

**Simsbury Board of Finance
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:45 P.M.
Simsbury Town Hall - Main Meeting Room
933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Chairman Robert Pomeroy, Lisa Heavner, Derek Peterson, Kevin Prell, Linda Schofield and Moira Wertheimer (by phone)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby, Assessor David Gardner, Interim Town Manager Sean Kimball, Simsbury Schools Business Manager Burke LaClair, First Selectman Eric Wellman and other interested parties

1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum

Chairman Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 5:50 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Update on Revaluation and Initial Grand List Indications

Mr. Gardner addressed the Board. He began by noting the revaluation has been in progress for about a year and a half and the purpose is to reallocate the tax burden according to value. He also noted the revaluation is required by law every five years. The nominal assessment ratio is 70% of estimated value. The actual ratio of residential values compared to sales is 66.4%. The Town is at about 94.9% of value. The assessment-to-sale ratio for the last three months, from October 1 to December 31, is 64%. Notices have gone out. Formal hearings are being held at the Library. The rate of change by category includes new construction. There is a 5.7% change in residential, overall about 7.1%. Mr. Gardner noted once the list is completed, petitions may be filed through the Board of Assessment Appeals. The petition is a one-page form due in the Assessor's Office by February 20. Discussion ensued regarding the granting of appeals, discretion or formulas used in the assessment process, mill rates versus property values and new construction versus existing property assessments. Mr. Kimball then compared his spreadsheet with Mr. Gardner's numbers. Further discussion continued regarding the mill rate.

4. Discussion on Possible Funding for the Health Insurance Internal Service Fund

Chairman Pomeroy began by noting this is a continued discussion from the last meeting to find out how the Board can find an appropriate level of reserves for both Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) and the Internal Service Fund (ISF). Mr. Kimball added he is working with Becky Sielman, the Town's actuary from Milliman. Contributions to the OPEB Trust are irrevocable. Money cannot be taken out of the Trust. The Town can begin to use the Trust for what it was established for, to fund retiree health expenses. The current balance now makes this possible. The Town and the Board of Education (BOE) budget for an Annual Required Contribution (ARC). Paying that ARC is voluntary. As a Triple A Community, Simsbury is proud of that contribution. The ARC is calculated around \$1.2 million for the OPEB Trust.

Then the deduction is taken for expected retiree benefits. The Town is paying retiree claims as needed out of the Health Insurance ISF. Mr. Kimball's recommendation is not to change the historic ARC funding policy. Discussion ensued about whether a legal opinion would be needed regarding using money in the Trust, as well as, not being able to project claims in a given year. Chairman Pomeroy asked members to think about what was discussed. Mr. Kimball encouraged members to send him any questions.

5. Approval of Supplemental Appropriation Request for a \$76,000 Donation from the Friends of Simsbury Farms as Approved and Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Mr. Kimball provided the Board with memos detailing the donation of \$76,000 from the Friends of Simsbury Farms to be used for the construction of basketball courts at the Simsbury Farms complex.

MOTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the Supplemental Appropriation Request for a \$76,000 donation from the Friends of Simsbury Farms as approved and recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Prell seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Chairman Pomeroy noted the Board much enjoyed working with Mr. Kimball and wished him well in his new opportunity. He added that he, Ms. Heavner, First Selectman Wellman, the new Town Manager and the Board will be involved in the recruitment and selection process for a new Director of Finance.

MOTION: Mr. Prell, Mr. Peterson second, to adjourn at 6:45 P.M.; unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk