

**Board of Finance
TOWN OF SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 30, 2020
Zoom Meeting / Simsbury Community Television Live Stream**

PRESENT: Board of Finance Chairman Robert Pomeroy; members Lisa Heavner, Linda Schofield, Kevin Prell, Derek Peterson and Art House.

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Eric Wellman, Deputy First Selectman Sean Askham; members Chris Peterson, Jackie Battos, Mike Paine and Wendy Mackstutis; Town Manager Maria Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Finance Director Amy Meriwether; Board of Education Chairman Susan Salina; members Todd Burrick, Jennifer Batchelar, Jeffrey Tindall, Brian Watson, Tara Donohue-Willerup, Lydia Tedone, Sharon Thomas; Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation Tom Tyburski, Matt Curtis, Neil Sullivan, Jason Casey, Gerry Wetjen, and David Bush.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Establish Quorum – Mr. Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Prell moved to adopt the minutes of the November 17, 2020 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schofield. Mr. Pomeroy, Ms. Schofield, Mr. Prell, Mr. Peterson and Mr. House were in favor, with Ms. Heavner abstaining. Therefore, the motion passed.

4. BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. Pomeroy said this Tri-Board meeting was called to move forward on the budget planning process.

Mr. Curtiss spoke about facilities enrollment and having a year-long conversation about them. He wants to help with understanding of the decision making process and progress and what it looks like on the capital side.

Ms. Capriola said she is having meetings with Department Heads on Friday. The Board of Selectmen works on the Capital and Operating Budgets in January and February. They have been focused on the pandemic response right now.

Ms. Ms. Salina spoke about COVID and re-opening schools safely. They need input on how to further address this issue.

Mr. Wellman said the Board of Selectmen need to better understand the context of the Board of Finance guidance.

Mr. Pomeroy said the Board of Finance met to work on their guidelines and how to work on the budget for the 21/22 fiscal year. They discussed baseline needs for short-term and long-term issues and expenses, costs and revenues that are impacted by COVID. No one has any idea when COVID will end. He said a lot of information was gathered like grand list, drivers, tax rates, cost of living, pensions, etc., which all create the mill rate. The Board of Finance adopted these guidelines even though there are many challenges ahead.

Ms. Heavner spoke about Section 4, which is about things that are done during the budget process. They added a comparison with other Towns.

Mr. Pomeroy said the Boards need to come up with a single guideline that keeps to the line low. The Board of Finance feels the 1.5% will be difficult to meet, but it is possible.

There was a discussion about pension, bonding and paying debt service.

5. CAPITAL ITEMS

Mr. Pomeroy said they all need to take a comprehensive look and come up with a priority list to be worked on. We need to add in baseline maintenance for schools and then take a hard look at finances. Mr. Pomeroy said there is a lot more to come on capital and they will work together with the Town. He would like a meeting the 2nd or 3rd week in January to discuss further.

6. PARKS AND RECREATION

There was discussion on the Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund. Mr. Pomeroy said the Finance Board would like a better understanding of what is spent and what is in revenues and what the general fund has supplied. There are a lot of questions on where all their funds are accounted.

Mr. Askham stated that the Parks & Recreation Special Revenue Fund work group recommended the fund be dissolved and put back in with the Board of Selectmen budget. Then there wouldn't be any general fund transfers. Taxpayers are now funding shortfalls after the fact. There was a 4/2 decision to recommend the removal of the Simsbury Farms Complex, with the exception of the golf course, from the revenue fund.

Mr. Tyburski said the golf course would be run as a business. Mr. Pomeroy said there needs to be a fundamental program where users of services pay their share. Mr. Tyburski said you can only raise fees so much before people stop coming. There was also some discussion on utility charges.

7. ADJOURN

Mr. Pomeroy said everyone needs to work together to find a common ground. Ms. Schofield make a motion to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. Mr. Prell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk