
FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

BUDGET UPDATE:

The Town Manager has presented the Board of Selectmen with a proposed budget of \$20.9 million that funds services for the 2018/2019 fiscal year which starts in July. It maintains current services and programs and offers some service enhancements, including the addition of a weekly café style lunch at the Senior Center. I encourage you to review the budget for yourself at the link below.

<https://www.simsbury-ct.gov/finance/pages/freeform-2018-2019-budget-information>

We've included a copy of the full budget, but you can also find the Town Manager's budget presentation which is a more concise summary. We've also included a tax calculator so you can figure out what this budget would mean for your specific situation given that revaluations have taken place this year. It's important to emphasize that the numbers are likely to change before this budget is finalized.

Next steps:

- March 28th – Board of Selectmen presents its budget to the Board of Finance
- April 5th – Board of Finance holds a public hearing
- TBD – Board of Finance adopts the final budget
- TBD – Budget Referendum

I frequently hear from constituents about the taxes we pay or the services we receive. I believe that a budget is a reflection of our collective values as a community. To that end, I hope that you will lend your voice to this process.

TAX ASSISTANCE:

AARP volunteers are providing free income tax filing assistance at the Simsbury Public Library on Tuesdays through April 10th. Appointments only. To make an appointment, call the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273.

FORUM ON VAPING

Community for Care is hosting a forum on the Dangers of Vaping March 14th from 6:30 – 8:30pm at the Simsbury Public Library.

TRAILS SAFETY EXPO

The Farmington Valley Trails Council will present their first annual Trails Safety Expo on March 17th from 10:30 am – 3:30 pm at the Simsbury Public Library

SOLAR UPDATE

On January 22nd, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to appeal the Connecticut Siting Council's ruling to allow a proposed 26-megawatt solar farm to move forward. The purpose of the appeal is to ensure that specific concerns are adequately addressed. The Town is currently in talks with Deepwater Wind, the developer of the project and those talks are progressing.

The discussions are centering around 6 issues:

- Ensuring public health during and after the construction process
- Removing from the project, the 54-acre field south of Hoskins Road that is most visible to cars and neighbors.
- Providing appropriate screening that fits with the natural landscape.
- Developing and funding a comprehensive decommissioning plan that ensures the property will return to farmland upon the conclusion of the project
- Preserving historic barns on the property
- The option for the Town to obtain the development rights for the property after the project is decommissioned.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Maria E. Capriola – Town Manager
DATE: March 12, 2018

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Executive Session: The Town Attorney contacted me today and he does not have an update regarding Deepwater Wind. Therefore, the executive session scheduled for this evening is not needed.

Budget Workshop: Thank you to everyone that attended the budget workshop on Saturday – with a special thanks to our leadership team for their outstanding work in preparation for the workshop. The leadership team is currently working on your information request for sample service reduction scenarios, and cost savings associated with those reductions. As discussed, I plan to have the information available for your meeting scheduled for this Thursday, March 15th.

Economic Development Workshop: On March 2nd First Selectman Wellman, Board member Peterson, and I attended an economic development workshop sponsored by the Northeastern Economic Developers Association and COST. The workshop was informative, particularly in regards to permitting processes that often serve as barriers to economic development. I believe the information will be helpful to us as you move forward in your economic development planning and visioning process.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & NOTES:

Town Manager's Office: Leadership Team Recruitments –

- The deadline for applications for the Finance Director/Treasurer position is March 16th. We are scheduled to conduct first round interviews for the position on April 4th. I have submitted a recommendation for the appointment of an interim Finance Director to the Board of Finance and will be meeting with them to discuss the recommendation tomorrow evening.
- I met with the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the recruitment for Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation on March 8th. We are now accepting applications for the position. First round interviews will be scheduled the week of April 23rd. Board members Paine and Peterson have agreed to assist with the interview panels.
- We are currently reviewing applications for the Police Chief position, working to select applicants that will be invited for the first round. We are scheduled to conduct first round interviews for the position on March 22nd.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Veterans Suicide Prevention Program: A Veterans Suicide Prevention Program is being held on March 31st from 3-5pm at the Simsbury Public Library large program room. In just 90 minutes you can learn to ask the question, persuade someone to get help, and know where to refer them to get support and assistance. This program is open to the general public; veterans, their families, and first responders are encouraged to attend. Speakers will include Christina Allen, LCSW, Suicide Prevention, Veteran Affairs West Haven and Justine Ginsberg, RN, Community Health Coordinator and Director of Resilience Grows Here at the Farmington Valley Health District. This event is co-sponsored by Simsbury's Metacomet Post 1926 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty.