CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 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 Curtis Looney, Diana Yeisley, and Mike Paine. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Marc Nelson; Deputy Town Manager Tom Fitzgerald; Finance Director/Treasurer Amy Meriwether; Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Tom Roy; Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation Tom Tyburski; Deputy Police Chief Chris Davis; Library Director Lisa Miceli, and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS (5:01:26)

International Skating Center of Connecticut Update by Adam Westhaver

Mr. Westhaver and Ms. Becconsall gave a slide presentation on creating Simsbury as a destination point for the International Skating Center. He said they had 20 youth hockey teams 5 years ago and now they have 60+; had 2 high school teams and now 10; 2 adult teams and now 6; and 40 in the learn to skate program and now have 600. They would love to have more interaction with the community. There are kids from all over the world that go there. They are implementing a reading program where the kids dress up in hockey uniforms and just interact with other kids. They have kids coming from all over and staying in a house that they have, and they are looking for work here.

Ms. Becconsall said they had an announcement today that their learn to skate program is number 1 in the State and in the top 50 in the nation for their program enrollment. They are putting Simsbury on the map with all their growth. They are also in partnership with Scott Hamilton and his Scott Cares Foundation and have raised $170,00 for that foundation. She said they are proud to announce that they are working with UConn on a partnership for an on-site athletic training presence and support for the junior teams. Ms. Becconsall said the University of St. Joseph is now starting a men's and women's division 3 hockey program and ISC will be their home rink. Their home opener is October 30th, and they encourage all to attend. She also said USA Hockey is using ISC to host some of the regional development camps and some competitions. They are also proud to host the Special Olympics. She acknowledged the Petrinko family for all they have done. Ms. Becconsall said there are a lot of national and international ice skaters who also come to ISC.

Mr. Westhaver said lots of good things happen there and they are proud to draw people in and have their money stay in the Town. This brings a big benefit to the Town. He also showed a chart of Placer AI which shows where people go after going to the ISC. He

said there is a potential of a hotel being built across the way and their goal is to keep people in Town. He then showed a slide of their operating costs. They are working with the Town to push the rink forward as it is a great benefit to the Town. They feel the Town sees their vision, and they are happy to work together to see it grow.

Simsbury Main Street Partnership Office Vacancy Task Force by Sarah Nielsen

Ms. Nielsen gave a slide presentation and thanked the Board and everyone who is working on the office vacancy task force. She said their goals are to identify potential office spaces that can be reused for the best value. She said there has been a national vacancy problem since Covid. She said the Task Force is working with the Town to get office space vacancies filled as that is the best way to get tax dollars for the Town. Ms. Nielsen said they are looking at programs or incentives that would assist in getting the desired development or expansions for existing office spaces. This issue is very critical. She said they want careful, targeted, tax abatements, programs or incentives that get the development the Town wants and things that are not in Simsbury at this point. They are talking about people who come to Simsbury for the quality of life, school system, and all the amenities that make Simsbury highly desirable. They are also looking at how we can improve the permitting process that can incentivize the desired development.

Ms. Nielsen said the committee selected 125 & 175 Powder Forest Drive, 82 & 86 Hopmeadow Street and 10 Mill Pond Lane as the parcels they will start working on. She said there are market pressures with appraised property values vs. what the properties are being sold for. She said the reval is less than 2 years out. She said the Town has applied for a $175,000 planning grant through the Greyfield Revitalization Grant Program and they are waiting to hear back from them. She said Connecticut Main Street Center helped to write a letter of recommendation. She said they are exploring projects and funding and looking at flowcharts to identify places you have to go to in the process of getting approval for a project.

Ms. Nielsen said the committee does not want to see any apartment rentals. If looking for housing, they want to see for sale products. They will be making very specific recommendations to the Town Manager's office and then he will discuss this with the appropriate departments.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE (5:28:07)

- **email townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov by noon on Wednesday, October 14, 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**

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the changing of the September 28, 2026 agenda; Flock cameras, the Town Manager's response to her request; a SPAC production, the elections, eliminating things in the Charter; and other items.

Dan Sommer, 27 Crestwood Road, thanked the Tax Assessor's office, the Town Clerk's office, Parks and Maintenance office, and the Library getting new books. He also spoke about strategic planning on Library issues, and other items.

Kris Barnett, 15 Oxyoke Drive, spoke about Zoning decisions; the housing moratorium; the request for apartments from the Silverman Group; greater communications, transparency, and accountability from the Town; incomplete information regarding CT State statute 8-30g; the importance in timing and accuracy of applications; and other issues.

Branwen Wald, 223 Miller Way, spoke about the new teen space in the library.

Callista Llerve-Mignucci, 7 Sunset Hill Road, spoke about the grant for the new teen space at the library.

Matthew McGrath, 2 Old Barge Road, also spoke about the new teen space at the library.

Alexis Wang, 8 Croft Lane, also spoke about the teen space at the library.

Olivia Rose A., 10 Andrew Drive, spoke about the Flock cameras and how she wants them kept here. She said they are a help to Police. She doesn't feel the cameras mean the Town is obsessed with her life. She feels camera evidence is valuable. She wants the Town to keep the cameras.

Ellen Gilbert, 126 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about the Silverman proposals; Conservation and Wetlands Agencies; affordable housing; preserving Simsbury; and other issues.

John Hurley, 22 Centerwood Road, spoke about the Silverman project; travel time through Town; affordable house, and other issues.

Holly McGrath, 2 Old Barge Road, Chair of Library Board, spoke about reinstating $23,000 from the budget: the Library's value to the community, and other issues.

Anne Erickson, 85 West Mountain Road, Trustee of Simsbury Public Library and Board member of the Friends of the Library, and Strategic Plan Committee, spoke about reinstating the $23,000 and the need for more materials there.

Alan Rosenberg, 87 Blue Ridge Drive, spoke about protecting the natural resources and aquifers of Simsbury; doing everything we can do for our drinking water; etc. He feels we need to be proactive to protect our public health, and other issues.

Lori Boyko spoke about editing the speaker sign-up sheet; the budget and taxes; spending the surplus, the Library, and other issues.

CONSENT AGENDA (6:12:57)

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to move items a) Authorize the Town Manager to Execute Tax Overpayment Refunds; and item b) Authorize the town Manager to apply for a DSS Emergency Assistance Program Grant, under Selectmen Action, and item a) Acknowledge Receipt of Michelle Lipari's Resignation from the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission, under Appointments and Resignations to the Consent Agenda. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT (6:13:30)

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT (6:18:45)

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

There was a moment of silence for Cheryl Cook.

LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS (6:24:16)

Mr. Paine said there is a new chairman on the Economic Development Commission, and the Board needs to give them their goals.

Mr. Paine said the Planning Commission is working on revising regulations to update them to work seamlessly with Zoning and the other departments.

Mr. Paine said the Hazardous Waste Collection was awesome and very well attended – there was a line to Stratton Brook when he was there.

Ms. Yeisley said there was a Board of Education meeting last night and the enrollment report showed lower enrollment. They are looking for a new company to look at projections because their projections have been off for the last few years.

Ms. Yeisley said the Henry James Memorial School Honors Choir will be performing at the NAFME conference, which is a big honor. They just did their NEASC review for the school.

Ms. Yeisley said the Library has a new website that was just launched. They will be offering a domestic affairs discussion group, which will meet monthly. The next meeting is October 19th at 7 p.m. They will also be offering a sensory story time on a monthly basis. The next one is October 20th at 10:30 am. She said the Library will also be hosting a Halloween costume contest on October 29th at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Yeisley had flyers for various flu clinics available in the Farmington Valley.

Ms. Yeisley said the Fire Department new training center that is being built is moving forward. She and Mr. Nelson will be attending an emergency response seminar on October 20th.

Ms. Yeisley said the emergency energy assistance program is now open.

Ms. Yeisley said there are two temporary speed bumps the Public Works will be rotating around the schools to look at traffic patterns and reducing speeds.

Ms. Yeisley said Aging and Disability had a great fashion show, and she thanked everyone who participated.

Ms. Yeisley said there will be a sensory Halloween party at the Apple Barn on October 28th from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. The event is free.

Ms. Yeisley said the Youth Service Advisory Board had their first meeting of the school year, and the issues are Zins (little nicotine tablets); vaping in the classrooms, e-bikes and gambling. They are looking at programming to address these issues.

She also noted that the Theatre Guild of Simsbury has three more shows for the Little Mermaid and tickets are sold online.

Mr. Antonio did not have a report at this time.

Mr. Looney said there is a Zoning meeting on the 19th.

He also noted that the Police Commission meeting was cancelled for tonight.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Authorize the Town Manager to Execute Tax Overpayment Refunds

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

b) Authorize the Town Manager to Apply for a DSS Emergency Assistance Program Grant

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

c) Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Year End Results (6:30:53)

Ms. Meriwether went through current fiscal year revenues, which exceeded our revenue budget by $2,300,000. She said the majority of this balance is from the Town Manager's office, who received a telephone access grant that was higher than anticipated; the Town Clerk's office exceeded their budget by $186,000, which was related to conveyance taxes and recording fees. Ms. Meriwether said the Tax Department has budgeted tax collections rates at 98.5%, and they collected 99.5% as they were able to collect some back taxes with interest and lean fees. She said the Finance Department's investment income was budgeted at 3.5%, but they were able to secure some CD's and Money Market opportunities so the actual was about 4%. Ms. Meriwether said the Building Department came in in excess of $504,000, largely due to an influx of permit fees being paid in the spring. Ms. Meriwether said the Board of Education had a slight deficit of about $200,000 as the ECS came in lower than the State had originally said it would be. She noted that they did have some new tuitions that came in and some school building rents so that offset the majority of the $200,000 and left a slight deficit of revenues for the Board of Education of approximately $90,000. She also noted that under the insurance refunds there is an equity distribution program that gave the Town $58,000.

Ms. Meriwether said the expenditures came in under budget by about $1,200,000. She said the majority of this is from staffing vacancies in the Police Department, Dispatch, and Animal Control. She said there was savings in health insurance of about $533,000 which was related to staff transitions and vacancies. Also, the retiree health insurance was budgeted at about 5% but was actually 3%. She said she usually issues for debt service every other year, however she manipulated the cash flow so that she could hold off a little longer on this issuance, so she was able to issue at a lower interest rate, so she saved about $400,000.

Ms. Meriwether said the Health Insurance Fund is doing fine, however, we had a slight loss at the end of the year of about $148,000. She said claims did spike during the year, which exceeded our budget by about $1,400,000. However, we were able to hit our stop-loss and got about $1,000,000 back from the stop-loss insurance. She said there seems to be a trend of increased claims that should be anticipated.

Ms. Mackstutis asked about the funding for the Meadowood Barn Restorations. Mr. Roy said we don't have enough funds to restore them. Ms. Mackstutis said the National Preservation Society has asked for a grant for this project, but they haven't even submitted the application yet. Ms. Meriwether noted there is a change in the CNR policy. Anything that is a major construction project you still have a three-year window

to spend as long as you are spending on the project. Everything else, like facilities maintenance or equipment projects, you only have one year of the appropriation to spend the funds. She showed the Board all of the projects that are not complete yet that still need to go into fiscal year 2027 for completion. The Board needs to take formal action to reappropriate these projects so they can finish spending this funding due to a change in the interpretation of the policy. Mr. Roy said a lot of the projects could be done in phases as sometimes they can't get it all done at once, like roofing projects.

Ms. Yeisley had some questions for Mr. Tyburski and the incomplete projects under Culture, Parks and Recreation. Mr. Tyburski said they are complex projects and the team is reviewing them. Work should be done by June 30, 2027. He said we used to have three years to complete projects and that has now changed. He noted that you can't always predict issues coming up either so there could be changes in priorities.

Mr. Antonio asked about the boom mower cost. Mr. Tyburski said the actual price will now be lower, which is great news.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to reappropriate the following projects as itemized above. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Meriwether went on to fund balances and how they are going to be attributed. She said the starting fund balance is $20,808,000. She said with the revenues coming over budget and the expenditures being under budget the total surplus is $3,500,000 total. This brings the fund balance to $24,403,052. This brings the unassigned fund balance to $23,680,609, which the Board can spend at their discretion. She said she tries to get the transfer requests as close to 16% as possible as the Board of Finance policy is between 15.5% to 16.5%. She said that anything over the 16% will be transferred into capital reserves to use during the budget process. The total transfer from the general fund is about $3,100,000. Therefore, the final fund balance is close to the 16% mark in the unassigned fund balance for the general fund.

Ms. Meriwether went through the capital transfers. She said the funds are typically transferred out to the capital reserve fund unless it comes in with a specific funding source like the town aid road grant which goes back to the town aid road fund. She then went through the close out projects with specific funding sources. She noted that if any capital projects are funding by bonds they have to go back to other fund bonding projects. She said they then allocate to a project that hasn't been bonded yet. She said the capital reserves is where the majority of closeouts go if there are no specific funding sources. She said the bottom line of transfers into the capital fund is just shy of $2,400,000. She then showed the assigned or restricted funds that can't be touched. Therefore, the unassigned balance at the end of fiscal year 2027 is about $5,400,000. This is your cleared balance going into the fiscal year 2028 budget of what can be spent from capital reserves.

d) FY 2025/2026 Year End Transfers

Mr. Nelson said there has been a long-standing practice of the Town to look at the possibility of using savings from the surplus for different projects. One reason is for paying cash for capital, which would reduce the debt service and take some pressure off the budget. The other category of requests is when we know in some certainty we are going to have to do next year that would hit the operating fund or CNR and therefore, could be expected and would likely impact the mill rate if you didn't use capital reserves. He said there are already some concerns for next year like healthcare costs. He said the Board of Finance guidance also continues for no bonding over $5,000,000 per year and $10,000,000 every two years. He said this creates an increase in problems in deferrals of capital expenses. There is savings in debt service costs, but it creates an escalation of the costs of whatever it is you purchase. He said the staff is discussing the appropriateness and necessity of limiting bonding. Mr. Nelson said the appropriate use of surplus by way of year end savings or capital reserves is the right thing to do. He said the third category is for things that might not get funded in a normal budget process. If not now, then probably never. Therefore, the department heads brought their best ideas forward. They also looked at the Board's goals as far as what projects they looked at. He noted that the fuel request is a current year budget potential shortfall.

Library Reference Materials:

Ms. Mackstutis said the Library reference materials ask was not included in last year's budget. It is a one-time ask. Mr. Nelson said the $23,000 was cut from last year's budget as it was a zero-based budget. More data was needed at that time. He asked that the Board approve this tonight.

After discussion about the materials being needed, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve the year end request for Library Reference Materials in the amount of $23,000. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. Mr. Paine noted that this needs to be a one-time ask. Mr. Looney noted that the furniture ask was not approved. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SVAA:

Ms. Mackstutis said the Board received a letter from Brian Clancy, President of the SVAA and Chris Kelly was in attendance. Mr. Kelly summarized the shortfall. Mr. Kelly said there are two assumptions in their MOU that have not held. He said based on activity they put in a 4% increase in the number of transports, but in reality, they are down about 2.9%. Therefore, the difference in revenue is about $300,000. Mr. Kelly said interest inflation is higher than what was projected. It is up about 3.7% and it was projected as 3%. Mr. Kelly said they would usually have some reserves of about $100,000 to $300,000 but have been dipping into that over the years so now their

reserves are about $36,000 of which $30,000 is currently being used for some expenses.

The Board also needs to look at the next couple of years to look at our financial commitment. Mr. Nelson noted that those discussions have been started. Ms. Mackstutis noted that there will be an audit of SVAA's financials as well.

After more discussion, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve the year end request for SVAA in the amount of $86,000. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Apple Barn:

Mr. Nelson gave the Board a handout on the Apple Barn project. He said the team is excited about this as it is an opportunity to align itself with one of the key Board goals. We did receive some State funding of $300,000 to do some significant projects at the Apple Barn. Mr. Roy said the funding will keep the architect moving forward and maybe some site work can also be done. There was some discussion about continuing this project in the next budget process. Mr. Roy said time is critical for this project to keep moving forward. There was also some discussion on the total amount of the ask and what is already approved. The ask for tonight is $600,000. Mr. Nelson noted that we need a full package in order to get any congressional directed spending which could be a significant amount of money.

After further discussion, including the loan lockers, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to fund the repurpose of the Apple Barn in accordance with the Board of Selectmen policy consideration for $600,000. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. Mr. Looney noted that at the last meeting he was not in favor of doing anything above the $300,000 and he still feels that way. Mr. Antonio, Ms. Mackstutis, Ms. Yeisley and Mr. Paine were in favor, with Mr. Looney against. Therefore, the motion passed.

Fuel:

Mr. Nelson said this fuel request includes the Board of Education. Mr. Roy said we are doing very well with our pre-purchasing of fuel. We buy fuel futures 18 months ahead of time. The advisors said to hold steady but then came the Iran war and there was a significant increase in cost. We are now at the mercy of the market. If we end up with savings at the end of this it will all go back to the Town. He gave the Board three worse scenarios based on 12 months of purchasing fuel.

Mr. Paine made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve $300,000 for fuel. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Town Hall:

Mr. Nelson said this issue has been talked about for a while now. Mr. Roy said the first design on the entrance was when Rich Sawitzke was here. The stair treads get rusted and there is nothing they can do about it. If they were able to put a glass door front so it could be heated or cooled, they could add carpeting there and better lighting. We wouldn't get birds trapped in there. It would make a much better entrance to Town Hall. It is an option to get it done now while we can. There were some questions about signage at Town Hall, which Mr. Roy said would happen before winter in the maintenance plan. Mr. Roy said it would be relatively neutral to energy efficiencies. Some additional money was added to make sure we would be able to add fire suppression there if needed. This project would take place between now and July. Also, if done, the ramp would remain dry.

Ms. Mackstutis said she has some reservations about this. She feels this is premature without knowing what the project looks like. She doesn't understand why it wouldn't be put in CNR and prioritized during the budget process. Mr. Roy said they can't do a design until it is funded.

After more discussion, Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve the Town Hall entrance upgrade with a glass door storefront for $85,000. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. Mr. Looney, Ms. Yeisley, and Mr. Paine were in favor, with Ms. Mackstutis and Mr. Antonio against. Therefore, the motion passed.

Ballistic Vest & Helmet Replacements:

Mr. Nelson said this takes immediate pressure off next year's budget. We know we need to do it. He said these are new lighter weight plates that are safer and make the daily life of our officers better. Deputy Police Chief Davis said this request is to replace our threat kit vests. He explained the difference between the external vests and these vests. The new vests just slip into their outside vests. It makes the vests more efficient. The vests are expiring next year, and they would like to switch over to these new vests. He also noted that the helmets were good for 5 years and they have expired now. Deputy Chief Davis said a helmet is kept in the car, and everyone can use them. The vest are individualized to the officer.

Mr. Nelson noted that from a collective bargaining perspective it is our obligation to provide these vests and helmets. He said technically they don't expire until next year, but it met the second criteria of taking the pressure off next years budget or capital reserves.

After a lot of discussion, Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve the request for Ballistic Vest & Helmet Replacements in the amount of $72,915. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion to take a 5-minute break. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Roofing Assessments:

Ms. Mackstutis said she doesn't' see the value in it unless doing in the Board of Ed roof assessments. Mr. Roy said the history of the Board of Ed they hire roofing contractors to give them evaluations. Mr. Roy said we could offer this to the Board of Ed and see if they want to work on this with us, but the cost would go up. Mr. Roy noted that the requested 20-year capital plan was just completed with best guesses. The plan gives us a best look of what we have and where we are going, but if there are issues like leaks, etc. it wouldn't be a capital issue, but they would like to catch it ahead of time and be planning for it. He is trying to hire someone who knows everything about roofing and knows where to put our money.

Mr. Nelson said the Board of Finance asked for a 20-year plan (now 21 years). This plan is necessary and vital to the financial management of the Town. Then we have to spend money to make it a plan that is meaningful. He said looking at the 6-year capital plan half of the projects didn't even happen. He said we need to give Mr. Roy the tools he needs to do an accurate depiction. Ms. Meriwether said Latimer is already done, Central is done, Tariffville is done, Henry James will be off the plan this year, and a portion of the High School is done. She said Squadron is its own little beast. Mr. Roy noted that Tootin' had two portions done.

Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve hiring a roofing contractor and approve the request for Roofing Assessments in the amount of $65,000. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Gateway Signs:

Mr. Nelson said there have been a lot of discussions on the gateway signs and Mr. Roy gave a memo on several options. The staff would like some guidance on this issue. He said if we go with inexpensive in one area and then other area are different there will be questions being asked. He would also like to know what the long-term plan will be.

Mr. Antonio said he is in support of this funding. These signs are what visitors and residents see welcoming people into Town. We need nice "welcome mats" for our Town. There was discussion on the type of sign and the wording and placement of them. Mr. Roy said he came up with a design concept for a veneer stone but isn't sure if the DOT would find them acceptable.

After further discussion, Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve signs for $40,000 to be decided by a proposal from Mr. Roy. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. Mr. Looney, Mr. Antonio, Ms. Yeisley and Mr. Paine were in favor with Ms. Mackstutis against. Therefore, the motion passed.

Town Hall Office Space Realignment:

Mr. Fitzgerald said this came about as there are several people who work in the same department but are at opposite ends of the building. Also, the IT people are sharing a an office. He said they have some conceptual plans, but they need to be worked out to get a final plan. Mr. Nelson said there were two or three that were priced out at about $40,000 and a few that were priced cheaper at about $25,000. There are a lot of moving pieces and he said to go with the $25,000 and that would help to address several issues that staff is dealing with. There are a lot of moving parts, but he didn't want to miss the window to ask for this item. This would all be done before the next budget.

Mr. Antonio spoke about the main meeting room and the desk for the Boards and Commissions. Can that be included in this realignment? There was a lot of discussion on what the desk would look like so that everyone can see each other when speaking.

After further discussion, Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to fund the realignment of office spaces in Town hall to better align departments and staff and to resurface the main meeting room dais to make it much more amenable and accessible to Boards and Commissions, in the amount of $25,000 (amended to $35,000). Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Close out projects:

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve the capital transfers and project close outs. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

e) Adopt Resolution Authorizing a Recommendation to the Board of Assessment Appeals (8:59:07)

Mr. Nelson said if this is adopted it merely recommends to the Boards of Assessment Appeals that they consider the policy that is permitted by State law, that they not hear tax appeals for commercial and industrial projects valued over $1,000,000. He said he spoke to the assessor and chair of the Board of Assessment Appeals, and she said they do hear commercial appeals over $1,000,000 in some cases. She wanted to make it clear that they don't routinely refuse to hear claims over $1,000,000. He said if the Board of Assessment Appeals decides not to hear it then it goes directly to superior court and that cost taxpayers more money. He gave the pros and cons of this decision. He is recommending that the Board adopt this as it is only advisory. He feels the reval should have some funding for support of the Board of Assessment Appeals. He recommends adopting this.

Mr. Antonio said he has heard from some commercial people, and they do not totally agree that they were not allowed to even present their case. He said the first step in

conflict resolution we follow is called public audience so they can vent and not just sue us. He feels they should at least let them present before saying it's too complicated to look at. Don't default by escalation. This costs us a lot of money and we never win. He feels this is an opportunity to have a cost savings. It's also not fair as we are telling the commercial landowners they need to spend money on legal representation. This is also just advisory.

After further discussion, Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve the proposed resolution recommending that the Board of Assessment Appeals hear appeals on properties assessed above $1,000,000 pursuant to C.G.S Section 12-111. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to amend the motion to include the word commercial properties. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) **Acknowledge Receipt of Michelle Lipar's Resignation from the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission**

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (9:09:53)

a) **September 28, 2026 Regular Meeting**

Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2026. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS (9:10:07)

a) **Draft Simsbury Ordinance Master Sheet –** there was not discussion at this time.

b) **Memorandum from the Town Manager re: Administrative Approval of Public Gathering Permits: dated October 14, 2026** – there was no discussion at this time.

c) **Memorandum from Department of Public Works Director/Town Engineer re: Maintenance of Neighborhood Trails – Owen's Brook, Mountain Farms & County Road neighborhoods**
Ms. Mackstutis said the communication sounded like they were going to spend the amount budgeted on this maintenance, but the Board did ask to come in under the budget on the maintenance and do the project in the most cost-effective way. Ms. Yeisley noted that on Mountain Farms and County Road they seem to be seeking input from the Board to help determine the best path forward. Ms. Mackstutis said

she said to do this as cheaply as possible, so this has already been done. Mr. Nelson said he would discuss it with Mr. Roy.

d) **Memorandum from the Fire Marshall re: Proposed Revisions to the Open Burning Ordinance** - there was no discussion at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:12:09)

a) **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, effective October 14, 2026, 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 include the Board members and Attorney DeCrescenzo at 9:12 p.m. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to adjourn Executive Session at 9:47. Mr. Looney seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mr. Looney made a motion, effective October 14, 2026, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:47 p.m. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk