

**Simsbury Board of Finance
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 5:45 P.M.
Simsbury Public Library - Program Room 1
725 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Lisa Heavner, Derek Peterson, Robert Pomeroy, Kevin Prell, Linda Schofield

ALSO PRESENT: Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Matthew Curtis, Schools Superintendent; Burke LaClair, Schools Business Manager; Amy Meriwether, Director of Finance/Treasurer; Mike Paine, BOS; Tom Roy, Director of Public Works; Tom Tyburski, Recreation Director; Eric Wellman, First Selectman; Tara Willerup, BOE Chair; and other interested parties.

1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum

Chairman Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Hearing Continuation on FY19/20 Operating and Capital Budgets

Mr. Pomeroy gave a recap of the BOF discussion after the April 2, 2019 Public Hearing and referred to a slide presentation. He discussed the Proposed Budget of April 2, 2019 and subsequent changes made, including revised net expenditures of \$91,090,561. He noted recommended changes with no Operating Budget impact. Further, he provided a BOF proposed Budget breakdown and showed the Mill Rate impact, an increase of 1.07 mills or 2.93%, and the Median Home impact, an increase of \$228 or 2.93%. Mr. Pomeroy re-opened the Public Hearing.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, noted concern about the presented budget increases and expressed disappointment with the Board of Finance. She added she will not vote for the budgets as presented.

Maria Ecke, 8 Glenbrook Road, expressed concern about the environmental effects of the Deepwater Wind Solar Project and its proximity to the McClean Game Refuge. She also noted concern about the Ridge at Talcott Mountain development and its environmental effects. Lastly, she referenced Proposition 2 1/2 in Massachusetts, which limits property tax increases to 2.5%.

Michael Wallace, 79 Gracey Road, Canton, representing the union of a Town employee, spoke regarding an impending employee layoff. He referenced language from the contract to make the BOF aware of the union's position.

Mike Rinaldi, 32 Pinnacle Mountain Road, gave statistics, comments and recommendations to the BOF, including concern about the mill rate, inflation, taxes, property values and school enrollments.

MOTION: Mr. Prell made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Ms. Schofield seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

4. FY19/20 Budget Discussion and Possible Action

Ms. Heavner began the discussion by thanking all parties involved and made comments about the Budget. She asked that an \$18,000 contingency line item be added to the Town Manager's Expenditure Budget to be used for the 350th Celebration as recommended by the BOS. Mr. Peterson thanked everyone for their efforts and sacrifices. Ms. Schofield asked that the union position issue be clarified for the Board. Ms. Capriola noted it is in reference to the full-time Recreation Supervisor position and provided rationale for the reduction. Ms. Schofield commented on the areas that drove up the Budget. She noted support of Simsbury Farms and asked that the BOE look at the recent study about school safety. Mr. Prell noted appreciation for all the work put into the Budgets. Mr. Pomeroy made comments about the budget process. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Ms. Heavner moved that \$18,000 be moved to the contingency line item of the Town Manager's Expenditure Budget to be used for the 350th Celebration as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Pomeroy seconded the motion. Mr. Peterson and Ms. Schofield were opposed. The motion passed.

Discussion followed. Ms. Meriwether noted the differences between the Capital Project Fund, the Capital Non-Recurring Fund and the Capital Reserve Fund. It was agreed there should be a capital discussion between boards separate from the budget process. Discussion ensued. There was a ten-minute break to update the resolutions based on changes.

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen 2019-2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$23,970,138 to include the following changes from the Board of Selectmen's Approved Budget: Extraction of Simsbury Farms activity from the General Fund to be recorded back into the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund, Increase in the Health Insurance Assumption Rate from 10.44% to 12%, Increase in grand list growth projections from 0.85% to 0.92%, (\$18,000) Reduction to eliminate the Economic Development Commission marketing and branding materials, (\$7,953) Reduction of Engineering Administrative Assistant position by five hours per week, (\$77,546) Reclassification from contingency to the Police salary line item, Increase the contribution to the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund to \$180,000, (\$130,000) Reclassification of Police Vehicles from the CNR Transfer line item to the Police Operating Budget, (\$180,000) Reclassification of the Public Works Plow Truck from the CNR Transfer line item to the Public Works Operating Budget, (\$180,000) Reclassification of Paving from the Cash to Capital line item to the Public Works Operating Budget, Increase investment income to \$400,000, Transfer \$850,000 from the General Fund to the Health Insurance Fund, (\$546,500) Reduction in the Cash to Capital line item, Increase the Town Pensions line item to \$934,728, and Increase Contingency line item by \$18,000. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Prell made a motion to approve the Board of Education 2019-2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$70,880,978 and Non-Public Budget of \$546,432. Ms. Schofield

seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Prell made a motion to approve the Water Pollution Control 2019-2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,669,347 (including Avon & Granby CWF share). Ms. Schofield seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Prell made a motion to approve the Residential Rental Properties 2019-2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$37,372. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Heavner made a motion to approve the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund 2019-2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,052,282. Mr. Prell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to approve the Debt Service & Cash for Capital Appropriation for the 2019-2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$5,937,284 to include the following changes from the BOS approved budget:

- Reduce Sidewalk capital project (\$100,000)
- Reduce Greenway capital project (\$64,910)
- Eliminate Capital Reserve Contribution (\$50,000)

Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Prell made a motion to approve the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund 2019-2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,123,860 including:

- \$416,250 appropriated to be funded by the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund
- \$435,090 appropriated to be funded by one-time Cash for Capital transfer
- \$100,000 appropriated to be funded by State's Town Aid Road Fund
- \$100,000 appropriated to be funded by the Sewer Use Fund
- \$51,520 appropriated to be funded by the Police Private Duty Fund
- \$21,000 appropriated to be funded by the Eno Trust Fund

Ms. Schofield seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to adopt the following Resolutions of the Board of Finance.

RESOLUTIONS: Resolved, that the Board of Finance recommends and approves the following projects:

Move to approve Greenway Improvements in the amount of \$100,000 to be funded with cash.

Move to approve Highway Pavement Management in the amount of \$1,185,000 to be funded with cash, grants and bonds.

Move to approve Sidewalk Resurfacing in the amount of \$200,000 to be funded with cash.

Move to approve the Accounting System in the amount of \$350,000 to be funded with cash.

Move to approve Plant Programmable Logic Controllers in the amount of \$250,000 to be funded with cash.

Move to approve the Underground Tank Replacement at TV and SHS in the amount of \$325,000 to be funded by bonds.

Move to approve District Security Improvements in the amount of \$750,000 to be funded with bonds.

Move to approve the SHS Partial Roof Replacement in the amount of \$2,600,000 to be funded with bonds.

Mr. Prell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS: Pursuant to Section 808 of the Town Charter the following resolutions were introduced at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance on April 23, 2019:

Be it resolved, that the appropriation recommended and approved by the Board of Finance for the purposes of paying the expenses of the Board of Selectmen annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, shall be approved and implemented in the amount of **\$23,970,138**.

Be it resolved, that the appropriation recommended and approved by the Board of Finance for the purposes of paying the expenses of the Board of Education annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, shall be approved and implemented in the amount of **\$70,880,978**.

Be it resolved, that the appropriation recommended and approved by the Board of Finance for the purposes of paying the expenses of Sewer Use Fund (Sewer Treatment Plant), Residential Rental Properties, Simsbury Farms/Special Programs, Non-Public Schools, Debt Retirement/Capital and Capital Non-Recurring annual budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, shall be approved and implemented in the amount of **\$12,242,717**.

In Accordance with Sections 406 (Automatic Referendum) and 808 (Duties of the Board of Finance on the budget) of the Charter, the recommended operating budgets will be submitted to a referendum in the following forms:

Questions for Referendum Ballot:

1. Shall the appropriation recommended and approved by the Board of Finance for the purposes of paying the expenses of the Board of Selectmen annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, be approved and implemented in the amount of \$23,970,138?
2. Shall the appropriation recommended and approved by the Board of Finance for the purposes of paying the expenses of the Board of Education annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, be approved and implemented in the amount of \$70,880,978?
3. Shall the appropriation recommended and approved by the Board of Finance for the purposes of paying the expenses of Sewer Use Fund (Sewer Treatment Plant), Residential Rental Properties, Simsbury Farms/Special Programs, Non-Public Schools, Debt Retirement / Capital and Capital Non-Recurring annual budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, be approved and implemented in the amount of \$12,242,717?
4. Shall the Town of Simsbury appropriate \$2,600,000 for partial roof replacement at Simsbury High School; and authorize bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?

Ms. Schofield seconded the resolutions. All were in favor and the resolutions passed unanimously.

Mr. Pomeroy noted the Board of Finance has robustly discussed the budgets being recommended to referendum and the impact they will have on the mill rate to be charged if approved, resulting in a mill rate increase of 2.47%, from 36.42 to 37.32 or .9 mills.

5. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the April 2, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ms. Schofield seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

6. School Business Manager's Report

This item was deferred. Ms. Meriwether reported Mr. Laclair noted any questions on the Financial Report/Quarterly Budget Analysis can be emailed to him.

7. Finance Director's Report

Ms. Meriwether referenced her Finance Director's Report, including BOS-approved grants and donations, a tax abatement for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel, a tax abatement request from Ensign-Bickford and an update on the Health Insurance Fund.

8. Appointment of Auditor

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to appoint BlumShapiro as the Town of Simsbury's auditors for the fiscal year ending 2018/2019. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Budget Status Report - Period Ending March 31, 2019

Ms. Meriwether referenced her Budget Status Report for Period Ended March 31, 2019. She gave a General Fund overview with a summary of budgetary highlights. She provided overviews in the following areas: Simsbury Farms, the Health Insurance Fund, the Residential Rental Property Fund, Sewer Funds, Special Revenue Funds, Belden Trust Funds and Pension Trust Funds. Discussion followed.

10. Proposed Capital Project Transfers

- **Public Works Complex Infrastructure Project**
- **One Old Bridge Project**
- **Land Record Consolidation and Vault Carpeting Project**

Ms. Capriola gave a brief overview of the projects.

MOTION: Mr. Prell made a motion to approve the proposed capital project transfer requests as presented. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Supplemental Appropriation Requests

Ms. Meriwether gave an outline of the Supplemental Appropriation Requests, including a Simsbury Farms Men's Club donation and a 2018/2019 JAG Local Violent Crime Prevention Grant.

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to approve the supplemental appropriation requests as presented. Mr. Prell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

12. FY18/19 Health Insurance Fund Transfer Request

Ms. Meriwether gave background on this request as provided in the meeting packet.

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to transfer \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Health Insurance Fund. Mr. Prell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

13. Proposed Retirement Plan Subcommittee Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Meriwether gave background on this item.

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to authorize Rob Pomeroy, Chair of the Board of Finance, to sign and execute the finalized Retirement Plan Sub-Committee Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Mr. Prell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pomeroy made note of the upcoming BOF Meetings on May 14 after the Budget Referendum at HJMS and on June 18.

14. Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Wertheimer, Ms. Schofield second, to adjourn at 8:50 P.M.; unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk