



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

April 13, 2020

To the Simsbury Community:

During this time of deep uncertainty, our thoughts are with members of this community who are ill, their caregivers, and all people working in a public-facing role. Our Town and Board of Education have been taking the steps necessary to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus while maintaining vital services.

This is the time of year we traditionally develop our budgets and this year is no exception. Since much of the focus has been on responding to this public health threat, and rightfully so, we wanted to inform you of changes to the budget process this year.

The Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, and Board of Finance have been working collaboratively throughout this process and there is consensus that we want to do everything possible to ensure there is no increase in taxes for the coming year. As adopted by the Board of Finance for the public hearing, a mill rate of 37.09 mills would be needed to fund the FY 20/21 budget. This reflects a decrease of 0.23 mills or a decrease of \$50 per year in taxes for the median valued home.

The Board of Finance has scheduled a public hearing on April 21st and again on May 7th. Since town meetings are closed to the public during this time, we encourage you to share your comments by email and they will be read into the record. Comments can be emailed to ebutler@simsbury-ct.gov. The meeting can be viewed on Comcast channel 96 and 1090, Frontier channel 6071, and streamed live on SimsburyTV.org.

You can learn more about the Town budget at Simsbury-ct.gov/budget and the Board of Education budget at Simsbury.k12.ct.us/boe/budget.

Our hope is that we will be able to send the budget to referendum as usual. That may not be possible this year because of social distancing, something we will evaluate when the time gets closer.

The Board of Selectmen has approved two tax relief programs; one allows residents who qualify to defer taxes. The other significantly reduces the interest rate on outstanding taxes for all residents. You can learn more on the Tax Department page of the Town website.

During this difficult time, we commit to leading with transparency, collaboration, and empathy. We welcome your input and feedback as we continue to navigate through an uncertain spring.

Wishing you well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Wellman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eric Wellman, First Selectman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Salina". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Susan Salina, Chair Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Pomeroy, Jr.". The signature is cursive and includes the suffix "Jr.".

Robert Pomeroy, Chair Board of Finance