

## **SIMSBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN – BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Special Meeting Minutes – **March 16, 2016** - Subject to Vote of Approval – 4 pages.

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Lisa Heaver, *First Selectman*, in the Town Hall Main Meeting Room. Other selectmen present included Chris M. Kelly, *Deputy First Selectman*; Elaine W. Lang, Cheryl B. Cook, Sean P. Askham and Mike R. Paine. Thomas Cooke, *Director of Administrative Services*, and Sean Kimball, *Interim Finance Director & Deputy Director of Administrative Services* were present. Tom Roy, *Director of Public Works*, as well as Chief Peter N. Ingvertsen and Lieutenant Sifodaskalakakis, of the *Simsbury Police Department*, were also in attendance.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

*Mike Rinaldi.* Mr. Rinaldi attended the Board of Finance (BoF) meeting last night. He was concerned that there was no public audience, especially since he felt that he was hearing inaccurate information. He was distressed that road maintenance projects—which have been planned and bonded along a 20 year timeline—might be added to the town’s annual maintenance budget, beginning this year. He felt that this proposal would increase the annual budget significantly, adding an unnecessary burden on taxpayers.

*Joan Coe.* Ms. Coe agreed with Mr. Rinaldi. She felt that proposing a completely different plan after the budget was already made was poorly timed and a bad idea. She also suggested that: 1. The town not keep using the same local law firms; 2. The Performing Arts Center is a private organization, and should not rely on town appropriations, and 3. The town should not help the new Friends of Simsbury Farms 501(c)(3) with the \$850 needed for a permit.

### **POSSIBLE ACTION ON PREVIOUS BUDGET WORKSHOP ITEMS**

Body Camera Budget Item for the Simsbury Police. There was a long discussion about this line item, which sets aside funds for the police to buy body cameras and memory. Some selectmen were uncomfortable about purchasing cameras before a policy to control their use and to protect privacy was approved. Two options were suggested: 1. Body cameras could be purchased and stored until a policy was drafted. This would allow the police department to be prepared ahead of time. Or, 2. Body camera purchases could be delayed until a policy was drafted. Keeping the funds in the budget, but deferring the purchase would allow the police department to buy the most technologically advanced equipment by the state deadline.

The selectmen favored option number two. Mr. Paine made a motion to keep the body camera proposal of \$59,750 in the Capital Non-Recurring budget upon the condition that the Chief of Police will not authorize the expenditure or purchase of the cameras and memory until a policy

has been brought to the Board of Selectmen for comment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly. Ms. Lang, Ms. Heavner, Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Paine were in favor of the motion. Ms. Cook and Mr. Askham were opposed. A quorum was met. The majority ruled. *The motion passed.*

## **OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET**

At the BoF Meeting last night, the Board of Selectmen (BoS) was tasked with the goal of reducing the overall FY2016/17 budget by \$50,000, which would keep the mill rate flat. In order to do this, the board decided: 1. To delete some line items, 2. To recommend that some capital line items be paid from the General Fund (within the 1% appropriation limit) and be prioritized, and 3. To prioritize the remaining capital line items. In order to reduce the total number of cuts, board members reviewed many ways in which savings could be found and costs could be shared. They also aimed to distribute the funds fairly across departments. In addition, they recognized that: 1. Two massive projects would be funded in the next couple of years (a Senior/Community Center and the final renovations to Henry James Memorial School), and 2. The financial decisions they made today would impact how much the town would be able to spend on capital projects in the next several years.

The selectmen ranked the importance of the capital projects as follows:

### **1% Cash Priority List**

- 1 POCD
- 2 Portable Generator
- 3 Veteran's Memorial
- 4 Window Replacement
- 5 Other Planning Studies (#19)
- 6 Park Improvements
- 6 Athletic Field Improvements

### **Capital Priority List**

- \$ 3,636,443 BOE Projects
- 1 \$ 2,500,000 Highway Pavement
  - 2 \$ 1,160,000 Multi Use Connections
  - 3 \$ 775,000 Streetlights
  - 4 \$ 450,000 Public Works Complex
  - 5 \$ 385,000 Town Hall Safety
  - 6 \$ 145,000 Dams
  - 7 \$ 240,000 Greenway Improvements
  - 8 \$ 400,000 Open Space Planning & Improvements
  - 9 \$ 400,000 Town Facilities Master Plan
  - 10 \$ 125,000 Golf Course
- \$ 9,691,443 TOTAL

They also made motions for the following plan:

I, Sean P. Askham, make a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen 2016-2017 Operating Budget in the amount of \$19,608,444 to include the following changes from the First Selectman's Proposed Budget:

\$ 2,500	Registrar of Voters Salary increase (effective 1/7/17)
\$ 50,000	Staff Engineer (\$70K: Either share with the BOE or delay the hire)
\$ (85,000)	Street Light Purchase FY17 Savings
\$ (33,074)	Energy Efficiency
\$ (7,500)	OT Adjustment with custodial position in
\$ (5,000)	Major Medical Adjustment
\$ (3,000)	Cushman/Light Utility Vehicle

The motion was seconded by Mr. Kelly. All were in favor. *The motion carried.*

I, Sean P. Askham, make a motion to approve the Water Pollution Control 2016-2017 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,185,975. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lang. All were in favor. *The motion carried.*

I, Sean P. Askham, make a motion to approve the Residential Rental Properties 2016-2017 Operating Budget in the amount of \$42,060. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cook. All were in favor. *The motion carried.*

I, Sean P. Askham, make a motion to approve the Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund 2016-2017 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,920,665. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paine. All were in favor. *The motion carried.*

I, Sean P. Askham, make a motion to approve the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund 2016-2017 Budget in the amount of \$401,250. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lang. All were in favor. *The motion carried.*

I, Sean P. Askham, make a motion to add the following new projects to the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2016-2017 in accordance with Charter Section 803(b):

\$ 775,000	Street Lighting Purchase / Lighting Improvements
\$ 83,103	Skidsteer Track Loader with Brush Cutter
\$ 27,000	Oxidation Ditch Dissolved Oxygen Control
\$ 65,000	Storage Building

The motion was seconded by Ms. Cook. All were in favor. *The motion carried.*

I, Sean P. Askham, make a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Program to include the following projects in FY 2016-2017:

\$ 1,160,000	Multi-Use Connections & Master Plan Updates
\$ 125,000	SF Golf Course Improvements

\$ 240,000	Greenway Improvements
\$ 400,000	Open Space Planning Improvements
\$ 775,000	Street Lighting Purchase / Lighting Improvements
\$ 2,500,000	Highway Pavement Management
\$ 145,000	Dam Evaluations and Repairs
\$ 400,000	Town Facilities Master Plan
\$ 450,000	Public Works Complex Infrastructure Improvements
\$ 385,000	Town Hall Site and Safety Improvements
\$ 50,000	West Mtn. Road Area Sewer Interceptor – Design
\$ 104,000	Sewer Main Extensions / Repairs - Massaco Street
\$ 100,000	Hopmeadow / Center Area Sewer Repairs
\$ 83,103	Skidsteer Track Loader with Brush Cutter
\$ 27,000	Oxidation Ditch Dissolved Oxygen Control
\$ 65,000	Storage Building
\$ 450,000	District Network Infrastructure
\$ 1,950,000	HJMS - Renovation - Phase 2 (maintenance work, fire suppression, etc.)
\$ 675,000	SHS Turf Field Replacement
\$ 950,000	Climate Control (Phase 2)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Paine. All were in favor. *The motion carried.*

The prioritization lists will be forwarded to the BoF.

## **ADJOURN**

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lang seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval. *The motion carried.* The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lorrie McElligott*  
Commission Clerk