

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP
JANUARY 24, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Mary Glassman; Board members Moira Wertheimer, John Hampton, Lisa Heavner and Robert Hensley. Selectman Gerald Post was absent.

Mrs. Glassman began the meeting stating that since it is now Budget Season we must present a Capital Plan to the taxpayers and to the Board of Finance; and also refer the plan to the Planning Commission. There is a lot of work to do; timeframe is: BOS receive Town budgets prior to Tuesday, 2/15, required by Charter.

Ms. Glassman stated that tonight the Board of Selectmen will briefly review the Capital Plan, then review the presentations for the 2011-2012 projects and then discuss. Kevin Kane will give a sense of what our bond indebtedness looks like and then it will be discussed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Glassman started out by explaining the process. Review the old 6 year capital plan that was approved last year – also asked staff to provide new requests so there is a new capital plan. Also changed format of the CIP request; created a form called “Capital Improvement Plan Request Overview”, thanks to Sean Kimball. Going forward we will now be requiring that staff put forward a narrative along with the request so that the taxpayers will have an actual explanation of what the projects are and other alternatives and who will be serviced. We will provide more information to taxpayers as we go through this process. Also included is a Debt Policy which is very old and so as part of our CIP will be asking the BOS to revise the Debt Policy so that it can be forwarded to BOF for review. Also, something new this year is the addition of a budget website page so all documents that is received and all documents that the Town needs to review the budget process including the calendar and requests will be on website and residents can actually send questions.

Start with an overview of our budget outlook. Mr. Kane explained two graphs that he prepared showing the last 10 years of Town of Simsbury Ratio of Debt Service to Total General Fund Expenditures and Town of Simsbury Total Bonded Debt General Obligation Bonds Only. Shows over the last 10 years what the Debt Service budget was in relation to the General Fund.

Mrs. Glassman asked him to translate into what is available for projects this fiscal year – if we stay at 7.1 with 0% what would be available.

Mr. Kane explained if the CIP was adopted as is tonight – would be about \$300,000 higher. Not concerned because rates he is using are based on 10 year issue

Richard Sawitzke, Town Engineer and Gerry Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation gave a brief overview of the project going to referendum.

Simsbury Farms Main Building Renovation: this renovation focuses on improving and making accessible the primary public use areas including bathrooms, locker rooms, food concession and first aid area. An existing mechanical and storage area will be converted into a program room to address the camp and program needs that the facility handles. It also includes the insulation of the building and the creation of an energy star rated facility. The existing building is almost 40 years old and as it was originally a seasonal building, it is not insulated or energy efficient. It is also not ADA compliant, nor adequately addresses the needs of families using the facility. The main building is not wheelchair accessible, nor has adequate cooling and heating systems. The proposed project entails renovation to 7,150 sq. ft. of the existing building, as well as 3,200 sq. ft. of new construction. Mechanical systems including electrical switchboard, heating and plumbing will be replaced.

Additionally, the Memorial Park Improvements were discussed. This project contains two distinct improvements to the facility that will provide benefits to the town and the Board of Education. The first improvement is a parking lot and drainage project which will enhance the existing area and achieve compliance as outlined in the 2008 Simsbury High School Civil Rights Compliance Review Corrective Action Plan. The second improvement involves repairs to the existing Memorial Pool facility that will allow it to function for the next 10-15 years.

Mr. Hampton made motion to refer the matter of the Simsbury Farms Main Building Renovation to the Planning Commission for an 8-24 referral. Mr. Hensley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Glassman advised that another meeting on capital projects will take place on February 14th and asked that any questions be referred to the First Selectman's office.

Mr. Hampton made motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Ms. Heavner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman
First Selectman