

From: Susan Mazurski March 9, 2011 3:20:23 PM
Subject: Board of Selectmen Minutes 02/17/2011BUDGET WORKSHOP
APPROVED
To: SimsburyCT_SelectMin
Cc:

TOWN OF SIMSBURY - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Workshop Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:02 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. Other interested parties in attendance were Thomas Cooke, Sean Kimball, Kevin Kane and Police Chief Ingvertsen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hampton opened the meeting while Ms. Glassman was at the Board of Finance meeting in the Board of Education Conference Room in Town Hall.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

John Romano, 15 Amy Lane questioned the Board about a Wish List and asked if one would be submitted this year. Mr. Hampton responded that this was typically done in the past and will still happen this year. He also stated that there will probably be another Workshop to include the wish list.

DISCUSSION – Pubic Safety

Chief Ingvertsen presented the Police Dept. General Budget. The Chief noted that a full time Police Clerk position has been removed and that a request for four cruisers has been reduced to three. The Police Department's Operating Budget section came in at 0% with an increase of .012% due to salary increases. With reference to a Wish List the Chief would like to reinstate the Police Clerk position. A discussion concerning

the Police Department's overtime hours and related collective bargaining agreement provisions ensued. Ms. Heavner expressed gratitude to the Police Department for its efforts to present a flat budget.

Ms. Heavner made a motion to temporarily adjourn until 6:45 p.m. in order to attend the Board of Finance meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wertheimer. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

DISCUSSION – Civil Preparedness

Chief Ingvertsen advised that the Civil Preparedness Budget went down from last year. He discussed the Everbridge Reverse 911 System and advised that he is looking in to whether an expanded system (to permit non-emergency calls) could be added as a joint venture with the Board of Education.

DISCUSSION – Animal Control

Chief Ingvertsen discussed steps taken to keep the Animal Control budget at a 0% increase and added that, as part of his wish list, returning the Animal Control Officer position to a full-time position would be beneficial to the Town. Chief Ingvertsen added that he was looking into the possibility of a regionalized animal control function.

DISCUSSION – General Government

The Board of Selectmen reviewed financial information provided for General Government functions, including benefits costs. Rick Bazzano explained the computer technology budget and the status of the Town's information technology systems. Carolyn Keily explained elements of the Town Clerk's budget. A discussion ensued concerning the possible use of Paypal by the public to pay for various items. Ms. Keily stated that there were a number of on-line resources (sports licenses can be purchased from the Department of Environmental Protection on line, for example) and that the Town Clerk's Office was working with the Tax Department on other potential on-line payment options.

A discussion ensued concerning the costs of printing the Annual Report.

DISCUSSION – Library

Library Director Susan Bullock presented additional information about the Library budget. Ms. Glassman stated that while the reductions to the Library's proposed budget appeared to be significant, the goal was simply

to get the budget back to where it was without grants. Ms. Bullock described existing coverage problems and stated that the Library spent approximately \$100,000 a year in leave pay (including all leaves such as vacation and sick leave). She further stated that the position slated for reduction was important to the Library's function.

DISCUSSION – Other Budgetary Items

The Board proceeded to review and discuss a Memorandum from Mr. Kane setting out additional requested funding from the Town's department heads. The discussion included a review of the capital non-recurring budget and the potential inclusion of "Town of Simsbury" signs in that budget.

There being no further business, Mr. Hensley moved for adjournment, Mr. Hampton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary A. Glassman
First Selectman