

Town of Simsbury

FY 2021-2022 Annual Report



Greetings from the BOF, BOE, BOS Chairs

We are pleased to present the 160th Annual Report for the Town of Simsbury. The purpose of this report is to provide the Town's citizens, taxpayers and other stakeholders with a financial accounting of how our tax dollars were spent during the reporting period, Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The Board of Finance is an elected citizen oversight board that serves as the Town's primary budget-making authority. The Board works in a collaborative and nonpartisan manner with the Boards of Selectmen & Education and their staffs to prepare budgets and capital improvement plans that support quality services at a reasonable cost to taxpayers.

For the year covered by this report, a mill rate increase of 0.32 mills was necessary to fund local investments in education, public safety, roads, open space, the library, the senior center, parks and recreation, open space, social services, and much more. Our balanced budget covered expenses while keeping taxes affordable for our citizens.

Simsbury's fiscal condition continues to be strong. We have a AAA rating from Standard and Poor's – the highest rating a municipality can achieve. The Town maintained an adequate fund balance and healthy reserves, fully funded its employees' pension benefits and other post-employment benefits (OPEB), and kept borrowing costs to a reasonable level. We continue to achieve savings on expenses through cooperative efforts among the Boards of Selectmen, Education and Finance.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as members of the Board of Finance. We are fortunate to work with the many dedicated members of our community who give their time and talent on our many Town boards and commissions, with the members of the public who share their priorities and concerns, and with Town and Board of Education staff who work every day to serve the residents and businesses of our community.

Sincerely,
Lisa Heavner, Board of Finance Chair

Once again, I am proud to be representing Simsbury Public Schools and sharing an update with you. We had a lot to celebrate this year in Simsbury and below you will see some highlights of what we were able to accomplish in the 2021/2022 school year.

In this year of challenges, we were able to rebuild our intervention and support systems for both students and staff. We brought back Reading Interventionists, Language Arts Consultants and Math Coaches. We also hired additional Social Workers so that our students were better supported in every building. In a year when we heard a lot about learning loss for all students, Simsbury shined.

We are proud of our students and staff for their perseverance and the amazing growth we saw in relation to comparative districts on state measured assessments such as Smarter Balance, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). We are so fortunate to have students, parents and staff who all worked diligently over the last school year to support each other.

We also launched the Capstone program, a new statewide graduation requirement which requires students to explore an area of interest and present their findings demonstrating proficiency. Through our elective study strands, our local businesses who opened their doors to our students, and the students own passion projects, Simsbury students rose to the challenge and presented to a board of teachers and administrators with great professionalism.

To our community, a huge Thank You as you lent your support to us again this year. The students, staff, faculty and administration have worked so hard to keep Simsbury Schools moving forward and you all have been a part of that success. We are so excited to see Latimer Lane School start its renovation in this upcoming year and look forward to the bright future ahead for Simsbury Public Schools.

Regards,
Susan Salina, Board of Education Chair

Looking back on FY 21/22, it's hard to believe the pandemic continued, with a rough start in January 2022. The Town of Simsbury and Emergency Services held 2 COVID test kit distributions that were creatively planned and executed without a hitch. We now have vaccines, home test kits and ways to treat those more seriously ill, providing us with a path to move forward and look ahead. We have regained our footing toward Simsbury's future, now that we are not solely focused on the day to day needs of keeping all safe and healthy. Of course, I thank our Town staff, my fellow elected officials, volunteers, residents, and local businesses for the collective 'WE' that focused on our needs to get through this period.

As I look back at our accomplishments beyond COVID, over the period from July 2021 to June 2022, I have a couple of different perspectives. One was as a member of the Board of Selectmen in the latter part of 2021, under Eric Wellman's leadership. The second, in 2022, was as the First Selectman, learning how to best serve our town as the Chief Elected Official. In 2021, we completed the Meadowood purchase, the highest priority of the prior board. We have now preserved 288 acres of open space, agricultural and historical land, along with a parcel owned by the town for our future needs.

In the first half of 2022, we completed a long-desired project to pave the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center parking lot, that included accessibility improvements. We continue to look at more housing opportunities by expanding our regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units. Cannabis has been a topic of discussion across multiple boards and will continue into the next fiscal and calendar year. We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Simsbury Farms with many events throughout the spring and summer, ending with an unforgettable party that included inflatables, an 80's band and a fantastic firework display over our golf course.

I am happy to report that we've had some nice successes during this period. One of the biggest challenges we faced was how to use the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars that every municipality in our country received, to expedite recovery from the pandemic. It started out as a complicated task, but as the Final Rule from the Treasury came out in January, we had more flexibility in using this money to help our residents in a broader way. We held a public hearing and listened to your suggestions to use these funds for our Bike Trails, Parks and Recreation facilities, including pickleball courts at Tariffville Park, and the Flower Bridge.

Even though the work and funding doesn't take effect during the fiscal year of this annual report, many of the decisions, the input from the community, and fact gathering, took place from July 2021 thru April of 2022. I'm proud to say that during our budget workshops in March 2022, we approved a big investment in public safety by funding 2 Patrol Officer positions, and a Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Specialist. We also contributed to our practice of community policing by approving funding for our very own police service dog (His name is Clifton!).

Looking ahead, we will continue to evaluate using technology to find better ways to gather and share information with residents and across our boards and commissions, to make local government more transparent and collaborative. This is an area where I see great opportunities for our future, so we call all better understand where and how our taxpayer dollars are being used. I look forward to doing this report again next year, so we can talk about our progress and accomplishments from FY 22/23, and ahead to future goals. It's an honor to serve as your First Selectman, and work with our Board of Selectmen to do what's in the best interests of this beautiful community we call home.

Regards,
Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman

Town Manager's Office

The Town Manager is appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve as the chief executive officer of the Town. She is responsible for the oversight of all Town departments, implementing all acts and policies of the Board and all resolutions and ordinances adopted by the Town. The Office is responsible for the implementation of policies and initiatives, the administration of the human resources program, risk management, and supports the Town's economic development activities.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Carefully managed and balanced the needs of our organization, residents, patrons, and employees during the pandemic. Essential services and infrastructure remained operational at all times despite staffing shortages due to positive cases during peak times of community transmission.
- Worked in conjunction with the Emergency Management team and Public Works to distribute COVID at-home test kits to our municipal workforce and public safety partners, daycares, educational institutions, vulnerable populations of people, and the general public. Kits were provided to the general public through two highly efficient and successful drive-thru distribution events and also made available through the Library.
- Completed highly complex acquisition transaction of the Meadowood property in September 2021, conserving approximately 288 acres of land for future generations for open space, passive recreation, agricultural, and historic preservation purposes. Ribbon cutting event was held in October 2021.
- Supported the work of the Board of Selectmen in the development and adoption of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance
- Successfully hired and onboarded two department heads: Town Clerk and Director of Planning and Community Development.
- Completed reorganization of the Engineering Department becoming a Division of the Department of Public Works. Achieved synergies and organizational efficiencies.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Meadowood acquisition

Photo provided by the Town Manager's Office

Finance Department

The Finance Department consists of the financial administration of the Town and Board of Education, assessor and tax offices. The Department's mission is to provide the highest level of fiscal integrity and inter-department support through training, prudent policies and business practices within procurement, payroll, accounts payable, accounting and reporting, tax collection and debt management.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Maintained fund balance reserve of 15.5%.
- FY 20/21 year end savings, along with General Fund reserves in excess of 15.5%, resulted in about \$1,500,000 being transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund to be used for future capital needs.
- Completed the annual financial audit for FY 20/21 with an unmodified opinion from the audit firm Clifton, Larson & Allen LLP, the highest opinion possible.
- Prepared the FY 20/21 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in accordance with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) certificate program.
- Received the GFOA certificate for excellence in financial reporting for the FY 19/20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- Implemented the Health Insurance Fund Policy.
- Completed the implementation of a new financial management software system.
- Successfully onboarded new Deputy Finance Director.
- Completed the 2020 motor vehicle supplemental list for December billing.
- Completed the annual personal property field survey and 2021 personal property declarations.
- Began creation of the 2021 real estate grand list for timely completion.
- Maintained tax collection rate in excess of 99% while providing pleasant and efficient service to taxpayers.
- Continued shared financial services between the Town and Board of Education.



*Photo by SVFC
Photographer Ben
Dickmann*

Information Technology

The Department oversees the daily technology systems and operations of all municipal offices, and provides services to the Board of Education Central Office, Regional Probate Court, Police Department, Simsbury Public Library and Water Treatment facilities. The Department participates in meetings with the Technology Task Force and IT Steering Committee on technology activities, issues and recommendations. In addition to daily operations, the Department continues to research and implement technologies that provide cost and administrative efficiencies.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Completed Phase 1 of Town-wide migration to 365 platform.
- Implemented cyber security programs for employees and network infrastructure.
- Enhanced network and security storage equipment.
- Researched and designed additional security features and services which strengthened external and internal security posture.
- Completed final phase of the fiber optic build-out to Simsbury Farms Complex.

Town Clerk's Office

The Town Clerk's Office serves as the liaison between the local government and the residents and patrons of Simsbury, providing reliable information with the highest quality of customer service. The Office receives and maintains extensive records concerning real estate transactions, vital records, elections, meeting minutes, military discharges, notaries public, sporting/dog/liquor licenses, justices of the peace, trade name certificates and other historical documents dating back to the seventeenth century.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Utilized \$7,500 in grant money (from the CT State Library Historic Documents Preservation Program) to have Online Index Books created for deeds from years 1962-1976.
- Processed approximately 1,000 absentee ballots for the November 2021 Municipal Election, which was nearly triple the number issued in the November 2019 Municipal Election.
- Completed hiring and training of an Assistant Town Clerk who began on January 31, 2022.
- Worked with the Finance Department to create a more efficient process for completing department monthly revenue reports.

Registrars of Voters/Election Administration

The Registrars of Voters administer elections, primaries, and referendums for the Town of Simsbury, conduct an annual canvass of Simsbury voters, and maintain the Town's voter rolls according to State statutes.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Administered the 2021 municipal election under continued COVID conditions.
- Processed 904 absentee and election day voter registration ballots.
- Conducted a close vote recount following the November election.
- Conducted an expanded canvass of registered voters in January 2022.
- Administered FY 22/23 budget referendum in May.
- Registered 1,292 new voters.

Simsbury Public Library

The Simsbury Public Library provides free and equal access to information, experiences and educational resources that build community and inspire a lifetime of learning.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a Silver Level Bike Friendly Business.
- Using funds from the American Recovery Plan Act received through the Connecticut State Library, installed pick-up lockers that allow Library users to access their Library material 24/7.
- Launched the Book Bike which began providing community outreach and access to Library material and services off-site. The Book Bike was also funded with money received through the Connecticut State Library from the American Recovery Plan Act.
- In partnership with the Connecticut Bar Association, established a Lawyers in Libraries Program, which provides free appointments with an attorney on a monthly basis. To schedule an appointment, call the Library's Information Desk.
- The Teen Services Librarian, expanded materials, services/programs for teens.
- The Children's Department offered 519 programs which were attended by 27,899 children and families. Children's Department staff was able to accommodate these large attendance numbers in a safe and welcoming environment, by pivoting from indoor programs to outdoor programs and back again.



Photo by Rachel Gravel

Culture, Parks and Recreation

The Town's Culture, Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Town's parks, open spaces and recreational facilities and programs which contribute to the community's environment, needs and interests. The Department is a source of community pride and provides a variety of programs, from arts and crafts, to summer camps, athletics, music and specialty programs. The Department seeks to provide leisure opportunities which contribute to the quality of life in the community, and are an integral part of Simsbury's health, welfare, attractiveness, and economic vitality.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Planned and began implementing events for the 50th Anniversary of the Simsbury Farms Recreation Complex. FY 21/22 events included the Last Day of School Funfest and the Touch-A-Truck event.
- Recruited and onboarded a new Parks Maintainer and Recreation Program Coordinator.
- Conducted a competitive bid process for exterior painting of the Simsbury Farms Main Building.
- Culture, Parks and Recreation Department staff assisted in the planning and organization of the annual 'Simsbury Celebrates' as it returned to a full in-person community event.
- Simsbury Farms Golf Course exceeded 40,000 rounds of golf played and surpassed \$1.1 million dollars in revenue.



Funfest



Touch-A-Truck

Photos by Thomas Tyburski

Community and Social Services

The Community and Social Services Department assists residents with their social, emotional and financial needs while welcoming the commonalities and diversities of all.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Continued to partner with and provided funding to the Simsbury Police Department, Public Schools, Public Library, A Promise to Jordan, DEI Council, the Farmington Valley VNA, and Meals-On-Wheels to support initiatives, services, and programming on topics related to equity and diversity, safety, substance misuse prevention, healthy family relations, and mental health concerns with a particular focus on our youth and positive youth development.
- Added additional programming around healthy family relations/positive youth development and provided a babysitting course and two classes on home alone safety.
- Added 4 new intergenerational events: Mammals and Reptiles; a Rhythm class; a musical performance with dinner; and a magic show with dinner.
- Continued offering Sensory Friendly events: a Spring Fling; Trunk or Treat; and a Holiday event.
- Continued to support programming at the library and services in the schools; 18 referrals were made for therapeutic treatment (an increase of 11 from the previous year) in our Family Therapy Program.
- Completed 179 Connecticut Energy Assistance Program applications which facilitated \$214,910 in federal heating assistance.
- Completed 132 Renters' Rebate applications resulting in \$68,861 rebated to our residents.
- The Back to School program distributed a total of \$4,050. 46 families with 92 kids were provided a gift card/supplies and 53 families with 92 children were provided with toy/gifts for the holidays.
- The Food Pantry was successfully relocated to the Shephard of the Hills Lutheran Church from Eno Hall and continued to serve an average of 80 households per month including an average of 14 homebound deliveries. On average, 20-25 families per month received additional food for their children.
- Granted a total of \$13,571 to residents in need and 38 households received financial assistance.
- Offered 235 Senior Center Zoom fitness programs. 1,265 meals were served through our Grab and Go lunch program. Tuesday Café and Wednesday lunches returned indoors in March with an average of 21 meals administered per day.
- The Senior Center received a new grant from the Connecticut Healthy Living Collective to support the addition of Tai Ji Quang: Moving For Better Balance classes.
- Provided 219 seniors/disabled adults with 5,323 rides from the Simsbury Dial-A-Ride program and received a second grant to replace our second oldest bus.
- Continued to make wellness calls to ≈100 senior residents per month that utilized emergency services.



Photo provided by Community & Social Services Department

Public Works

The Public Works Department manages and maintains the Town's infrastructure, including roads, public buildings and the transfer station in a cost effective and efficient manner that benefits the safety and comfort of our residents, employees and visitors.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Received and implemented numerous infrastructure grants totaling \$4,236,200.
- Director Thomas J. Roy was awarded a national award from the American Public Works Association as a result of innovative efforts to keep the Department safe and working during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Organized 2 distribution events and handed out 1,200 COVID Home Test Kits, free of charge.
- Collected over 200 pounds of food for our food pantry at the Open House and Touch-A-Truck Event.
- Completed over 500 service requests from residents.
- Opted out of the Materials Innovation Recycling Authority (MIRA) contract.
- Paved 11.8 miles of roadway, 1.62 miles of micro-surfacing and performed drainage repair.
- Began utilizing fleet software to track maintenance on over 100 pieces of equipment/vehicles.
- Brought back the popular "Snow Plow Ride Along" program.
- Hosted 2 regional Household Hazardous Waste events and serviced a total of 1,466 vehicles.
- Renovated Simsbury Community Media studio in Eno Memorial Hall.
- Assisted creation of a new food pantry and distribution center at the Shepherd of the Hills church.

Water Pollution

Simsbury Water Pollution Control (SWPC) is a customer funded utility owned and operated by the Town of Simsbury. The towns of Avon and Granby are also co-owners of the treatment facility. SWPC is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 80 miles of collection system, five pumping stations and the treatment facility.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Completed the installation of launder covers for two 100-foot diameter secondary clarifiers at the Water Pollution Control Facility.
- Completed lining of 10,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer to eliminate infiltration of ground water into the system thereby reducing treatment costs.
- Completed the sanitary sewer upgrade for Hopmeadow/Woodland St. to eliminate inadequate piping and to bring the system up to Town standards.
- The Water Pollution Control Authority approved the Policy for Administration of the General Permit for Discharges from Miscellaneous Industrial Users and the Policy for Fats, Oils and Grease Management Program.

Engineering

The Engineering Division provides professional infrastructure and building design, project management, and planning services that sustain and improve the current quality of life for Simsbury residents and businesses.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Advertised the construction phase for the Bloomfield to Tariffville Multi-Use Trail Connector Project. Construction is set to begin in FY 22/23.
- Completed design and permitting effort for the Multi-Use Trail from the Farmington Canal Heritage to Curtiss & Pattison parks project.
- Completed the design for improvements to Orkil (Simsbury) Farms Dam. Construction is set to begin in FY 22/23.
- Applied for and received two grants from the State Historic Preservation Office for the engineering and architectural design of the historical tobacco barns at Meadowood.
- Completed the construction of the Performing Arts Center ADA and Parking Improvements project.
- Completed reorganization in which Engineering became a division of Public Works.
- Onboarded new Deputy Town Engineer and now the Department of Public Works Director jointly serves as Town Engineer.



Performing Arts Center ADA and Parking Improvements

Photo by Daniel Gannon

Planning and Community Development

The Department primary mission is to provide responsive, efficient, factual, balanced and transparent building, planning and land use expertise to Simsbury's citizens, businesses, elected and appointed officials and other stakeholders. To achieve this mission, the Department provides leadership across current planning, building inspections, plan review services, environmental planning, hazard mitigation planning, historic preservation and long range, comprehensive planning and implementation. To ensure a safe built environment, the Department reviews, interprets and implements the Connecticut Building Code. The Department also provides staff support to the Town's elected and appointed land use boards and commissions.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Staff facilitated the discussion and review of zoning items of local interest including Accessory Dwelling Units, Cannabis Establishments and Sign Regulations.
- The Department underwent significant personnel changeover with the hiring of a new Assistant Town Planner, Planning Director and Building Specialist.
- Performed 2,684 Commercial and Residential Building Inspections in FY 21/22.
- Collected a total of \$788,926 in Department fees.
- The Building Official performed planned review and inspection services for significant projects including the McLean Residential Expansion and Ridges at Talcott Mountain (299 Multi-Family units).
- The Department provided staffing assistance to the Zoning Commission, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission and Aquifer Protection Agency. The chart below illustrates application review activities by the land use commissions over the last four *calendar* years:



	2022 (to date)	2021	2020	2019
Zoning Commission	33	30	16	54
Inland Wetlands	17	24	18	11
Historic District Commission	5	10	6	4
Zoning Board of Appeals	8	14	14	4
Zoning Permits	264	206	413	346

Simulated photo of new Residential Facility on The McLean Campus provided by Planning & Community Development Department

Police Department

The Simsbury Police Department is a national and state accredited police department that provides law enforcement and public safety services, including operation of an E-911 Communications Center. The Department provides a full range of services under a community policing philosophy.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Maintained national and state accreditation standards, which included a review by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) of 177 national accreditation standards that relate to all aspects of our service and management.
- Completed the creation of a new public safety radio system (multi-year project). The project provides contemporary communication technology for various town departments and enhances communication coverage throughout the town.
- Implemented body-worn cameras, partially funded by a state grant in the prior fiscal year. These cameras aid in our efforts for transparency, to obtain and sustain trust and legitimacy, in addition to the evidentiary value.
- Continued to support the community by participating in campaigns and activities, such as the Connecticut Special Olympics, cancer awareness and toy/food/clothing donation drives.



*Photos provided by
the Simsbury Police
Department*

Simsbury Fire District

The Simsbury Fire District's mission is to minimize injuries, and property loss from fire, hazardous conditions, rescue situations, and other disasters, by providing excellent state of the art, life and property conservation, emergency and educational services while recognizing our people as our most important resource and the key to our success.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Completed another year of spending within budget with no bonding or borrowing of any funds.
- Responded to 758 incidents in 2021 with the continued support of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company which provides an all-volunteer fire-fighting force.
- The Fire Marshal's office conducted 2,606 inspections in 2021, a significant increase due to continued construction of apartments in town.
- Operated through the pandemic without a significant impact to staffing and training. Emergency response operations were never compromised.
- Took a lead role in working with the town on it's response to the pandemic which included hosting vaccine clinics and distributing personal protection equipment and COVID test kits.
- Delivered, installed and put into service a new pumper, Engine 8 and combination pumper/ladder, Quint 5, which replaced three apparatus that had reached the end of their service life of over 25 years.
- VP Daniel Coppinger and Treasurer Peter Pabich were re-elected for two-year terms. President Gary Wilcox re-appointed Geoff Giddings for a three year term as Fire Commissioner.



Photo by SVFC Photographer Ben Dickmann

Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association

Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association (SVAA) has served the emergency medical needs of the community since 1957. This year, SVAA's volunteer EMTs, augmented by our paid staff of Paramedics/EMTs, responded to approximately 2,200 emergency medical calls.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Participated in several public outreach programs including helping with the Junior Police Academy, Touch-A-Truck and Daycare Camps.
- Provided standby services for the Hartford Symphony Orchestra concerts and Simsbury Fly In.
- In addition to providing continuous 911 coverage, the SVAA expanded it's Secondary Response Unit to cover seven days a week from 7AM-7PM to the extent possible.

Simsbury Public Schools

The Simsbury Public Schools cultivate the mind, body, and character of each student. We engage students with a meaningful and rigorous academic foundation so that they can contribute to a global society with integrity, compassion, and resilience.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Simsbury Public Schools returned to full in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year.
- The percentage of Simsbury High School students scoring 3 or better on Advanced Placement (AP) exams was 84%.
- Our 11th graders performed well in both the Math (score of 562) and ELA (score of 577) portions of the SAT.
- Our 11th graders also performed well in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment with 87.9% of our students meeting or exceeding goal and ranking #1 in Connecticut.
- Our 3rd-6th graders performed well on the CT Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) with 77% of students meeting or exceeding goal in ELA and 72% in Math.
- U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in education rankings, ranked Simsbury High School #11 of Best High Schools in Connecticut, out of 206 Connecticut high schools, and #519 nationally.
- Simsbury High School introduced the Capstone Experience, a year-long opportunity for students to learn in new ways that both showcase and challenge their existing knowledge and skills. Capstone learning is often self-directed, non-traditional, interdisciplinary, and/or community-oriented. The Capstone Experience culminates with a presentation of the student's accomplishments beyond the traditional classroom.
- The Simsbury High School replacement bleacher project is set to begin in the winter of 2022.
- Site work on the Latimer Lane School renovation project is now scheduled to begin in November 2022.



*Photo provided
by the BOE*

Housing Authority

The Simsbury Housing Authority is dedicated to providing safe and affordable housing for limited income seniors and individuals with disabilities.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Conducted monthly Resident Council meetings to provide a forum for residents to express themselves and suggest positive changes. The Council is comprised of three residents from the Dr. Owen L. Murphy Apartments, three residents from the Virginia Connolly Residence (VCR) and the current Resident Commissioner.
- Continued partnership with the Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and instituted policies and practices to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provided social programs for all residents including summer picnics, fall social, holiday parties and programs for residents at the VCR.
- Created a Garden Club, maintained by VCR residents, that grows fruits and vegetables.



Photo provided by the Simsbury Housing Authority

Probate Court

The Simsbury Regional Probate Court assists individuals and families residing in the district who require the services of the court in an efficient and compassionate manner. The Court strives to ease the process as much as possible knowing that during stressful times it is difficult to cope with the unknown.

2021-2022 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Despite the COVID pandemic, the Court remained open throughout the year via e-filing, mailed documents and correspondence. Hearings were conducted by Judge Becker telephonically and via WebEx and as COVID subsided, in-person hearings resumed.
- Accepted 224 applications for probate of decedent's estates. In addition, 178 small estate affidavits and tax purposes only estates were filed.
- The Court processed 36 applications for Conservatorships and applications for Guardianships of the Estate and Person of minors, Guardianships of the Intellectually Disabled, Termination of Parental Rights, approval of Adoptions, Name Changes, and intervivos trust matters.

FY 21-22 Financial Information

Expenditures

	\$	% of Total
Education	\$74,446,580	70.25%
Insurance & Benefits	\$6,900,093	6.51%
Debt Service	\$6,549,357	6.18%
Public Safety	\$5,691,814	5.37%
Public Works	\$4,543,434	4.29%
Parks & Recreation	\$2,868,987	2.71%
General Government	\$2,730,164	2.58%
Health & Social Services	\$809,541	0.76%
Other	\$776,040	0.73%
Planning and Development	\$659,907	0.62%
Total	\$105,975,917	100%

Revenues

	\$	% of Total
Property Taxes	\$96,424,108	91%
Intergovernmental	\$6,673,163	6.3%
Charges For Services	\$1,557,487	1.46%
Licenses & Permits	\$839,050	0.79%
Other	\$432,109	0.4%
Investments	\$50,000	0.05%
Total	\$105,975,917	100%

Mill Rate History

Fiscal Year	Town	Fire District	Total
2017-2018	38.76	1.23	39.99
2018-2019	36.42	1.17	37.59
2019-2020	37.32	1.20	38.52
2020-2021	37.09	1.19	38.28
2021-2022	37.41	1.22	38.63

Town Staff

Department	Full-Time Equivalent Employees
Town Manager's Office	4
Finance Department	8.83
Information Technology	2
Town Clerk's Office	3
Registrars of Voters	1
Simsbury Public Library	23.73
Culture, Parks and Recreation	19.5
Community and Social Services	6.45
Public Works	33.06
Water Pollution	11
Engineering	2.71
Planning and Community Development	9
Police Department	50.5
Sub-Total FTE Count (Town)	174.78
Board of Education	651.13
Total FTE Count (Town & BoE)	825.91

Town Elected Boards

Board of Selectmen	Board of Finance	Board of Education
Wendy Mackstutis, First Selectman	Lisa Heavner, Chair	Susan Salina, Chair
Amber Abbuhl, Deputy First Selectman	Arthur House, Vice Chair	Jeffrey Tindall, Vice Chair
Sean Askham	Derek Peterson	Jennifer Batcheler, Secretary
Eric Wellman	Michael Doyle	Lydia Tedone
Heather Goetz	Robert Helfand	Sharon Thomas
Chris Peterson	Linda Schofield	Todd Burrick
		Tara Donohue Willerup
		Brian Watson

Town Elected Boards & Commissions (cont.)

Planning Commission	Zoning Commission	Library Board of Trustees
Erin Leavitt-Smith	David Ryan	Kathleen Miller
William Rice	Donna Beinstein	David Blume
Holly Beum	Tony Braz	Tolly Gibbs
Joseph Campolieta	Bruce Elliott	Mary Glassman
Donald Colantonio	Anne Erickson	Holly McGrath
Julie Eaton	Diane Madigan	Marianne O'Neil
Craig MacCormac (Alternate)	Jackie Battos (Alternate)	Mark Orenstein
Marcus Furze (Alternate)	Melissa Osborne (Alternate)	Polly Rice
	Tucker Salls (Alternate)	Colleen Yates

Board of Assessment Appeals	Zoning Board of Appeals	Registrar of Voters
Sean Brittell	Steven Antonio	Karen Cortes
Lori Fernand	Mark Freeman	Susan Salina
Regina Pynn	Joann Hogan	
Kenneth Katz (Alternate)	Ram Kaza	
Sheree Landerman (Alternate)	Joshua Michelson	
Shannon Shinskie (Alternate)	Sharon Thomas	
	Lawrence Boardman (Alternate)	
	Ali Rice (Alternate)	
	Stacey Walczak (Alternate)	

Acronym Glossary

Abbreviation	Description
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
BOE	Board of Education
BOF	Board of Finance
BOS	Board of Selectmen
CALEA	Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies
DEI	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
DPW	Department of Public Works
ELA	Language & Writing Test of SAT
FY	Fiscal Year
GFOA	Government Finance Officer's Association
IT	Information Technology
MIRA	Materials Innovation Recycling Authority
NGSS	Next Generation Science Standards
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
SBA	Smarter Balanced Assessment
SFD	Simsbury Fire District
SHA	Simsbury Housing Authority
SPD	Simsbury Police Department
SPL	Simsbury Public Library
SPS	Simsbury Public Schools
SVAA	Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association
SVFC	Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company
SWPC	Simsbury Water Pollution Control
TMO	Town Manager's Office
VCR	Virginia Connolly Residence
VNA	Visiting Nurse Association





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Mon 8:30am - 7:00pm | Tue/Wed/Thu 8:30am - 4:30pm | Fri 8:30am - 1:00pm

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