

**Simsbury Board of Finance  
TOWN OF SIMSBURY  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 5:45 P.M.  
Simsbury Public Library - Tariffville Room  
725 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut**

**PRESENT:** Lisa Heavner, Arthur House, Robert Pomeroy, Linda Schofield

**ALSO PRESENT:** Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Sean Askham, BOS; Jackie Battos, BOS; Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Matthew Curtis, Superintendent of Schools; John Hampton, State Representative; Wendy Mackstutis, BOS; Amy Meriwether, Director of Finance/Treasurer; Mike Paine, BOS; Chris Peterson, BOS; Kyra Sheehan, BOE; Neil Sullivan, Director of Personnel; Lydia Tedone, BOE; Jeffrey Tindall, BOE; Sharon Thomas, BOE; Eric Wellman, First Selectman; Tara Willerup, BOE; and other interested parties

**1. Call to Order - Establish Quorum**

Mr. Pomeroy called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Approval of Minutes - November 19, 2019**

**MOTION:** Ms. Heavner made a motion to approve the November 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ms. Schofield seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Swearing in of Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, and Board of Education Members**

Town Clerk Ericka Butler swore in newly elected members of the BOF, BOS and BOE.

**5. Tri-Board FY2020/21 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Pomeroy began the discussion by noting this meeting is a discussion between the BOF, BOE and BOS to provide an opportunity for questions and feedback. He presented a slide deck entitled, "FY20-21 Budget Preparation." He noted the FY2020/21 BOF objectives, considerations, Town fixed cost projections, BOE fixed cost projections, and operating budget guidance to include a BOF cap on a mill rate increase of 2.00%, a BOS cap on operating expenditures of 2.50% and a BOE cap on operating expenditures of 2.50%. It was noted operating budget guidance from the BOF reflects a cap on a mill rate increase of 2.00% inclusive of the Fire District. Mr. Pomeroy added there will be a discussion on capital priorities, projects over time and how to space them out, at the January BOF meeting. It was agreed this discussion will be conceptual as specifics will not be available until spring. There was discussion about upcoming meetings and their timing. Mr. Pomeroy asked BOF members to participate in the budget workshops and be informed about the process. It was noted they are televised and can be watched. Mr. Pomeroy explained how the BOF got to its top goal of no more than a 2% increase by starting with a mill rate target and working back. Discussion followed on pension

assumption, Town fixed cost projections, negotiated contracts, cost of living, settlement data, health insurance claims, the revaluation and poverty rates. It was agreed it is a tight year. The grand list was discussed, including the Tobacco Valley Solar project, the Ridge at Talcott Mountain, the McLean expansion, Big Y, Highcroft and others, which will add new growth. Mr. Pomeroy asked that important meeting dates be shared between boards. John Nagy of the Tariffville Village Association was thanked for attending the meeting and noted his appreciation for attending to become educated about the process. Ms. Heavner added that anyone should feel free to contact the BOF.

#### **6. Presentation: Clean Energy Task Force - Proposed Energy Plan**

Mark Scully, of the Clean Energy Task Force, provided a slide presentation entitled, “Simsbury’s Plan for a Clean Energy Future.” He presented a list of accomplishments of the Town as a clean energy leader, which included clean energy initiatives in Simsbury to date. He noted these projects have been cash-flow positive and have saved the Town a significant amount of money each year. He presented a plaque designating Simsbury as a Silver Town, a Sustainable CT certification. Mr. Scully then referenced the 2019 Simsbury Energy Plan developed by the Clean Energy Task Force, noting the Solarize campaign of 2014. Further, he noted there is a one-year and a five-year energy action plan. It was noted the Town is currently doing a facilities master plan. Ms. Heavner thanked Mr. Scully for his work on this and noted her support.

#### **7. Defined Contribution and Deferred Compensation Pension Plan RFQ Review Discussion**

Ms. Meriwether referenced the RFQ for record keeping services related to the Defined Contribution and Deferred Compensation Pension Plans. She asked for any additional comments or questions before giving FIA the final approval to send this out. No further comments were made.

Mr. Pomeroy noted the next BOF meeting is December 17.

#### **8. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Ms. Schofield, Mr. House second, to adjourn at 7:00 P.M.; unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Haberlin  
Commission Clerk