

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Program Room of the Simsbury Public Library. Present were: First Selectman Eric Wellman; Board members Chris Peterson, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly, Sean Askham, and Michael Paine. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; Finance Director/Treasurer Sean Kimball; Public Works Director Tom Roy; Culture, Parks and Recreation Director Gerard Toner; Director of Planning and Community Development Jamie Rabbitt; Interim Police Chief Nick Boulter; Director of Community and Social Services Kristen Formanek; Library Director Lisa Karim; Town Clerk Ericka Butler; Board of Finance member Kevin Prell; Executive Director of Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association Mike Delehanty; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about FY19 budget issues; taxes; revaluation; the proposed Henry James Middle School project; the proposed public safety radio system project; the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association budget request; economic development; and other issues.

Mike Rinaldi, 32 Pinnacle Mountain Road, spoke about concerns with the Board of Selectmen's proposed budget; the number and dollar amount of proposed capital projects for FY19; and other budget issues.

Robert Kalechman, 971 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about money spent on statewide elections; concerns with providing funding to the Chamber of Commerce; the need for proper equipment for the Police Department; and other budget concerns.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Accept \$2,500 CIRMA Risk Management Award and recommend supplemental appropriation

Ms. Cook made a motion effective April 2, 2018, to accept a grant award from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) in the amount of \$2,500 and to recommend to the Board of Finance a supplemental appropriation in the Public Works operating budget for contractual services to fund safety-related employee training in the amount of \$2,500. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

b) Discussion and action regarding fiscal year 2018/2019 Board of Selectmen operating and capital budgets

Mr. Wellman explained that the Board of Finance asked the Board of Selectmen to identify \$275,000 in cuts to the proposed FY19 budget. Ms. Capriola provided the Board with a list of items to consider for the discussion, including items in the operating, capital and CNR budgets.

The Board discussed the following items:

- **Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association**

Mr. Wellman proposed reducing the contribution to \$40,000. Discussion ensued regarding the need to provide support the Association but agreed that this topic requires further study. There was consensus for level-funding the Association at \$50,000, which is a \$30,000 reduction from the proposed budget.

- **Public Agencies**

The Board reviewed the list of public agencies that are included in the budget, and agreed that cuts to this area would only be visited as a last resort.

- **Police Overtime**

Ms. Capriola explained that the proposed budget reflects an effort to account for historical trends, as this line item was previously overspent. Mr. Boulter spoke to the difference between standard overtime and elective overtime, which is for special events. He noted that the proposed cut to this item would bring overtime down to the current level, which has already been overspent. After some discussion, there was consensus to cut this line item by \$25,000.

- **Economic Development Study**

The Board discussed this as an item that would add value, but that is not critical for the upcoming year. There was consensus to cut this item in the full amount of \$60,000.

- **Deepwater Wind Expenses**

There was discussion regarding the inability to predict the exact level of funding that will potentially be needed for consulting fees, legal, and on-site construction inspection. There was consensus to reduce this item by \$25,000.

- **Revaluation**

The Board agreed to keep this item in the budget, as this is something that ultimately must be funded.

- **Sidewalk Maintenance and Greenway Maintenance**

Mr. Roy said that a study is currently underway regarding sidewalk conditions. He noted that because the Town sidewalk ordinance has required that homeowners be responsible for maintenance, sidewalks throughout Town are in various states of disrepair. In regards to the Greenway, funding is necessary to maintain the trails at a high quality standard.

After some discussion, the Board decided to reduce Sidewalk Maintenance by \$50,000 and reduce Greenway Maintenance by \$25,000.

- **Paving**

Ms. Capriola explained that there are three places where we budget for paving: operating, capital and LOCIP. She noted that our standard annual funding level is \$1.3 million, and that with the three funding sources, we were over by \$5,000. The Board agreed to cut \$5,000 from capital.

- **Ash Borer Mitigation**

The Board discussed the need to address this issue over the next two years. After some discussion, there was consensus to reduce this item by \$25,000.

- **Health Insurance Fund**

Ms. Capriola explained that the Town is self-insured, and that the goal for the Fund's reserves should be 125% funding, or three months' worth of claims. Mr. Kimball explained that we are able to determine how much we charge ourselves in premiums; if we move \$1 million into the Fund, this would generate \$200,000 in savings. A portion of this would be accounted for in the Board of Education budget. After some discussion, the Board reached consensus to account for the savings of \$36,674.

- **Board of Selectmen Electronic Devices**

After discussion regarding the possibility of funding this item in the current year budget, the Board reached consensus that this item could be cut in the full amount of \$5,000.

- **Social Worker Position**

Mr. Kelly indicated that he would be open to deferring this item until next year. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of this request and the need to meet the needs of a growing population.

- **Simsbury Farms Irrigation Study**

Mr. Peterson asked if the study must move forward in FY19. Mr. Toner indicated that the study is necessary to identifying the specific cost for this project and that he does not recommend delaying the study as the irrigation system is the lifeline of the golf course.

In total, the Board identified \$91,674 in reductions from the operating budget and \$195,000 from capital and CNR for a total of \$286,674.

Mr. Askham made a motion to recommend the reductions as presented to the Board of Finance. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cook seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager