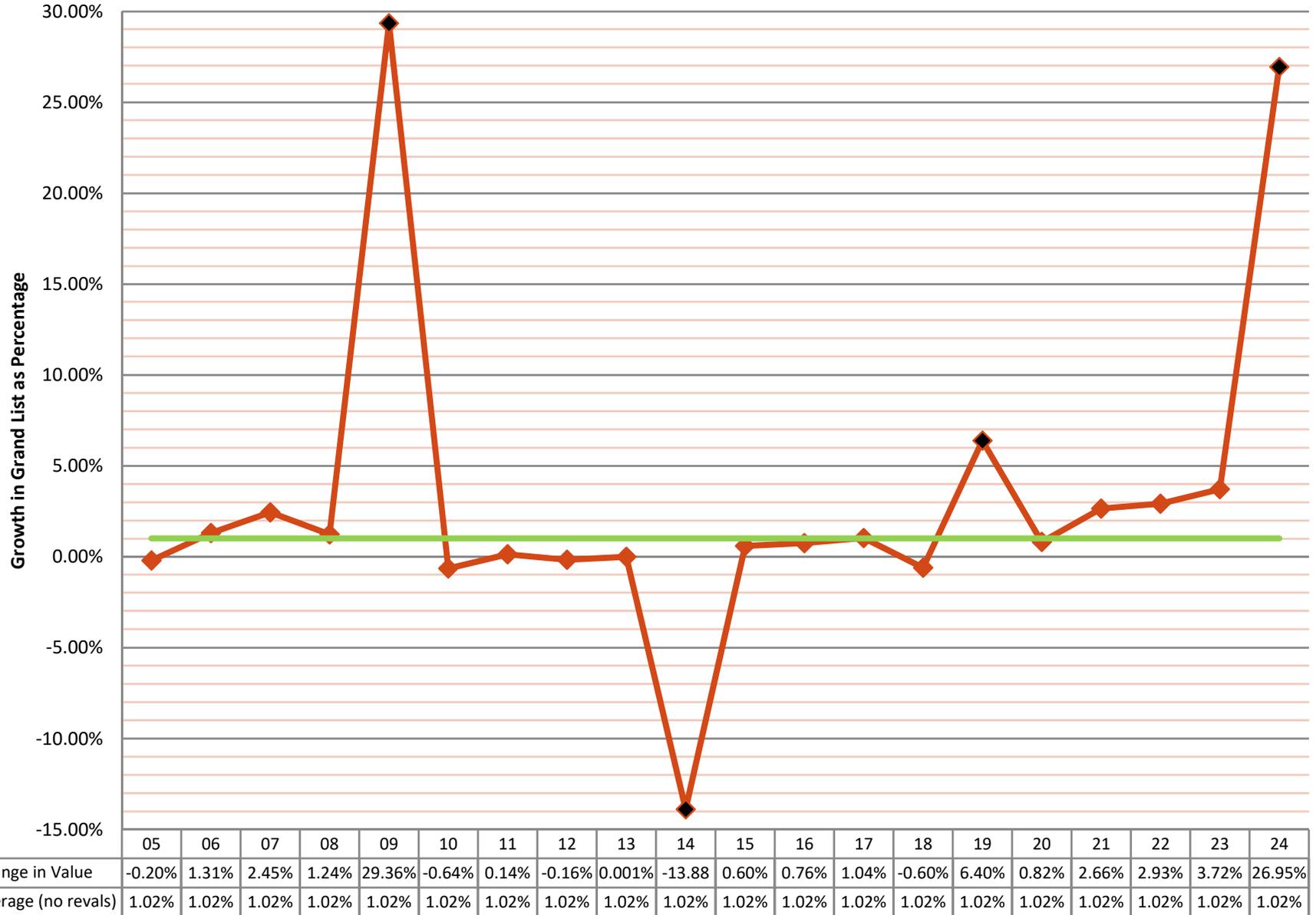
Next Steps

- Public Hearing – April 4
 - First public hearing must be held no later than April 10
- Public hearing continuation – April 18 (if needed)
 - Board of Finance must approve and file budget no more than 10 days after final public hearing
- Budget Referendum – May 2 or May 16
 - Must be held 14-21 days after budget is filed

Appendix/References

1. Grand list chart from original presentation
2. Grand List History from Annual Financial Reports
3. 2022/2023 ARPA Projects
4. BOS Talking Points

20 Year Change in Grand List



* Black diamond years are revaluation years

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/finance/pages/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports>

TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT
 ASSESSED AND ESTIMATED ACTUAL VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY
 LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS
 (in thousands of dollars)

Fiscal Year	Real Property		All Land	Motor Vehicles	Personal Property	Tax Exempt Real Property Excluded	Total Taxable Assessed Value	Mill Rate	Estimated Actual Taxable Value	Assessed Value as a Percentage of Actual Value
	Residential Property	Commercial Property								
2002	\$ 1,082,695	\$ 156,096	\$ 3,496	\$ 155,946	\$ 92,697	\$ 136,742	\$ 1,490,930	36.30	\$ 2,780,635	53.6 %
2003	1,092,195	156,700	3,834	160,071	95,802	142,332	1,508,602	39.10	2,978,069	50.7
2004	1,442,409	214,967	5,694	162,215	97,653	202,615	1,922,938	32.60	3,006,733	64.0
2005	1,451,226	211,294	11,382	155,606	94,500	202,483	1,924,008	34.00	3,346,110	57.5
2006	1,464,321	209,663	7,610	165,612	101,640	199,885	1,948,846	35.20	3,687,323	52.9
2007	1,482,901	214,439	12,675	173,801	113,840	203,574	1,997,656	35.90	3,991,723	50.0
2008	1,502,769	214,362	16,638	172,758	115,896	222,290	2,022,423	36.90	3,961,196	51.1
2009	1,991,069	295,774	16,918	176,222	117,587	276,266	2,597,570	29.60	3,971,248	65.4
2010	1,999,922	296,264	24,478	165,121	111,801	280,231	2,597,586	30.10	3,674,499	70.7
2011	2,006,469	298,680	23,539	166,125	104,650	286,585	2,599,462	30.55	3,717,024	69.9

Source: Town of Simsbury Assessor and State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management

Note: Except for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, the estimated actual taxable is the Equalized Net Grand List as determined by the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. Properties in town are reassessed every five years per state statute. The last completed revaluation was for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004. The estimated actual taxable value for that year is all net real estate assessments divided by 63.1% plus use value real estate assessments divided by 70% plus motor vehicles and personal property divided by 70%.

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/finance/pages/comprehensive-annual-financial-reports>

TABLE 5

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT
 ASSESSED AND ESTIMATED ACTUAL VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY
 LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS
 (in Thousands of Dollars)**

Fiscal Year	Real Property		All Land	Motor Vehicles	Personal Property	Tax Exempt Real Property Excluded	Total Taxable Assessed Value	Mill Rate	Estimated Actual Taxable Value	Assessed Value as a Percentage of Actual Value
	Residential Property	Commercial Property								
2012	\$ 2,009,423	\$ 300,156	\$ 21,457	\$ 171,793	\$ 96,697	\$ 298,661	\$ 2,599,526	30.86	\$ 3,617,413	71.9
2013	2,012,384	301,240	21,030	182,668	82,147	289,240	2,599,468	31.37	3,505,330	74.2
2014	1,697,766	260,396	17,465	179,800	79,240	301,195	2,234,667	37.29	3,481,281	64.2
2015	1,708,581	259,276	16,637	179,800	79,240	304,761	2,251,625	37.14	3,577,008	62.9
2016	1,714,665	258,610	15,617	184,456	95,823	300,668	2,268,971	37.00	3,586,050	63.3
2017	1,731,800	253,823	24,984	184,785	97,023	324,211	2,292,415	37.12	3,600,147	63.7
2018	1,749,693	224,283	29,170	190,931	83,777	331,443	2,277,854	38.76	3,670,051	62.1
2019	1,866,812	237,843	33,023	192,264	86,054	352,670	2,415,996	36.42	3,451,702	70.0
2020	1,889,218	245,516	26,715	192,843	88,296	353,020	2,442,436	37.32	3,701,103	65.5
2021	1,928,868	240,322	31,574	200,236	114,378	352,598	2,508,260	37.09	3,775,735	66.4

Source: Town of Simsbury Assessor and State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management.

Note: The estimated actual taxable value is the Equalized Net Grand List as determined by the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management. Properties in town are reassessed every five years per state statute. The last completed revaluation was for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. For the fiscal year ended 2021, the estimated actual taxable value is the sum of the real estate assessments divided 65.5%, plus the motor vehicle and personal property assessments divided by 70%.

Last revaluation was completed 10/1/2017

American Rescue Plan ACT (ARPA) FY 2022/2023 Budgeted Capital Projects

Flower Bridge Design Work	\$280,000	Public Hearing, CIP changed from GF to ARPA
Tariffville Park - Pickleball Court *	\$350,000	Public Hearing, CIP Parks and Open Space Master Plan
Tariffville Park Pavilion Replacement	\$75,000	Park Improvement, CNR
Tariffville Backstop Replacement	\$15,000	Park Improvement, CNR, moved up
Weatogue Backstop Replacement	\$12,000	Park Improvement, CNR, scheduled
Curtiss to Tariffville Survey Trail *	\$300,000	BOS Priority item, new CIP
Dredging Town Forest Pond	\$50,000	Open Space Master Plan, CNR
BOE- HVAC climate control upgrades	\$1,200,000	SHS HVAC, Recommended ARPA usage taken from CIP future projects
Library Variable Air Volume Control *	\$26,000	HVAC, new CNR Town Facilities Master Plan
Town Hall Variable Air Volume Control *	\$12,000	HVAC, new CNR Town Facilities Master Plan
Simsbury Farms Playground	\$75,000	2022 item - Inflation/Cost increase
Police Service Dog * (Vehicle Cost)	\$70,000	Community value add, new CNR

American Rescue Plan ACT (ARPA) FY 2022/2023 Operating Budget

BOE Social Workers for Schools (2) 2 Year Pilot *	Pandemic Health Recovery non-capital, operating	\$450,000 (BOE operating)
Social Worker Youth Services (1) 2 Year Pilot *	Pandemic Health Recovery non-capital, operating	\$250,000

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) TBD/PROPOSED NON-BUDGETED ITEMS	
Project 501c3 Non-Profit Grant Program	\$100,000
Business Recovery Grant Program	\$250,000
Business Façade Improvement Program	\$250,000
Farm Valley Health District Contribution	\$200,000
Housing Authority	\$50,000

Total ARPA Spend (Town, BOE):	
Capital	\$2,465,000
Operating	\$ 450,000
Non-Budgeted Proposed	\$ 850,000
Total	\$3,765,000



BOS Budget 'Conversation' Points

- Found ways to lessen the impact on taxpayers while recognizing the need for service improvements
- Listened to Department Heads on how they could best serve our residents – resulted in added staff positions
- Increased PD staff based on preliminary results of Staffing Study which called for multiple positions
- Focused Tranche 2 ARPA dollars on reducing bonding and lower debt service over the next 10 years – and to avoid the big Latimer spike in 2026 as a benefit to all taxpayers
- Focus on Public Safety
- Invested in School infrastructure
- Invested in Town Assets
- BOS passed the budget via consensus and discussion rather than up-and-down votes, creating buy-in
- After budget approval, and BOF ask to look for reductions, we provided our rankings of the 3 added positions and provided them to the Finance Director.
- Also proposed moving out the BOE HJMS roofing project, at the request of BOF to find \$2M in capital to move out. BOE stated this just needs to be completed in the 6-year window.
- Finance Director has some proposed changes and uses of funds that result in a mill rate reduction from our budget without a cut to service improvements.

Thank you to the TM's office, and Tom Fitzgerald, Acting Deputy for his support.

Thank you to Finance Director, Amy Meriwether and her team for all things done to support this process!

Thank you to the Francine and the team in the Assessors office for all hours put in on the reval and addressing all residents questions.



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
SIMSBURY ANNUAL BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROJECT HEARING

The Board of Finance of the Town of Simsbury will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Simsbury Public Library, Tariffville Room, 725 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut. Pursuant to Town Charter Section 808, copies of proposed budget estimates showing anticipated revenues by major sources, and proposed expenditures by function or departments, and the amount to be raised by taxation for the ensuing fiscal year are available for general distribution in the office of the Town Clerk and posted on the Town website at www.simsbury-ct.gov/budget. The proposed annual operating budgets of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education and proposed capital improvement projects shall be presented at the hearing. Interested persons will be heard in regard to any proposed appropriation, and any other business proper to come before said meeting will be transacted.

BOARD OF FINANCE
Lisa Heavner, Chair

FY 2024 Itemized Estimates of Annual Budget Expenditures by Function and Anticipated Revenues by Major Source

Proposed General Fund Operating Budgets

	Adopted	Proposed	Change	
	FY2023	FY 2024	Dollar	Percentage
Board of Selectmen	30,260,354	31,618,710	1,358,356	4.49%
Debt Service & Capital	7,670,099	8,147,216	477,117	6.22%
Board of Education	76,456,785	81,576,437	5,119,652	6.70%
Non-Public School	574,034	605,699	31,665	5.52%
Total Appropriations	114,961,272	121,948,062	6,986,790	6.08%
LESS ESTIMATED NON-CURRENT YEAR TAX REVENUES	16,772,998	16,596,566	(176,432)	-1.05%
BALANCE TO BE RAISED	98,188,274	105,351,496	7,163,222	7.30%

	ACTUAL REVENUE 2022	BUDGET REVENUE 2023	ACTUAL REVENUE 12/31/2022	PROJECTED REVENUE 6/30/2023	ESTIMATED REVENUE 2024
GENERAL FUND REVENUES					
Property Taxes - Prior Year & Interest & Liens	807,852	430,000	283,624	480,000	430,000
Intergovernmental Revenues & Payments in Lieu of Taxes	7,095,927	9,423,542	1,991,998	9,224,612	9,196,826
Investment Income	117,817	80,000	51,050	100,000	300,000
Charges for Goods & Services & Misc	2,163,421	1,866,496	1,013,304	1,852,848	1,745,790
Fines & Forfeitures	11,267	8,200	6,265	8,600	8,200
Rental of Town Owned Property	142,697	109,200	7,923	94,200	109,300
Licenses & Permits	858,739	740,050	533,617	742,050	740,050
Operating Transfers In (Belden Trust)	23,100	26,960	26,960	26,960	27,380
Operating Transfers In (Capital Project Funds)	364,329	330,717	330,717	330,717	281,187
Operating Transfers In (ARPA Fund)	-	3,757,833	3,757,833	3,757,833	3,757,833
Total General Fund Revenue Budget	11,585,149	16,772,998	8,003,291	16,617,820	16,596,566

	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 BUDGET	FY 2023 12/31/2022	FY 2023 6/30/2023	FY 2024 PROPOSED
GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION					
General Government	1,519,775	1,321,350	1,048,240	1,574,226	1,773,787
Financial Services & Information Technology	1,222,795	1,578,001	910,995	1,536,281	1,763,376
Planning & Development	562,182	765,700	344,624	685,649	722,403
Public Safety	5,516,027	6,237,863	2,859,541	6,130,993	6,579,196
Public Works & Engineering	4,283,875	4,690,808	2,563,857	4,629,853	4,991,853
Health and Social Services	573,810	913,094	376,124	709,366	746,008
Parks and Recreation & Library	2,633,545	3,007,330	1,667,004	2,942,348	3,188,752
Fringe Benefits & Liability Insurance	6,582,964	7,229,726	5,566,032	7,014,873	7,926,256
Operating Transfers	743,695	4,516,482	4,531,528	4,516,481	3,927,079
Total Board of Selectmen Operating Budget	23,638,668	30,260,354	19,867,945	29,740,070	31,618,710
Debt Service/Capital	7,314,356	7,670,099	1,282,113	7,670,099	8,147,216
Education	75,094,456	77,030,819	35,126,699	77,030,820	82,182,136
Total General Fund Budget	106,047,480	114,961,272	56,276,757	114,440,989	121,948,062

	ACTUAL REVENUE FY 2022	BUDGET REVENUE FY 2023	ACTUAL REVENUE 12/31/2022	PROJECTED REVENUE 6/30/2023	ESTIMATED REVENUE FY 2024
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - REVENUES					
Water Pollution Control Fund					
Sewer Assessments	3,129,922	2,863,996	2,834,859	2,863,996	3,001,431
Intergovernmental Revenues	394,835	393,660	98,415	393,660	409,927
WPCA Fees & Miscellaneous	732,627	805,800	240,453	805,800	801,466
Total Water Pollution Control Fund	4,257,384	4,063,456	3,173,727	4,063,456	4,212,824
Residential Property Fund					
Rental of Town Owned Property	72,619	72,040	34,219	72,040	77,100
Simsbury Farms Complex					
Charges for Goods & Services	1,052,770	954,500	585,856	1,029,203	1,104,500
Rental of Town Owned Property	53,951	57,750	28,175	58,827	61,565
Other Revenue	153,515	181,715	181,715	181,715	183,658
Golf Course Fee	1,187,015	1,105,878	762,599	1,210,997	1,230,311
Total Simsbury Farms Complex	2,447,251	2,299,843	1,558,345	2,480,742	2,580,034
Total Special Revenue Funds	6,777,254	6,435,339	4,766,291	6,616,238	6,869,958

	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 BUDGET	FY 2023 12/31/2022	FY 2023 6/30/2023	FY 2024 PROPOSED
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - EXPENDITURES					
Water Pollution Control Fund					
Public Works	2,349,222	2,696,139	1,398,161	2,614,504	3,086,180
Operating Transfers	695,000	430,000	430,000	430,000	1,470,000
Debt Service	1,218,625	1,215,000	1,099,500	1,215,000	1,215,750
Total Water Pollution Control Requests	4,262,847	4,341,139	2,927,661	4,259,504	5,771,930
Residential Property Fund					
Public Works	37,994	45,650	13,931	43,695	38,600
Debt Service	8,522	8,522	4,261	8,522	8,522
Total Residential Properties	46,516	54,172	18,192	52,217	47,122
Simsbury Farms Complex					
SF Administration	268,851	229,393	182,146	280,983	236,630
Special Programs	368,424	361,765	208,827	350,848	446,613

Simsbury Farms Complex	477,644	584,478	396,217	612,137	621,750
Golf Course	899,794	1,042,400	680,806	1,090,533	1,613,377
Total Simsbury Farms Complex	2,014,713	2,218,036	1,467,996	2,334,501	2,918,370
Total Special Revenue Funds	6,324,076	6,613,347	4,413,849	6,646,222	8,737,422

FY2024 CAPITAL & NONRECURRING FUND BUDGET	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	Requested 23/24	FY2024 Charge -Back Against	
						General Fund	Other /State Grants
BOARD OF SELECTMEN							
Radio System Feasibility Study	35,000						7,000
Ice Rink Condenser	109,200						21,840
Pool Fencing	30,000						6,000
Police Cruisers	130,000						26,000
Automatic Book Handler	73,640						14,728
Ash Borer Tree Mitigation	36,500						7,300
Telephone System	1,910						382
Network Storage & Virtual Environment		130,000					26,000
Rec & PAC Staining (3 Buildings)		85,000					17,000
Rink Control Panel		60,000					12,000
2022 Revaluation		60,000					12,000
Ash Borer Tree Mitigation		36,500					7,300
Parking Feasibility Study - Curtiss Park and PAC		25,000					5,000
P&R Garage Ventilation		10,000					2,000
Soft Body Armor		9,750					1,950
Revaluation			60,000				12,000
Computer Replacements (staff)			30,240				6,048
Radio System Maintenance/Repairs			10,000				2,000
Microsoft Office Upgrade			17,550				3,510
Computer Replacements (public terminals)			5,760				1,152
Body Worn Cameras and Car Cameras			46,158				9,232
One-Ton Pickup Truck (Highway Superintendent)			32,500				6,500
Playscapes			25,000				5,000
Parks Entrance Signs Replacement			16,000				3,200
Equipment Trailer Replacement			8,000				1,600
Shultz Park Gazebo			10,000				2,000
Ice Rink Chiller			120,000				24,000
Simsbury Meadows Electrical Repairs & Upgrades			10,000				2,000
Parks Grounds Utility Vehicle			25,000				5,000
Computer Replacement (staff)				30,240			6,048
Microsoft Office Upgrade				17,550			3,510
Computer Replacements (public terminals)				15,120			3,024
Replacement of Gateway Entrance Signs (2)				37,000			7,400
Scout Hall Painting & Stair Replacement				35,000			7,000
2011 Ford F-350 Dump Truck (Facilities)				55,000			11,000
Varous Playscape/Playground Refurbishments				30,000			6,000
Park Entrance Sign Replacement				16,000			3,200
Carpet Cleaner				12,000			2,400
Clubhouse Roof Shingles Replacement				70,000			14,000
Simsbury Farms Wading Pool Plaster Replacement				30,000			6,000
Revaluation				68,600			13,720
Revaluation					68,600		13,720
Computer Replacements (Staff)					30,240		6,048
Network Switches					42,000		8,400
Security Camera Infrastructure & Equipment					9,110		1,822
Computer Replacements (Public Terminals)					6,800		1,360
North End Sidewalk (Town Contribution)					38,000		7,600
Personnel Lift					18,000		3,600
John Deere Tractor 3320 (Facilities) - Replacement					58,500		11,700
Various Playscapes/Playground Refurbishments					35,000		7,000
Park Entrance Signs Replacement					16,000		3,200
Parks/Golf Maintenance Garage Security Gate					19,000		3,800
Simsbury Farms Pools Wood Sundeck Replacement					60,000		12,000
Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Rubber Matting Replacement					15,000		3,000
Public Safety Radio System Maintenance/Repairs					10,000		10,000
Eno Hall Craft Room Renovation					40,000		40,000
Network Storage & Virtual Environment					35,000		35,000
Financial Fraud Risk Assessment					50,000		50,000
Employee Satisfaction Survey					20,000		20,000
Charter Revision					45,000		45,000
Tariffville Area Plan					50,000		50,000
Town Manager Search					50,000		50,000
Police Cruisers (3)					185,000		185,000
Police Administrative Vehicles					101,430		101,430
Training Room Technology Replacement					10,000		10,000
Body Worn Cameras and Car Cameras					54,512		54,512
Soft Body Armor/Vest Replacement					7,000		7,000
Taser Replacements					45,600		45,600
Launchers					30,000		30,000

Scheduling Software					18,000	18,000
Material Recycling					25,000	25,000
Community Farm Maintenance & Repairs					5,000	5,000
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations					112,200	112,200
Cross Walk Safety Improvements					46,680	46,680
Iron Horse Landscaping					30,000	30,000
Station Street Reconfiguration					200,000	200,000
Metacom Drive - Safety Improvements					46,000	46,000
GPS & Dash Cameras					45,000	45,000
Multi-Use Chip Truck					200,000	200,000
Various Drainage Improvements					50,000	50,000
Fixed Vehicle Lift					27,000	27,000
Pickup F-150 4x4 (Highway)					45,000	45,000
Vehicle Replacement					15,000	15,000
Sewer Lining					100,000	100,000
HVAC Controls Replacement					50,000	50,000
Polymer Pumps					60,000	60,000
Irrigation Replacement - Various Fields & Parks					100,000	100,000
Golf Course Rough Mower Replacement					80,000	80,000
Fairway Mower Cutting Reels					15,000	15,000
Greens Mower Reels					10,000	10,000
Pollinator Pathway Initiative					16,359	16,359
BOARD OF SELECTMEN TOTAL	416,250	416,250	416,208	416,510	2,446,031	2,029,781

BOARD OF EDUCATION	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	Charge Back
Buses/Vehicles/Equipment	382,000	330,000				142,400
Ceiling/Flooring Replacement	50,000	50,000				20,000
Interior Improvements	70,500	70,500				28,200
Plumbing/Electrical Modifications	10,000	10,000				4,000
Equipment - Instructional / Non-Instructional	-	52,000				10,400
Exterior Improvements	58,000	58,000				23,200
Improve Boys Junction Bathroom			20,000			4,000
Add Fob Access for new nurse door			14,500			2,900
Repave Playground			10,575			2,115
Sprinkler Deficiencies			21,000			4,200
Zero Turn Ride On Mower			7,500			1,500
Carpet in Classroom 1			11,743			2,349
Sprinkler Deficiencies			13,800			2,760
Paint Café			5,200			1,040
Replace Gutter on Modulares			10,000			2,000
Blue Gym Floor Repair			66,058			13,212
Gold Gym Floor Repair			30,526			6,105
Grainger Floor Scrubber			8,555			1,711
Air Conditioning			233,543			46,709
Playground Pavement Crack Repair			76,500			15,300
Box Truck Lift Gate			6,800			1,360
Security Cameras			14,000			2,800
Tootin - Sidewalk Replacement				7,800		1,560
Tootin - Pave Concrete Walk from Loop to Playground				6,000		1,200
Tootin - Seal Parking Lot, Repaint Lines				14,537		2,907
Squadron - Install PA Speaker in Hallways				13,581		2,716
Squadron - Paint Classrooms				7,000		1,400
Squadron - Upgrade Gym Floor				84,901		16,980
Central - AC Window Units				12,500		2,500
Tariffville - Upgrade Boys Bathroom				27,000		5,400
Tariffville - Install Permanent Sink				3,100		620
HJMS - Paint Café Girders				6,800		1,360
HJMS - Replace Music Room Flooring				6,140		1,228
SHS - Auditorium AV				33,000		6,600
SHS - Replace PA System				38,137		7,627
SHS - Replace Front Sidewalk				7,800		1,560
SHS - Insulate Duct Work in Gym				36,450		7,290
District - School Bus				147,000		29,400
District - F350, Plow and Sander				70,387		14,077
District - Playground Resurfacing				13,583		2,717
District - Replace Sand Surfacing with Chips				14,584		2,917
Boiler Replacement					58,500	11,700
Speaker Strobes					4,950	990
Air quality Improvement					50,000	10,000
Kitchen Storage Room Abatement					21,141	4,228
Boiler, Chimney/Flues Restoration					19,185	3,837
Replace Water Supply Service					100,000	20,000
Repair or Replace Ventilator Unit in LMC					8,000	1,600
Permanent Sinks					21,700	4,340
Repair MAU 4					5,754	1,151
Replace Phones/PA/Clocks/Bells					235,000	47,000
Kitchen Exhaust Fans (2)					18,250	3,650
Blue Gym AHU and Supply Valve Repair					7,820	1,564
BOARD OF EDUCATION TOTAL	570,500	570,500	550,300	550,300	550,300	558,380

TOTAL CAPITAL & NON-RECURRING	986,750	986,750	966,508	966,810	2,996,331	974,674	2,029,781
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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

		FY 2024	Financing
Sidewalk Reconstruction	\$ 223,400		Bonds
Refurbish Elevators	\$ 877,500		Bonds
District Security Improvements	\$ 250,000		Bonds
Tariffville School - Replace 1984 Modular Classrooms	\$ 500,000		Bonds

Golf Course Irrigation System Replacement	\$ 454,000	Cash
Old Drake Hill Road/Flower Bridge Repairs	\$ 1,989,000	Cash
Public Works Truck Replacement and Plow	\$ 261,000	Cash
Eno Building Infrastructure	\$ 389,440	Cash/Bonds
Meadowood Barn Restoration	\$ 650,000	Cash/Grants
Highway Pavement Management	\$ 1,700,000	Cash/Grants/Bonds
Multi-Use Trail Connections and Development (Rt 10 to Curtiss Park)	\$ 873,000	Cash/Grants/Bonds
Bridge Improvements (Firetown Road and Barndoor Hills Rehab)	\$ 402,500	Grants
Bridge Improvements (Climax Road Bridge over Nod Brook)	\$ 372,000	Grants/Bonds
Primary Clarifier	\$ 1,000,000	Sewer Use
Sewer Replacement - Pine Hill	\$ 1,075,000	Sewer Use
Grit System Upgrade	\$ 250,000	Sewer Use
TOTAL PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	<u>\$ 11,266,840</u>	

**Board of Finance
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 27, 2023, at 5:45 P.M.
In Person Meeting /Simsbury Community Media Live Stream**

PRESENT:

Lisa Heavner, Arthur House, Derek Peterson, Robert Helfand, and Mike Doyle.

ALSO PRESENT:

Amy Meriwether, Director of Finance; Francine Beland, Assessor; Chris Kerin, Municipal Revaluation Services; eQuality Valuation Services team; Nikoleta McTigue, CliftonLarsonAllen and Jessica Aniskoff, CliftonLarsonAllen

1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum

Ms. Heavner called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Audience

There was no public audience present.

Ms. Heavner opened the meeting with remarks from the Chair including a thanks to Simsbury Media, and Ms. Beland and Ms. Meriwether on their work on the budget. She mentioned that she and Mr. Helfand attended the BOE budget workshop and thanked everyone for their work on that and asked that Mr. Curtis forward a copy of the Presentation to her and to post it on the Town Budget website. She mentioned that Francine will get to the Assessor Performance audit RFP after the Grand list and budget preparations are complete. She thanked Ms. Schofield for the draft RFP's and best practices from other towns and asked Ms. Meriwether to send them a copy of the RFP before it goes out. She asked the clerk to record all requests from the Board of Finance members.

4. Presentation: Revaluation Assessment

eQuality Valuation Services team presented on the town reevaluation and said his findings included an average increase of residential properties is around 28% and said this was on the lower end in comparison to other towns. He mentioned some towns/cities went up over 40% and said Simsbury's values were solid going into the reevaluation. He said the evaluations were based off of sales during October 2021 through October 2022, which was the States requirement, and the increase is based off the current market.

eQuality Valuation Services team went over the pre-submitted questions from the Board and addressed them. Ms. Beland provided an overview of the process and what was done in order to determine the data and numbers. Mr. Doyle asked how many additional houses were visited by Ms. Berland who confirmed she would get back to the Board with the numbers. The Board asked further questions on the numbers from the revaluation company and Ms. Beland and eQuality Valuation Services team said the numbers really come from the sales and then they build their cost tables from that and adjust accordingly. They added that this information is for

residential only and does not include commercial. A discussion followed on the scope of the work, and the Board continued to ask questions from the consultants to further understand the process, security around their system, scope of houses included, how outliers were handled, how the numbers were determined, how many other towns they worked with, etc.

Mr. Kerin spoke about the commercial properties giving an overview of the process and how the numbers were derived. Mr. Peterson added comments on the analysis which he said was overall very thought-out and succinct. Mr. Kerin shared information on Federal Funds vs Cap Rates and explained those numbers and their input. He summarized that apartment categories increased the most, followed by industrial, retail, and office class which he said had been struggling the most. Ms. Heavner asked for the top 10 taxpayers and Ms. Beland said she would provide that information. Mr. Kerin said they did a site visit on about a dozen properties. Mr. House asked about the increase in value of the new apartment buildings in Simsbury and Mr. Kerin confirmed they have increased significantly at around 50% – 60% over the past 5 years. Ms. Heavner asked if Ms. Beland has been seeing appeals and she confirmed they are working through the process, and they would know in the next few weeks. Ms. Heavner asked about the commercial appeals and Ms. Beland said they had about a couple of dozen.

Ms. Meriwether reviewed the revised Grand List showing a 26.95% increase generating approx. \$22.4M in new revenue. It was broken down into three categories of Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle. She added without revaluation the Grand List increased 2.34% generating approx. \$2.3M in additional revenue which was close to the finalized numbers. Ms. Heavner asked if anything significantly changed from the Tri-board meeting and Ms. Meriwether confirmed a small increase of around .05% but nothing significant.

Ms. Heavner asked for the reason there is 2.3M in New Economic Development, without reval, when a few years ago it was projected at \$900,000, and Ms. Berland confirmed there was a lot of discovery and that it did include new construction. She said she would have to do another analysis of the numbers to determine exactly and explained the numbers included both the Reval company and what she discovered.

Ms. Heavner explained that taxes went up and she is trying to articulate to residents the reason for this whether it's because of the reval, because their homes went up, or because they're spending more, or they didn't generate enough new revenue, etc. Mr. Helfand explained the reason they are looking for solid numbers on how much new revenue they will make as fixed costs for the Town are increasing significantly and new growth makes it easier to pay the bills without raising the taxes a lot. Ms. Beland said she will be adding pro-rated assessments to the current grand list numbers before May and currently does not know how much this will be. Ms. Berland said her estimates are already submitted and the 2.3M number will not increase much before the Mill rate is set.

Ms. Heavner said they will be including a performance audit for the Assessor's office in FY24 as it is an important role for the town and thanked Ms. Beland for her continued work. Ms. Heavner asked for a copy of report filed with the State and Ms. Beland said she has filed her grand list, but she now has reporting to do, and Ms. Heavner asked that when she has it to send them a copy.

5. Presentation: Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Audit

Due to a technical difficulty this presentation was postponed.

6. Finance Director's Report

Ms. Meriwether said the report included an updated listing of grants and the total appropriations through the year. She asked the board if they had questions. Ms. Heavner said they had asked for a list of grants awarded and applied for so that they can make a policy call later and they can decide whether or not to budget for them. A discussion followed around the thinking behind this list and the value it provides.

7. Town Quarterly Budget Status Report

Ms. Meriwether provided an overview of the quarterly report. Ms. Heavner asked about three projects that were showing no expenditures for three years, FY2020 Radio Feasibility study for \$35K, FY2020 Asphalt Trailer for \$37K, and the Sanatory Sewer Lining for \$100K. Ms. Meriwether provided explanations that they will all be closed out at the end of the year and they are not spending that money. She explained that they will be waiting until the 3rd quarter on the EDC line item overage and will recommended a transfer during at the Board of Selectmen meeting. She added they want to make sure they have solid estimates as to where they will land at year end before they make the transfer request.

Ms. Meriwether made note on the Henry James project showing an anticipated \$3.9M unspent budget explaining they did not bond for that entire project so their cash balance in that account is approx. \$2M. She added once the State audit is complete, they can reallocate that \$2M in savings to other projects that are bond funded and reduce their borrowing. Ms. Heavner asked for a fiscal note to be added on that for the next meeting. Ms. Meriwether confirmed the audit has started on Phase 2 but not Phase 3. She added the state is 7 years behind and Phase 1 audit is not complete yet - an admin is following up on that. Mr. Peterson asked if they have to wait for the audits to be complete to start reallocating funds and Ms. Meriwether confirmed it's a risk if they do it prior. Mr. Peterson said he would be ok taking some of the calculated risk seeing as they are so far behind. Ms. Heavner added that she asked Ms. Meriwether to look into what do they do with their cash assets that they can't touch, and added they should be at least earning 4% instead of the 0.5% that they have. Ms. Heavner asked Ms. Meriwether to come prepared for future budget meeting to explain why there is large unspent or budget savings. Ms. Meriwether explained the 70% budget savings for the Boiler Replacement project.

8. Board of Education Quarterly Budget Status Report

Ms. Meriwether spoke about the Board of Education budget stating they will have an anticipated deficit. She added they are currently reviewing everything and will have the final numbers and anticipated plan to see if they have sufficient savings to cover the deficit and present at the March 7th meeting. Discussion followed. Ms. Heavner asked Ms. Meriwether to break down the multiyear plan for the non-lapsing fund so they can see what's available for use in the current budget and what is already planned for. Ms. Heavner asked that the Expenditures chart used for both the Town and Board of Education are comparable.

9. Supplemental Appropriation – Emergency Repairs to DPW Garage Furnace

Ms. Heavner provided an overview of the supplemental policy and added there are exceptions in dire circumstances when there is an immediate threat to life and safety where there is not time to hold a meeting. She said the request from Public Works does not fall into this exception and added that she was not sure why it is a supplemental appropriation. She recommended Public Works should review again and find savings within their budget which would just require an approval from the Board of Selectmen and not the Board of Finance. The Board agreed and said if they are unable to find savings, they can come back.

A conversation followed on the max dollar amount for emergency supplementations and the guidelines around when to use them. Ms. Heavner said they need to tighten up the emergency procedure.

10. Appropriation of Congressionally Directed Spending for Police Department IT Needs and to Create CNR Project

Ms. Meriwether provided an overview of the request stating that Chief Boulter and IT Manager Rick Bazzano received federal funding for technology upgrades. They have received the funds and need to both appropriate the funds and create a corresponding CNR project. She added the Board of Selectmen reviewed and approved this request at their meeting on February 15, 2023.

MOTION: Mr. Doyle made a motion, effective February 27, 2023, to appropriate funds received from the Congressionally Directed Spending Request in the amount of \$70,000 for Technology Upgrades for the Simsbury Police Department. Further move to create a CNR project for Police Department IT Needs and appropriate the funds received towards that project. Mr. Helfand seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Annual Report Review

Ms. Heavner said she was grateful for the inclusion of the glossary in the Annual Report and asked that before the report goes out that they include a list of all elected and appointed officials as a thank you for all their hard work and effort. She added that for next year if they can include performance / activity indicators, so people know where their money is going towards.

12. Budget Discussion

Ms. Meriwether provided an overview stating the town's operating budget numbers are increasing about 7% and translates to an estimate mill rate of 31.02 mills, not inclusive of the fire district. Ms. Heavner asked that the budget modeling to be emailed to the Board and reviewed the numbers and possible outcome. The numbers are coming in at \$289K more than at the Tri-Board meeting. A conversation followed between Ms. Heavner and Ms. Meriwether on the calculations and the message to convey to the public. Ms. Heavner asked that the numbers get a little more accurate so the message can be clear around how much residents can expect taxes to change and why for both this year and the following year. She provided an overview of the main drivers for the increase.

MOTION: M. Helfand made a motion, effective February 27, 2023, to call a Special Meeting on

Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Mr. House seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

13. Approval of Minutes

- December 13, 2022
- January 17, 2023

MOTION: Mr. Helfand made a motion, effective February 27, 2023, to approve the minutes as amended for December 13, 2022, and January 17, 2023. Mr. House seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

14. Communications

- Pension Plan Fiduciary Duties Legal Opinion
- November 2022 Building Department Financial Report
- December 2022 Building Department Financial Report

Ms. Heavner said they received a Pension Plan Fiduciary Duties Legal Opinion which did not state who was in charge of doing their policy, so she was not sure if they got what they needed. It was tabled for review later as it may require follow-up.

15. Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Helfand made a motion, effective February 27, 2023, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 P.M. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Lynott
Commission Clerk

Board of Finance
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 5:45 P.M.
In Person Meeting /Simsbury Community Media Live Stream

PRESENT:

Lisa Heavner, Arthur House, Derek Peterson, Robert Helfand, and Mike Doyle.

1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum

Ms. Heavner called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Budget Discussion

Ms. Heavner opened the meeting with an overview of the budget, the process, the issues, and the role of the Board of Finance. Ms. Meriwether gave a more in-depth overview of the numbers which shows the proposed Town Operating budget for FY24, without ARPA, is \$27,552,704 which is a \$1,050,183 (3.96%) increase over last year.

Ms. Heaver mentioned that there is a state cap that municipal states taxes cannot increase more than 2.5% or the rate of inflation, and added that there are exceptions. She asked Ms. Meriwether to calculate and ensure they remain within limits of the cap.

Ms. Meriwether reviewed the Levy Calculator worksheet and explained the numbers in further detail. She reviewed various scenarios to show what the impact to taxpayers would be and addresses questions from the Board. They also reviewed the estimated numbers for future years which showed a continued increase. She reviewed their legal obligations and fixed costs for both the Town and the Board of Education, some of which were reduced, but overall indicated a proposed increase.

A conversation followed on the vacancy rate and Ms. Heavner said it's something she'll be monitoring.

Ms. Meriwether reviewed the Capital Projects budget, the various funding sources, and debt services. Ms. Heavner said their target is to get debt services to a lower number and not exceed it, and said that over the summer the Board will look into giving a dollar amount cap on the amount that can be spent on debt services as opposed to a percent of the budget.

The Board reviewed the debt chart in the out years and asked to see if anything can be done to decrease the estimated payments especially in FY 26 & 27. Mr. Helfand asked if Squadron Line Elementary School was included in the numbers as he had heard there would be work needed, and it was confirmed it was not. A discussion followed on using ARPA for various Board of Education projects or potentially putting projects out and using ARPA funds to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Ms. Heavner, on behalf of the Board of Finance, asked the Board of Selectmen to evaluate what can be done to reduce future borrowing costs, whether it may mean not doing certain projects or moving them out to a later year, which will help get them through the FY26 peak.

Ms. Meriwether reviewed various Mill Rate scenarios using the levy calculator to show options and the effects they would have. Ms. Heavner asked if they can put a challenge to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education to see if they can reduce the number by \$500,000.

Mr. Peterson asked to review the Board of Education fixed and non-fixed costs to see if there could be a savings there. Ms. Heavner asked whether the Board of Education can think about utilizing the Capital Reserve fund and Mr. Peterson asked again for a list of prioritizations for Capital project. Mr. Peterson recommended that each Board find a way to save \$1M in their budgets, as a stretched target, and recognized that it will not be easy this year or next.

Mr. House and Ms. Heavner agreed that both Boards should look at alternate sources of funding and try and reduce the number. Mr. House added that they will likely have to recommend to the voters of Simsbury a revenue increase larger than they want it to be and added he's not comfortable with proceeding with the amount of tax increases that they have rolled up to at this point.

Ms. Heavner asked for a summary of any new budgetary savings or offsets, and asked to separate capital, debt services, and supplements. She also asked for a draft of the public hearing notice and a copy of the draft budget document so they can see the numbers in advance. Ms. Heavner asked for a total cost for projects for the CIP this year, estimated start and completed dates for CIP capital projects, include the number of years a project has been on the CIP to be included as well as a few other updates, and acknowledged all the additions that were already complete.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Helfand made a motion, effective March 1, 2023, to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 P.M. Mr. House seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Lynott
Commission Clerk

Board of Finance
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 5:45 P.M.
In Person Meeting /Simsbury Community Media Live Stream

PRESENT:

Lisa Heavner, Arthur House, Derek Peterson, Robert Helfand, and Mike Doyle.

ALSO PRESENT:

Amy Meriwether, Director of Finance; Matt Curtis, Superintendent of Schools; Susan Lemke, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Neil Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent; Jason Casey, Director of Infrastructure & Technology; Susan Salina, Chair, Board of Education; Jeff Tindall, Board of Education; Sharon Thomas, Board of Education; Brian Watson, Board of Education and Tara Willerup, Board of Education.

1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum

Ms. Heavner called the meeting to order at 5:50 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation: Board of Education 2023/2024 Budget

Mr. Curtis introduced his team and provided an overview of the Board of Education Budget. He reviewed this year's themes and priorities, and provided an overall budget number of \$82,386,678, which is an increase of \$5,255, 859 or 6.95% increase over last year's operating costs (inclusive of Non-Public Schools budget). He reviewed their Per-Pupil Expenditure, enrollment projections and the number of students receiving specialized education outside Simsbury. Mr. Doyle asked for clarification on the relationship between the schools and the school busses services, Salters. Mr. Sullivan provided the summary and Mr. Curtis reviewed the challenges involved around transportation. Ms. Heavner asked for a prioritized list of their CNR projects (Capital Reserve). She also mentioned completing the State Audit for the HJMS project so that the \$2M in savings could be used for future capital

Mr. Casey spoke about two Capital Improvement projects.

Discussion ensued. The Board followed up with questions and got clarification on the scope of the projects.

4. Budget Discussion

Ms. Meriwether presented the preliminary proposed budget and reviewed the numbers. The numbers included the amount needed to be collected from taxpayers which totaled \$105,677,868 or \$7,489,595 (7.63%) increase over last year. Ms. Meriwether reviewed the numbers in the Levy Calculation Worksheet and entered various numbers to show the different impact they would have. She then reviewed the numbers projected for the out years. Ms. Heavner said this year will see a large increase as will next year, and they will be evaluating all options to smooth the increase in the out years. She spoke further on the overall budget, the State Cap limits, its impact, and mentioned that hopefully the exemptions will help. She said they will be monitoring

it closely, especially next year and opened the floor to the Boards for comments and/or questions.

Ms. Salina and Ms. Willerup spoke about the numbers saying they thought it is responsible budget given the enrollment numbers and everything that has happened this year. Mr. Watson said he was happy with the process and that Mr. Curtis did a good job lowering it to where it is. Mr. Tindall also agreed that he thought it was a responsible budget.

Ms. Heavner asked the BOE to look for another \$750K in cuts to evaluate and get back to them. She said it's not a mandate, but a challenge and requested they do what they can to help the overall budget. Mr. House agreed and said there will be pain on both sides this year and it is a difficult process.

MOTION: Mr. Helfand made a motion, effective March 7, 2023, to request the Board of Education to take another look at the proposed budget numbers for FY 24 with the intent to reduce. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Heavner said that they haven't had a chance to hear the BOS presentation but given what they've just gone through with the BOE they anticipate that they will be asking for a number reduction also. She said initially in her thoughts she would be asking them to reduce it by \$300K – \$350K. This would be total reduction of around \$1M for the two Boards and Ms. Meriwether confirmed that would bring the mill rate down to 31.72 and it would have an impact on the taxes. The Board concluded that was a good ballpark reduction.

A discussion followed on finding any revenues that can be adjusted and Ms. Meriwether said she can review. Mr. Peterson asked how much revenue the State audits will release, and Ms. Meriwether said she will investigate that also. Ms. Heavner asks her to evaluate using Reserves to smooth the hump of debt services. She also recommended looking at the tax collection assumption rate for next year and cautioned that if this is done, they are cutting off the source for capital funding, so she wasn't sure if this was the right thing. She added that it might be worth looking at that over the summer when they do their policy review.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion, effective March 7, 2023, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 P.M. Mr. Helfand seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Lynott
Commission Clerk