

**Simsbury Board of Finance
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
REGULAR & POST BUDGET REFERENDUM MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 8:30 P.M.
Henry James Junior High School - Cafeteria
155 Firetown Road, Simsbury, Connecticut**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Sean Askham, BOS; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Burke LaClair, Schools Business Manager; Amy Meriwether, Director of Finance/Treasurer (by phone); Colleen O'Connor, Tax Collector; Mike Paine, BOS; Eric Wellman, First Selectman; and other interested parties.

1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum

Chairman Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 8:28 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes - April 23, 2019

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to approve the April 23, 2019 Public Hearing Continuation & Regular Meeting Minutes. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Tax Collector Suspense List

MOTION: Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the suspense list in the amount of \$65,338.17 and authorize Tax Collector Colleen O'Connor to transfer these accounts to the Suspense Tax Book. Ms. Schofield seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Set the Mill Rate for FY19/20

Mr. Pomeroy reported all four of the questions on the ballot passed. He provided totals for each question as follows:

Question 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?**

Vote total: 636 in favor, 387 opposed

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?**

Vote total: 696 in favor, 331 opposed

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?

Vote total: 736 in favor, 290 opposed

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?

Vote total: 806 in favor, 220 opposed

Mr. Pomeroy referenced the two scenarios presented in the Agenda Item Submission Form and the staff recommendation of setting the mill rate at 37.32 mills utilizing a collection rate of 99%.

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to set the mill rate for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 at 37.32 mills utilizing a collection rate of 99%. Discussion followed regarding how credit agencies look at adjusting the collection rate versus taking money out of general fund reserves. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. Further discussion followed. Ms. Meriwether was asked to adjust the collection rate to 99% on the worksheet presented overhead on the screen for the Board. Discussion followed. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion again. Ms. Heavner and Ms. Schofield were in favor. Ms. Wertheimer, Mr. Prell, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Pomeroy were opposed. The motion did not pass.

Mr. Pomeroy noted the alternative motion in the Agenda Item Submission Form, which was read by Ms. Capriola.

MOTION: Ms. Wertheimer made a motion to set the mill rate for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 at 37.32 mills utilizing a collection rate of 98.5% and fund balance reserves of \$420,000. Mr. Prell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Heavner asked whether transfer from reserves will require a Board of Selectmen motion. Mr. Pomeroy asked staff ensure this procedural step is taken if required.

6. Retirement Plan Subcommittee Appointment

Mr. Pomeroy noted this appointment is necessitated by the recently adopted revisions made in the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Retirement Plan Subcommittee. He added Mr. Schulz has been on this committee since 2008 and is highly respected.

MOTION: Ms. Schofield made a motion to appoint Phil Schulz (D) to the Retirement Plan Subcommittee as a community member at-large for a three year term to expire on May 13, 2022. Ms. Wertheimer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin
Commission Clerk