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 via Zoom; Mike Paine and Diana Yeisley. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Marc Nelson; Deputy Town Manager Tom Fitzgerald; Finance Director Amy Meriwether via Zoom; Budget Director Melissa Appleby; Director of Public Works/ Town Engineer Tom Roy; Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation Tom Tyburski; Library Director Lisa Miceli; Assistant Superintendent for Administration Neil Sullivan; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

Sustainability Committee Annual Report

Jami Lewchik, Chairman of the Sustainability Committee said their goals are to help the Town to make informed and practical decisions that support an environmental commitment and economic sustainable Town. They support the 2024 plan of conservation and development.

She highlighted four areas of progress they made this year: 1) energy efficiency and renewability and saving taxpayers $180 per household and by supporting solar; 2) lowering energy costs by partnering with New England Smart Energy; 3) shaping policies and engaging in our community. They gave comprehensive recommendations to the Town Zoning regulation updates; 4) they are trying to strengthen government and Town management for a stronger collaboration with commissions and committees.

She said the are trying to make sustainability more acceptable and more relevant to the residents. The 3rd Annual Sustainability Fair brought together 35 organizations with 1200 people in attendance, which is up from last year.

Ms. Lewchik said their 2027 goals will be voted on in December, but they are already prioritizing a business roundtable with CT Green Bank focusing on a financing program for commercial property owners to help with upfront costs. They are trying to help businesses to modernize their buildings while lowering the operating costs. They will continue to work with the Town and school leadership to put their energy plan into action. They are finalizing part II of their sustainability plan now. They are also working to renew their CT bronze certification next spring.

She said while they are a volunteer committee, they continue to work to identify opportunities and might have been missed. After some discussion, no motion was made at this time.

Draft FY 2028-2032 Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Nelson spoke about the challenges on how to balance the current bonding guidelines compared to what is actually needed for maintenance of town facilitites. He also noted that this report is a few months early as the Charter requires it be done by February. He would like to get this done before the Tri-board meeting as well.

He noted that they have heard the Board on their clarified priorities including the potential renovation of the Apple Barn and some significant work at Eno Memorial Hall. The staff is in support of these priorities and the deferral of the Memorial Pool project. They will be presenting two plans – one for $5,000,000 and one for $8,000,000, which the staff is recommending. He said they are also considering what is coming from the Board of Education. He noted that the Board of Education is just required to approve a one-year plan according to the Charter.

Mr. Nelson said the $5,000,000 plan is under Board of Finance guidance for maximum bonding limits per year.

Mr. Nelson said Squadron Line is penciled in year three of both plans. He thinks it was the consensus of this Board to keep the Stoddard Dam work on the plan as it was planned for. He feels both plans are adequate for addressing some projects. He said the reliance on capital reserve funding comes from prior year surpluses. He said as we tighten the operating budget the surplus will decline over several years. He went through the use of reserves in both plans.

Ms. Appleby said they made two plans. The $5,000,000, in terms of bonding, would work with Ms. Meriwether's modeling, but wouldn't achieve the goals the Board wants to achieve and there would be a lot of sacrifices. She said the $8,000,000 presents their best effort for this plan.

There was some discussion on "unfunded" items. The items with nothing next to them not able to fit in the $5,000,000 plan.

Ms. Meriwether said they put in realistic costs of projects, but they just can't do as much to fit into the plan. She then went through budget modeling. They are looking for the Board's guidance on which plan they would like to work on. The Board noted that they do need more information on some of the items.

After discussion, the Board agreed to discuss this further at the Tri-board meeting. The Board feels the $8,000,000 is more obtainable and reasonable. They also need to hear

from the Board of Education on what they are looking for. This will be discussed again at the Tri-board meeting.

PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- **Email townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov by noon on Monday, November 9, 2026, to register to address the Board of Selectmen live through Zoon**
- **Written comments can be emailed to townmanager@simsbury-ct.gov, not read into the record, but forwarded to all Selectmen via email**

Alan Needham spoke about the Loan Locker and how much it is needed in Town. It is run by 23 volunteers and is open, by appointment, 7 days a week.

Joan Coe, 26 Whitcomb Drive, spoke about the Board of Selectmen meeting on September 28th; flock cameras, the Police Department staff, the Library book sale and other issues.

Ellen Gilbert, 120 Hopmeadow Street, spoke about a huge need for the Loan Locker, the Senior Center accessibility, the Board of Finance meeting, and the seniors in Town needing a voice.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to move Selectmen Action items a) Tax Overpayment Refunds; d) PEGPETIA grant application; e) Opt-in for Opioid Settlement; g) Alcohol waiver for Simsbury Community Media; h) Alcohol waiver for Simsbury High School Class of 2016; and Appointments and Resignations item a) appointment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council to the consent agenda. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

LIAISON AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Paine said Planning met and discussed the POCD. They discussed this with Zoning to make sure they are all on the same page.

He said Housing will meet this week.

Mr. Paine said EDC met and started working on some goals.

He noted that Veteran's Day is this Wednesday. He also noted that he worked at early voting and thanked everyone for their help.

Ms. Yeisley said there were some Camp Jewel trips that have taken place and they were a success.

She said there is a new 7-8th grade English department head supervisor at Henry James.

Ms. Yeisley said Election Day was also Professional Development Day, and it was a great day.

She said Board of Ed approved and adjusted the 2027/2028 school calendar, so school will start on September 1st and end on June 18th. She said the Board of Ed has started discussions on capital expenditures, and their quarterly report was given at the last meeting. She said there will be a Board of Ed meeting again tomorrow, which she will be attending.

Ms. Yeisley said there was a fun Children's Halloween Costume event, and they can't wait to do it again next year.

She said the Teen Space Renovation is moving forward.

She noted that the Library will be opening at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 12th due to a staff development meeting.

Ms. Yeisley said DEI held a Native American Heritage forum, and it was a huge success. They will be holding another civic forum as the last one was a huge success. Please contact them with ideas as they would like to continue these forums.

Ms. Yeisley said she attended the Eversource Emergency Management Seminar for Public Safety. There was a lot of great information at this seminar. She had a discussion with them about the continued tree issue on the northwest part of Town. They will have someone on duty for Simsbury Celebrates to make sure it all goes smoothly.

Ms. Yeisley said there was a sensory Halloween event at the Apple Barn that was a huge success. Aging and Disability will be holding a sensory Santa event on December 12th as well. You will need an appointment to visit with Santa.

She said there will be a "Coffee with the Commissioners" event on December 8th starting at 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Yeisley said the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center is working on their 2027 season event planning.

She also noted that Town offices are closed on Wednesday for Veteran's Day.

Ms. Mackstutis said there will be a Public Safety Commission meeting on Thursday. She also asked if they could get a Deputy management Director set in place.

She said the Town is hosting the Chief Elected Officials meeting on Friday at the Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Antonio had no report at this time.

Mr. Beal said he had a meeting on electric vehicles and municipalities. He learned a lot about electric vehicles like school buses, SRO vehicles and police vehicles. There were about 15-20 municipalities there. It was a good networking session. Mr. Nelson noted that there is nothing on these vehicles in this year's budget.

Mr. Looney said he was unable to attend the Police Commission meeting, but he will listen to it online.

He said Culture, Parks and Recreation discussed future plans and what is doable in the current environment and with the budget constraints. They are setting goals for long and short-term projects.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Authorize the Town Manager to Execute Tax Overpayment Refunds

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

b) Approve the Simsbury School Administrators and Supervisors Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Sullivan said they completed negotiations with the Administrative Group. There are 18 administrators, not counting the central office administrators. They usually do a 3-year contract. He said it is a pretty straight forward negotiation as there are only 18 members. He said there were three productive sessions held in September.

Mr. Sullivan said they ended up with a 3-year contract with a 2.95% increase per year, which is under the 3% done at State level. He said the insurance premium cost share is now 25%. They did put in a few prescription savings programs as well. They did codify things like the CT Sick Leave Act which makes it so people have to take a half or full day instead of just number of hours for sick leave. Mr. Sulivan also noted that the tax shelter annuity form of compensation was increased by $500. He said everyone was in

agreement with this contract. He explained that if the Board did nothing tonight the contract would be ratified after 30 days of posting.

After discussion, there was not motion on this agreement and therefore, it was approved.

c) Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Year End Transfers

Mr. Nelson said this item was to match what the Board of Finance did at their meeting after this Board sent them recommendations on the transfers. They rejected some and accepted other items. Money that wasn't approved will now go back into the reserves.

Mr. Looney said he did not like the process as the Board of Selectmen made their recommendations and then the Board of Finance changed them. He doesn't feel this is their role.

Mr. Paine said he agreed with Mr. Looney as he also doesn't feel it is their role to turn projects down. He feels bad for the staff as they came in under the budget and wanted to then have these projects approved to help the community. He takes exception to this. These projects were all good for the Town.

Ms. Yeisley also felt the Board of Selectmen is the policy maker and doesn't feel it is the Board of Finance job to litigate the use of funds.

Ms. Macksutis said she asked about moving forward on the Apple Barn project as it is a priority and was told they could ask for the supplemental appropriation. She feels some of these decisions need to be made in advance of the budget so they can be moved forward at the budget time.

After some discussion, Mr. Antonio made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to transfer an additional $815,000 into the Capital Reserve Fund from the General Fund as part of the fiscal year 2025/2026 year-end transfers. Therefore, increase the contribution into Capital Reserve Fund of $1,850,000 to $2,665,000. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. Mr. Beal, Mr. Antonio, Ms. Mackstutis, Ms. Yeisley and Mr. Looney were in favor with Mr. Paine against, therefore, the motion passed.

d) Authorize the Town Manager to Apply for the Simsbury Public Library PEGPETIA Grant

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

e) Authorize the Town Manager to Opt-in to a National Opioid Settlement with Albertsons

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

f) Set a Public Hearing for the Proposed Revisions to Town Code Chapters 63 (Alcoholic Beverage) and 75 (Burning, Open)

Ms. Mackstutis said this is for adjustments for the Simsbury Farms Restaurant, rentals for the Apple Barn and SMPAC. There was some discussion on adding Eno Memorial Hall to this list as it is also rented out.

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to schedule a Public Hearing on the proposed revisions to Town Code Chapter 63 (Alcoholic Beverages) as amended to add Eno Hall, for 6 p.m. at the meeting on December 14, 2026. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Beal noted that it is always better to publish notices early so residents can send in their comments before the actual meeting.

Ms. Mackstutis said she asked Mr. Nelson questions about the definition of campfires and firepits, and he said he would ask for a presentation at the next meeting.

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to schedule a Public Hearing on the proposed revisions to Town Code Chapter 75 (Burning, Open) for 6:00 p.m. at the December 14, 2026 meeting. Mr. Beal seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Antonio asked that a summary of what other Towns have done be sent to the Board members. Ms. Mackstutis will do this.

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

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

h) Approve an Alcohol Waiver Request by the Simsbury High School Class of 2016 for an Event at the Apple Barn

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

i) Approve Vacation Carryover Request for the Town Manager

Ms. Mackstutis and Mr. Beal had questions on personnel rules. Therefore, Mr. Beal made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to table this item and refer it to the Personnel Sub-Committee for consideration and possible action. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

j) Discussion Providing Objectives and Benchmarks to the Economic Development Commission

Mr. Antonio said they started to define a kind of flow chart for the EDC on a higher level, but they are not finished yet.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

a) Appoint Eden Weisberg to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) October 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to approve the minutes of October 14, 2026. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. Ms. Mackstutis noted changes to add the line numbers and on page 8, second to last paragraph mature should say premature. All were in favor with the changes made and the motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Mr. Looney made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to go into executive session pursuant to C.G.S §1-200(6)(A): Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health, or dismal of public officer or employee at 8:04 p.m., and to include Mr. Nelson, as needed. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN ACTION CONTINUED

k) Consideration of and Possible Action on Extension to the Town Manager's Employment Contract

Ms. Yeisley made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to extend the Town Manager's contract for one year, to January 1, 2028, and delete the six-month notice *equipment* in Section IV. All other provisions in the contract shall remain the same. The *amendment* shall be in a form approved by the Town Attorney and executed by the First Selectman.

COMMUNICATIONS

a) Memorandum by the Town Manager re: Administrative Approval of Public Gathering Permits, dated November 9, 2026

There was no discussion at this time.

b) Economic Development Commission 2026 Annual Report

There was no discussion at this time.

c) Farmington valley Health District New Online Complaint Form

There was no discussion at this time.

ADJOURN

Mr. Beal made a motion, effective November 9, 2026, to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Ms. Yeisley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio
Clerk