

**Town of Simsbury Board of Finance
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 24, 2017 at 7:30PM
Simsbury Town Offices – Main Meeting Room
933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut**

PRESENT: Robert Pomeroy, Jeff Blumenthal, Derek Peterson, Kevin Prell, Linda Schofield (via phone) and Moira Wertheimer (via phone).

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Sean Kimball, First Selectman Lisa Heavner, Director of Administrative Services Tom Cooke, Deputy Director of Administrative Services Melissa Appleby, Selectmen Chris Kelly, Sean Askham, Cheryl Cook, Elaine Lang, Mike Reagan, Simsbury Schools Business Manager Burke LaClair, Superintendent of Schools Matt Curtis, Board of Education Chairman Tara Donohue Willerup, Simsbury Public Schools Director of Personnel Neil Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services Susan Homrok-Lemke, Police Chief Peter Ingvertsen, Police Captain Nicholas Boulter and other interested parties.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 16, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING:

No business discussed.

4. FY18 BUDGET DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Mr. Pomeroy reminded the Board that the goal of the meeting was to approve a Board of Selectmen budget, Board of Education budget, and Capital budget and to set for referendum for June 13, 2017. He noted that this is occurring prior to receiving an approved final budget from the state of Connecticut leaving the Town of Simsbury with uncertainty regarding expense items that the State may mandate be paid by the Town. It was noted that the uncertainties are not just limited to the proposal by the governor that the towns pay some portion of teachers' pension and have therefore forced this Board to include some contingencies.

First Selectman Lisa Heavner reminded this Board that the first time the Board of Selectmen received a request to make cuts (\$200K), they were achieved through a combination of reductions in operating and cash capital. Ms. Heavner noted that when the second request was received to review other options, her Board recommended delaying the majority (\$5.5M) of the Senior Project for two years. This Board then requested an additional cut of \$100K in operating costs, according to Ms. Heavner. A copy of these latest approved cuts by the Board of Selectmen was noted as having been provided. Ms. Heavner noted that pursuant to this Board's request, a copy of the priority list of Capital projects was also included. The BOS latest recommended cuts were then discussed.

MOTION: Mr. Prell, Mr. Peterson second, to accept the Board of Selectmen's recommended budget cuts with the exception of the First Selectman's salary reduction (\$10K), the Simsbury

Chamber of Commerce reduction (\$5K), the Simsbury Main Street Partnership (\$5K) and the Farmington Valley Visitor's Association (\$4K); Motion withdrawn.

Prior to the vote on the preceding motion, discussion ensued regarding possibly including a separate \$25K contingency line item.

Board of Education Chairman Tara Donohue Willerup addressed this Board, reading from a prepared written statement, reminding all that their budget had already been reduced by \$800K and that the upgrades at the Henry James Memorial School have been delayed. She reported that the BOE have determined that they are unable to decide additional cuts in only a week's time in a responsible, thoughtful manner.

Mr. Kimball then reviewed his Excel document titled Mill Rate Calculator – FY18, noting that while there have been several iterations of it, the latest includes last year's assumptions along with a contingent expenditure line as well as a contingent revenue line. Various figures were plugged in as the effects to the mill rate and reserve fund were reviewed and considered.

The possibility of supplemental tax bills was discussed. It was noted that the mill rate cannot be lowered once it is set. The cost to send supplemental tax bills, aside from the staff time involved, was estimated at \$15K.

At 8:10PM, it was realized that the phone connections with Ms. Schofield and Ms. Wertheimer had been lost.

MOTION: Mr. Prell, Mr. Pomeroy second, to reduce the Board of Education's budget by \$200K and to reduce the Board of Selectmen's budget by \$50K; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Prell, and Mr. Peterson voting aye while Mr. Blumenthal was opposed.

5. FY18 CAPITAL BUDGET RESOLUTIONS:

Ms. Heavner explained that this Board had requested that the BOS's capital projects be prioritized. Copies of the Capital Prioritization list was distributed and reviewed.

MOTION: Mr. Peterson, Mr. Prell second, to approve the 2017-2018 Board of Selectmen Operating Budget in the amount of \$22,604,910, reflecting an increase of \$2,412,105 from the budget as presented at Public Hearing; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Prell, Mr. Blumenthal second, to approve the 2017-2018 Board of Education Operating Budget in the amount of \$68,125,170 reflecting a decrease of \$1,000,000 from the budget as presented at Public Hearing; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Peterson, Mr. Blumenthal second, to approve the 2017-2018 Non-Public School Operating Budget in the Amount of \$544,266; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Prell, Mr. Blumenthal second, to approve the 2017-2018 Debt Retirement Operating/Capital Budget in the amount of \$5,329,825 reflecting a decrease of \$1,099,333 from the budget presented at Public Hearing; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Prell, Mr. Peterson second, to approve the 2017-2018 Capital Non-Recurring Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,026,064; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Peterson, Mr. Blumenthal second, to approve the 2017-2018 Sewer Use Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,553,972; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell second, to approve the 2017-2018 Residential Rental Properties Operating Budget in the amount of \$42,745; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell second, to approve the 2017-2018 Simsbury Farms Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,967,955; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

Mr. Blumenthal moved, and Mr. Prell seconded, the following resolution:

Pursuant to Section 808 of the Town Charter the following motions were introduced at the Special Meeting of the Board of Finance on May 24, 2017:

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, 2018, shall be approved and implemented in the amount of \$22,604,910.

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, 2018, shall be approved and implemented in the amount of \$68,125,170.

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, 2018, shall be approved implemented in the amount of \$12,464,827.

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, 2018, be approved and implemented in the amount of \$22,604,910?
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, 2018, be approved and implemented in the amount of \$68,125,170?
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, 2018, be approved and implemented in the amount of \$12,464,827?

Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

The Capital Prioritization list as presented by Ms. Heavner was discussed.

MOTION: Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Pomeroy second, to leave the six capital projects for FY18 on with the clarification of the Senior Center as discussed previously; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Pomeroy second, to waive the reading into the Minutes of the full text of the resolutions set out below as well as the bonding language is waived, copies of the resolutions having been made available to those in attendance and is recorded in these records immediately following these Minutes; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

MOTION: Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell second, to approve the following resolution:
Upon motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, the reading into the Minutes of the full text of the resolutions set out below is waived, copies of the resolutions having been made available to those in attendance, and is recorded in the records immediately preceding these minutes, totaling \$5,533,548, Water Pollution Control projects totaling \$470,000, Board of Education projects totaling \$740,000, and from the general fund \$315,000. The total proposed Capital Improvement Projects totaled \$7,058,548; Motion passed with Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Prell and Mr. Peterson voting aye.

It was noted that the referendum will occur on June 13, 2017. Additionally, it was noted that a regular meeting of this Board will occur immediately following conclusion of voting at the referendum (8:00PM) at approximately 8:15PM in the Henry James Memorial School cafeteria.

It was noted that should the budget fail at referendum, the Board of Finance would reconsider the budget but only to make additional reductions from what was proposed.

6. ADJOURN:

MOTION: Mr. Prell, Mr. Peterson second, to adjourn at 9:55PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

**Pamela A. Colombie
Commission Clerk**