CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Steve Antonio; Board members Kevin Beal; Curtis Looney; Diana Yeisley; and Mike Paine. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Marc Nelson; Deputy Town Manager Tom Fitzgerald; Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation Tom Tyburski; Deputy Director/Head of Children's Services Stephanie Prato; Assessor Francine Beland; Deputy Assessor Rachael Taylor and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING (0:50)

Proposed Amendments to Code of Ordinances Chapter 141 Article VI: Veteran's Property Tax Exemption

Ms. Yeisley made a motion to open the public hearing. Mr. Beal seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Bruce Elliott, 21 Lincoln Lane, spoke in favor of the

Ms. Yeisley make a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Beal seconded the motion and all were in favor.

PRESENTATION (7:09)

The Board of Selectmen read a proclamation acknowledging September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective September 14, 2026, to proclaim September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in Simsbury. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE (9:50)

- **Email townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov by noon on Monday, August 10, 2026 to register to address the Board of Selectmen live through Zoom**
- **Written comments can be emailed to townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov. not read into the record, but forwarded to all Selectmen via email**

Lisa Salvatore thanked the Board of Selectmen for the proclamation and recognition of Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

Carolyn Stewart, 5 Tolland Circle, spoke about Stoddard Dam.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about meeting minutes and a member of the Board.

Ellen Gilbert, 126 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about Stoddard Dam.

Nicholas Criscitelli, 24 Centerwood Road, spoke about Flock cameras and leaf blowers.

Paula Rudy, 24 Centerwood Road, spoke about Flock cameras and leaf blowers.

CONSENT AGENDA (31:37)

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective September 14, 2026, to move items a) Authorize the Town Manager to Execute Tax Overpayment Refunds; b) Accept an Anonymous Donation for the Community & Social Services Department; f) Amend Town Code Chapter 13: Ethics Code of; g) Approve Alcohol Waiver Request by Simsbury Community Media for an Event at Eno Memorial Hall and k) Authorize the Town Manager to Apply for the FY27 Youth Service Bureau Grants and items under Appointments and Resignations, item a) Acknowledge Receipt of Jason Berman's Resignation from and Appoint Matthew Kelsey to the Conservation Commission /Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency b) Reappoint Suzanne Sinacori to the Farmington Valley Health District Board of Directors c) Remove Aisha Thara from and Appoint Yusra Ali to the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council to the consent agenda. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT (32:30)

First Selectman, Wendy Mackstutis, reviewed her First Selectman's report.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT (37:15)

Town Manager, Marc Nelson, reviewed his Town Manager's report.

LIAISION AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS (41:52)

Mr. Looney spoke about the two new police officers presented to the Police Commission. He congratulated Officer Gray on his upcoming retirement. Mr. Looney mentioned we are currently at 4 vacancies.

Ms. Yeisley spoke about the new school year began. School enrollment has slightly declined and Ms. Yeisley reminded people about School Bus Safety.

Ms. Yeisley spoke about DEI recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

Ms. Yeisley mentioned the library's summer reading program reached an all time high and that Sunday hours are back at the library. She also mentioned the library is participating in the statewide laptop loan program.

Ms. Yeisley said Public Safety has a meeting this week.

Ms. Yeisley said Aging and Disability has the 2nd annual Aging in Place Expo happening this Friday.

Mr. Paine applauded the 9/11 Memorial Event that happened on Friday.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Authorize the Town Manager to Execute Tax Overpayment Refunds

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

b) Accept an Anonymous Donation for the Community & Social Services Department

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

c) Discussion of Proposed Amendments to Code of Ordinances Chapter 141 Article VI: Veteran's Property Tax Exemption (48:46)

Ms. Mackstutis gave a background on the item and asked the Board if they should start the discussion with the TDIU section of the proposed ordinance. The Board began discussing the proposed ordinance. Ms. Mackstutis said she is leaning towards not including the 2 acres and just the dwelling. Mr. Paine expressed he was not in favor of limiting the exemption to the median assessed residential property value. Mr. Antonio said he was okay with the median assessed limit as it keeps it fair to all the veterans and the rest of the town. Mr. Looney said he likes extending the exemption to two acres of land. Mr. Antonio said he would be open to a comprise of one acre of land if allowed. Mr. Beal reminded the group that this ordinance is not for all veterans but rather ones that have received a 100% disability rating, he also spoke about what goes into receiving that rating level.

The Board discussed the presented options with Town Manager Nelson, Assessor Beland, and Deputy Assessor Taylor. Ms. Yeisley asked staff for the financial breakdown of the TDIU with two acres of land exempted but no median assessed residential property limit. The Board asked staff for an updated financial breakdown of the possible options discussed, as well as if it is possible to only exempt 1 acre. Staff will bring those to the September 28th meeting.

Ms. Mackstutis was in favor of the spousal exemptions but asked for a discussion on the date to go back to for qualification. She asked staff to research why other towns chose the date ranges that they did.

d) Authorize the Town Manager to Apply for a STEAP Grant for the Memorial Pool Redesign Project (1:29:34)

Mr. Antonio discussed his reservation of the proposed motion. Mr. Tyburski informed the group that the STEAP Grant requires a direction on what type of project will be done at the Memorial Park site. He went through a high level overview of costs associated with the difference between a new pool and a splash pad. Mr. Tyburski also explained the different versions of splash pads and why the town would be choosing one over the other. Ms. Mackstutis stated she does not want to say that if awarded they should enter into an agreement at the moment due to not knowing the financial impact or exact project they want to do. Ms. Mackstutis asked what the application deadline was. Mr. Tyburski mentioned town staff are beginning capital budget discussions and the Board having a decision on what project to choose for this site will help staff in their CIP preparation. The board engaged in discussion around swim lessons and what will happen if the pool at Memorial Park is removed, as well as construction cost of a splashpad. Mr. Beal spoke about the timing of this item on the agenda when the grant period isn't open yet. Mr.

Beal said he was inclined to have Mr. Nelson and staff work on the application and then when it comes time to apply the Board can vote to authorize the application. Ms. Mackstutis asked if any other items the Town is considering would be STEAP Grant eligible.

Mr. Beal offered a motion, effective September 14, 2026, to authorize the Town Manager to work with town staff to prepare necessary documents and materials to seek outside funding for the splash pad and redesign project at Memorial Pool. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) State Legislative Directed Grant Funding for Apple Barn, Eno Memorial Hall Upgrades, and Library Teen Space (1:56:40)

Ms. Mackstutis gave a background on where this funding came from and when the application deadline is. Ms. Mackstutis mentioned that the Board has not discussed and defined what each project will be doing. Ms. Looney expressed reservations on one of the projects without having clarification on the Golf Course Club House project. Mr. Antonio asked can the grant money be used for due diligence and research on what to do for a project. Mr. Tyburski gave a background on the Apple Barn project and what the renovations would include as described in the CIP. There was discussion on using the Apple Barn funds for a design of a new building compared to short-term repairs like windows, heating, bathrooms and others.

Mr. Antonio made a motion effective September 14, 2026, to submit the Legislative Directed Grant Applications for the Apple Barn Project, the Eno Memorial Hall Upgrades, and Library Teen Space renovation and authorize Marc Nelson, Town Manager, to execute the grant application after review by the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

f) Amend Town Code Chapter 13: Ethics, Code of

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

g) Approve Alcohol Waiver Request by Simsbury Community Media for an Event at Eno Memorial Hall

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

h) Approve Proposed Explanatory Text for Charter Revision Question on November Ballot (2:10:30)

Ms. Mackstutis asked about communications that went out for the last time a Charter Revision question was on the ballot. She feels that an overview text should be present for a voter to see and see what the charges were for the Commission and if those were proposed in the revised charter that is on the ballot. Ms. Yeisley made a motion effective September 14, 2026, to approve and authorize issuance of the explanatory text as presented. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

i) Approve Proposed Mailer for the Charter Revision Referendum Question

Mr. Antonio asked why a QR Code was chosen on the mailer instead of a link or actual changes. He asked if we could do different questions on the back of the proposed mailer. Mr. Beal recommend effective date question be removed and replaced with why a proposed charter is on the ballot. Ms. Yeisley made a motion effective September 14, 2026, to approve and authorize issuance of a Town-wide mailer as amended by Mr. Beal. Further move, to authorize staff to make revisions as recommended by the SEEC or Town Attorney. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Update the Sustainability Committee's Statement of Purpose and Procedure (2:17:54)

Ms. Mackstutis asked Mr. Nelson to give an overview of the proposed changes. Mr. Nelson stated the changes are primarily administrative to show the change in staff support moving from DPW to TMO. Mr. Beal asked if it should be added that other departments still might support the committee. Mr. Beal asked for an amendment to reflect that the expertise of staff members in DPW still be made available to the committee should it be needed. There was group discussion on the committee supporting the goals of the legislative body. An amendment was made to add "make recommendations and support the goals and objectives of the Board of Selectmen".

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion effective September 14, 2026, to update the Sustainability Committee's Statement of Purpose and Procedure as amended. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

k) Authorize the Town Manager to Apply for the FY27 Youth Service Bureau Grants

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Acknowledge Receipt of Jason Berman's Resignation from and Appoint Matthew Kelsey to the Conservation Commission /Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

b) Reappoint Suzanne Sinacori to the Farmington Valley Health District Board of Directors

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

c) Remove Aisha Thara from and Appoint Yusra Ali to the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (2:24:38)

Mr. Antonio made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Updated Vehicle Use Policy

No discussion was held on this item.

b) Farmington Valley Health District 2025-2026 Annual Report

No discussion was held on this item.

c) Memorandum by the Town Manager re: Administrative Approval of Public Gathering Permits, dated September 14, 2026

No discussion was held on this item.

d) Memorandum by the Town Clerk re: Notice of Closure of the Town Clerk's Department on Thursday, September 24, 2026, dated September 14, 2026

No discussion was held on this item.

e) Final Efficient Lighting & Maintenance Inc. (EL&M) Energize Connecticut Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) Assessments Letter for Simsbury Businesses

No discussion was held on this item.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

a) Pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6)(B): Discussion on Nod Road Solar Siting Council Approval

Ms. Yeisley made a motion to adjourn to executive session pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6)(B): Discussion on Nod Road Solar Siting Council Approval and to invite Attorney DeCrescenzo, Attorney Langer (via Zoom), Town Manager Nelson and Deputy Town Manager Fitzgerald. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:26pm.

b) Pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6)(A): Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee

Ms. Yeisley made a motion to adjourn to executive session pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6)(A): Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismissal of a public officer or employee and to invite Attorney DeCrescenzo. Mr. Beal seconded the motion.

The executive session began at 8:57pm.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion to adjourn executive session at 9:42pm. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor

ADJOURN

Mr. Antonio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43pm. Ms. Yeisley seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Fitzgeerald