
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Wendy Mackstutis – First Selectman
DATE: March 27, 2023

FY 2023/2024 Budget Process

Right now, the BOS, BOE and BOF are working on the budget that will be presented at referendum to the voters in May. If you do not weigh in, and vote, you will not be exercising your right to participate in this process. We ask that you please pay attention and speak at the April 4th Board of Finance Public. Both our board (the Board of Selectmen) and the BOE (Board of Education) will present our approved budgets. Discussion among the 3 boards will be part of the meeting.

WE ARE HERE IN THE PROCESS >>>

BOF Public Hearing on the Budget – 4/4/2023 6:00pm Simsbury Public Library
Budget Referendum – May 2023

How to calculate your taxes based on the BOS budget

The mill rate resulting from the BOS budget, including the SVFC mill rate is a total of 32.04.

If you would like to calculate how that impacts your taxes, here's the formula (using my home as an example).

Make sure to use the ASSESSED Value in the calculation and not Market value.

	2017 Assessed Value	2023 Assessed Value	Current Mill Rate 38.63	BOS new Mill Rate 32.04	Annual change (increase)
My House	257,350	331,520	9941	10622	680
Calculation			(257350*0.03863)	(331520*0.03204)	

Based on the mill rate of 32.04, it varies based on your new assessed value whether you will see a decrease or increase, so please calculate your proposed taxes correctly. A majority of our residents will see an increase.

All budget information is available at the following link:

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/finance/pages/2023-2024-budget-information>

At this link, you will find what the Town Department's requested and presented to the Board of Selectmen, the approved Board of Selectmen Budget, and our presentation to the BOF.

Here are the Service Improvements that we approved.

Police Officer with Sergeant Upgrade	\$153,122	Police
Mechanic/Truck Driver	\$102,933	Public Works
On Call Engineering Services	\$20,000	Public Works
Parks Maintainer	\$99,569	Culture, Parks and Rec
Recreation Program Coordinator	SF fund	Culture, Parks and Rec
Increase to Childrens Program Expenditures	\$4,250	Library
Teen Reference Materials	\$4,500	Library
Library Conferences and Education	\$2,000	Library
DEI Council Funding	\$4,000	BOS-Community Services
Simsbury Celebrates	\$3,300	BOS-Community Services

Tonight, we will be re-looking at our approved budget to identify potential areas for changes to reduce the tax impact to the residents, at the request of our Board of Finance. These will also be discussed at the April 4th Meeting.

Interim Town Manager and the process for the Search

This is on tonight’s agenda. At our March 13th meeting, we created an Executive Search Committee comprised of all 6 Selectmen. Working with our Town Attorney, we have found a great candidate as our Interim – Lee Erdmann, who will be starting on June 1st. Lee will be our Interim Town Manager and will also assist in the process to find a permanent Town Manager. He has worked in multiple communities and comes with great references. Currently, Tom Fitzgerald is our Acting Deputy Town Manager. Melissa Appleby, our past Deputy Town Manager will be returning to the newly created Budget Director position in June.

We will be sharing the Acting TM for the period of May 1-June 1 as soon as that is confirmed, and our board meets again. The process to find a new Town Manager will start with an RFQ, that will be posted and sent to major executive search firms and consultants. One of them will be selected by the Executive Search Committee, with the Interim Town Manager, to help define what we are looking for to fill the TM role and to bring in candidates. Most of these firms provide for a public input component and is something our board has a shared interest in doing. Stay tuned for more information.

Forum with East Coast Greenway

Just another reminder that this Thursday, March 30th at 6:00PM at Tariffville School there will be an important discussion on the East Coast Greenway. Our Public Works Director/Town Engineer Tom Roy will be leading this very important meeting. This session will cover the multi-use trail from Route 10 to Tariffville, where work is in progress connecting us to our friends in Bloomfield. You will have an opportunity to participate and be heard, so please attend!

Visit options to restructure our Agenda

We will be looking at ways to make allowable changes to our agenda. Discussions have been had about creating a second chance for public audience at the end of the meeting. This is similar to the BOE, and would ask that those speaking up front, provide comments and insight on agenda items on the table. The second public audience we be for those who have comments not related to the agenda. There will be more discussion on this with the BOS. Moving minute approval to the top of the meeting is also something to consider.

***Good luck to the UCONN Huskies in the Final Four this weekend in Houston!!!
Let's beat Miami on Saturday night!***

Wendy

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: March 27, 2023

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

In Hartford County, community levels of transmission are “Low”, as determined by the CDC. The CDC has recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19. For additional information on the CDC Community Levels of Transmission, please click on this link <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>.

The federal government is again offering free COVID test kits. Each household is eligible to order 4 kits. You can order the kits at: [COVID.gov/tests - Free at-home COVID-19 tests](#)

The Farmington Valley Health District is now booking COVID-19 vaccine appointments for individuals ages 18 and older. You can schedule online at <https://fvhd.org/vaccination> or by phone at 860-352-2333 (calls received 8 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday). Bring insurance information and proof of prior vaccination (if applicable) to your appointment, located at 95 River Road Suite A, Canton, CT 06019.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS

As a reminder the Board of Finance is holding a public hearing on the proposed annual operating budgets of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education and proposed capital improvement projects on Tuesday April 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Tariffville Room of the Simsbury Public Library.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & NOTES

Social Services:

- Simsbury Community and Social Services is wrapping up its Energy Assistance season. The last day to apply for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program through our office is Friday, April 28th. Our office will begin taking applications for Renters Rebate on Monday, May 1st.
- Simsbury Community and Social Services, The Simsbury Aging and Disability Commission, and The Simsbury Public Library will be co-sponsoring a Sensory Friendly Movie on Sunday, April 23rd at 2:00pm at the Simsbury Public Library, Program Room. They will be showing “Minions Rise of Gru”.
- The Simsbury Youth Service Bureau has several exciting programs coming up this spring. We will distribute spring holiday baskets for our families who celebrate Easter and Ramadan. The YSB will host a teen's babysitting course with Windsor EMT, an Intergenerational Magic Show, and a Creative Creatures event. Parents are invited to attend a Narcan Training with Narcan take home kits, as well as a parent training course to indicate any red flags, drugs, or alcohol content in a mock bedroom trial format.
- **[The Simsbury Food](#)** Pantry needs coffee, tea, juice, granola bars, crackers, snacks, pasta sauce, pancake mix & syrups. Please see [here](#) for donation directions.

Town Manager's Office:

- Starting in early June, Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby will be transitioning to a new role with the Town of Simsbury as Budget Director. This role is a shared services position with the Town and Board of Education and reports to our Finance Director.
- Tom Fitzgerald has been appointed Acting Deputy Town Manager and Josh Marcus has been appointed Acting Management Specialist. Tom has been in the Town Manager's Office since March 2018 and Josh was previously our Graduate Student Intern from July 2021 through June 2022.