



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

TOWN OF SIMSBURY
CAPITAL AND CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND POLICY
Adopted by the Simsbury Board of Finance on February 19, 2019
Revised on July 19, 2022

I. Introduction & Purpose

The use and purpose of this policy is to promote consistency and continuity in decision making related to capital improvement planning and to set the general parameters within which capital spending decisions are made. This policy establishes the general financing goals and the specific elements that comprise a long-range planning and financing strategy, including capital financing guidelines and the transfer of funds to and from the Capital Projects Funds, Capital and Non-Recurring Fund and Capital Reserve Fund.

The goals of this policy statement are to:

1. Make a strong commitment to the strategic management of the Town's capital financing process.
2. Promote financial stability and focus attention on the Town's long term financial capacity to meet capital needs.
3. Designate acceptable parameters of debt issuance and management.
4. Provide a framework for monitoring capital financing practices and results.
5. Effectively communicate the Town's priorities and plans for undertaking capital projects to internal and external stakeholders.
6. Provide a framework for monitoring capital financing practices and results.

II. Effective Date

This policy shall remain in effect until revised or rescinded. The Town reserves the right to amend this policy.

III. Definitions and Guidelines

1. Capital Project is defined as any project, resulting in or contributing to the acquisition of, or addition to, a capital asset with an anticipated cost equal to or exceeding \$10,000 for equipment purchases, \$20,000 for building improvements and \$100,000 for infrastructure improvements and with an anticipated life equal to or exceeding (5) five years for equipment purchases, and (10) ten years for buildings, improvements and infrastructure.
2. The capital plan shall be prepared and updated annually by the Town Manager and Finance Director and present programmatic needs and priorities for a (6) six year period.

3. Per CGS 8-24, the Planning Commission must review and approve the capital plan annually for consistency with the Plan of Conservation and Development.
4. The first year of the (6) six year capital plan will be adopted annually by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance as part of the budgeting process.
5. Future operating costs associated with new capital projects and assets will be projected and included in operating budget forecasts.
6. Each capital project submitted for consideration shall identify operating budget impacts and potential financing methods available.
7. The Town shall take the appropriate actions to maintain its “Aaa” credit rating and strategically utilize debt service expenditures.
8. The Town Manager and Finance Director will recommend the optimum mix and financing sources for all capital projects, in conjunction with the adopted Debt Management Policy.
9. Whenever possible, capital costs should be financed by means other than borrowing. Borrowing shall be limited to infrastructure or facility improvement projects with an estimated life expectancy of at least 15 years and cost of at least \$250,000.
10. Capital projects financed through the issuance of general obligation bonds shall be financed for a period no longer than 10 years unless specifically authorized by the Board of Finance and , when practical, for a period which does not exceed the useful life of the asset.
11. Maintenance Scheduling – The Town intends to set aside sufficient revenues to finance ongoing maintenance needs and to provide periodic replacement and renewal to keep its capital facilities and infrastructure systems in good repair to maximize a capital asset’s useful life and to avoid unnecessary borrowing.

IV. Capital Projects Fund(s) Policy

The Capital Project Fund(s) is used to account for the financial resources used for the acquisition of major pieces of equipment, vehicles in the fleet, studies (if related to a larger capital project), professional services, building improvements, land acquisitions, building acquisitions or construction of major capital facilities and capital infrastructure improvements.

This fund may receive contributions from the sale of town owned buildings and property, transfers from the General Fund, transfers from the Capital Reserve Fund, unexpended balances of completed capital projects in the Capital Projects Fund(s), grants and donations.

If applicable, funds shall be invested in accordance with the Town’s investment policy.

V. Capital and Non-Recurring Fund Policy

The Capital and Non-Recurring Fund is established to provide for small capital and non-recurring expenditures which would distort year to year budget comparison. Non-recurring is to mean an expenditure that occurs no more frequently than once in a five year period.

Capital items and studies of single or aggregate cost that exceed \$10,000 but are less than \$250,000 shall be accounted for as expenditures in the capital and non-recurring fund. The Capital and Non-Recurring Fund may also include fleet purchases that are less than \$250,000per vehicle.

The Town shall not fund on-going operating expenditures from the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund.

On an annual basis, the General Fund will fund the CNR Fund utilizing a charge-back method. The charge-back method will spread out the CNR expenditures evenly over a five (5) year period. In the event items purchased from the CNR fund hold a life cycle of less than five (5) years, those purchases will be financed over a period not to exceed their life cycle.

The CNR Fund will hold a reserve sufficient enough to maintain an overall positive balance in the CNR fund.

This fund may receive contributions from transfers from the General Fund, transfers from the Capital Reserve Fund, transfers from Special Revenue Funds, unexpended balances of completed capital projects in the Capital Projects Fund(s), grants and donations.

If applicable, funds shall be invested in accordance with the Town's investment policy.

VI. Capital Reserve Fund Policy

The Capital Reserve Fund is established to allow more flexibility, to serve as a future source of cash to capital financing of capital projects, and to provide a revenue source for emergency capital needs such as an emergency repair to a building not covered by insurance. It is a part of the Town's capital financing strategy and seeks to fund to a level deemed sufficient to fully fund recurring expenditures for replacement capital equipment and maintaining public facilities that do not meet the Town's general obligation bond issuance guidelines.

The target funding level shall be an amount sufficient to fund the capital fund budget cash to capital plus \$50,000. This is to ensure a sufficient balance remains in the Capital Reserve Fund for emergencies. Purchases utilizing the Capital Reserve Fund shall be authorized by the Town Manager or her/his designee and the Director of Finance and shall be approved by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance prior to expenditure. In the event of an emergency where an expenditure is made without prior approval by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, the expenditures shall be brought to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for ratification as soon as possible. The Town Manager or her/his designee shall attempt to reach the First Selectman and Chairperson of the Board of Finance prior to the emergency expenditure. The First Selectman shall advise members of the Board of Selectman and the Chair of the Board of Finance shall advise members of the Board of Finance as soon as possible of the emergency. An emergency is defined as an urgent event or circumstance requiring an expenditure to preserve life or property or to address unique and serious circumstances that could not have been reasonably foreseen and which require immediate attention.

This fund may receive contributions from the sale of town owned buildings and property, transfers from the General Fund, transfers from Special Revenue Funds, unexpended balances of completed capital projects in the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund and Capital Projects Fund(s), grants, donations and interest from investments.

If applicable, funds shall be invested in accordance with the Town's investment policy.

VII. Accounting Guidelines

The following are a list of specific accounting practices related to capital transactions:

1. On the first day of the fiscal year, the General Fund appropriations to the Capital Projects Fund(s), Capital and Non-Recurring fund and Capital Reserve Fund will be transferred.
2. On the first day of the fiscal year, the Capital Reserve Fund appropriations to the Capital Projects Fund(s) and the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund will be transferred.
3. All bond proceeds will be deposited directly into the Capital Projects Fund(s).
4. Proceeds from the sale of town property will be deposited directly into the Capital Projects Fund or Capital Reserve Fund upon recommendation by the Board of Finance
5. Interest earned by the Capital Projects Fund(s) for the entire fiscal year will be transferred into the Capital Reserve Fund on the last day of the fiscal year, if applicable.
6. Grant funds, including school construction progress payments will be deposited into the Capital Projects Fund(s).
7. All debt service payments and debt issuance costs will be paid from the General Fund and/or Debt Service Fund.
8. All capital projects expenditures will be paid directly from the Capital Projects Fund(s).
9. For Capital and Non-Recurring projects only, anticipated budget transfers between projects can be overspent within \$5,000 or 20% of the total project budget, whichever is less, as long as the total anticipated overages do not exceed anticipated savings from other projects. The transfer and close out requests will go before the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance at year end for formal close out.