

**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 Town Offices. Present were: First Selectman Wendy Mackstutis; Deputy First Selectman Amber Abbuhl; Board members: Chris Peterson, Eric Wellman, Sean Askham and Heather Goetz. Others in attendance included: Town Manager Maria E. Capriola; Deputy Town Manager Melissa Appleby; and other interested parties.

**a) Proclamation for Suicide Awareness Month**

**Proclamation Recognizing September as  
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, Suicide Prevention Week (September 4 – September 10) and Suicide Prevent Day (September 10) are being recognized through the month of September, where we address the persistent public health issue of suicide; raise awareness on the causes of suicide, offer support and resources to those affected by suicide encourage communication to the affected by suicide, encourage communication on mental health and inform/advocate the general public on suicide prevention measures;

**WHEREAS**, the purple and turquoise/teal Suicide Prevention ribbon symbolizes suicide awareness and prevention and serves as a reminder that suicide is an issue we need to talk about;

**WHEREAS**, the recent from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's 1-800-273-8255 number to the 3 digit 988 dialing code is not widely known and government outreach is necessary to mass communicate this number to the public;

**WHEREAS**, from 2020 CDC date, suicide is the 15<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Connecticut, 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 10-24, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 28-34;

**WHEREAS**, 85.07% of communities did not have enough mental health providers to serve residents in 2021, according to the federal guidelines and almost five times as many people died by suicide in 2019 than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents;

**WHEREAS**, suicide prevention resources are now more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted social events/relationships increased stress levels of all age groups and decrease physical contact;

**WHEREAS**, suicide prevention measures, education, and research will present the untimely deaths of Americans each year;

**WHEREAS**, suicide is neither a personal failure nor the evidence of mental illness, but rather a common human response to difficult environmental factors and emotional pairs. Improving life circumstances, enhancing social connection and reducing emotional pain are effective ways to reduce the frequency and intensity of suicidal thoughts and feelings;

**WHEREAS**, we offer our commitment to residency deaths caused by suicide and pledge to all we can to ensure that health resources and support are offered to those that need it;

**WHEREAS**, establishing September as Suicide Prevention Month promotes awareness, starts a dialogue, testing mental illness and help prevent suicide;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, Members of the Simsbury Board of Selectmen, hereby proclaim September Suicide Prevention Month in the Town of Simsbury and ask that the Town light up Eno Memorial Hall in purple for the remainder of the month.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, we have placed our signatures and the great seal of the Town of Simsbury.  
Dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective September 12, 2022, to endorse a Proclamation for Suicide Prevention Month. Further move, to authorize Eno Hall to be it up in purple for the rest of the month of September in support of Suicide Prevention Awareness. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **SELECTMEN ACTION**

#### **a) Tax Refund Requests**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective September 12, 2022, to approve the presented tax refunds in the amount of \$31,751.91, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E Capriola, to execute the tax refunds. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **b) Recover Friendly Community Initiatives**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective September 12, 2022, to proclaim the Town of Simsbury as a “Recovery-Friendly Community.” Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **c) Donation from Elinor and Wayne Hoffman**

Ms. Abbuhl made a motion, effective September 12, 2022, to accept a donation from Elinor and Wayne Hoffman in the amount of \$3,000 for the purpose of aiding residents in need with our thanks. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **d) Grant from the Secretary of the State for Absentee Ballot Preparation for November 8, 2022 Election**

Mr. Wellman made a motion, effective September 12, 2022, to accept a grant from the Secretary of the State in the amount of \$10,709.3 for the purpose of assisting the Town Clerk’s Office with the process of absentee ballots for the upcoming election, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute all documents related to the grant award. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **e) Social Media Account Request from Open Space Committee**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective September 12, 2022, to approve the creation of Simsbury Open Space Committee Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts to be used by the Committee to publicize their efforts, of which Town staff will have oversight. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **f) Proposed Settlement Agreement – Pending Tax Appeal for DWW SOLAR II, LLC**

Mr. Askham made a motion, effective September 12, 2022, to approve the Joint Stipulation for Judgement for Docket No. HHB-CV-21-6070863-5, DWW SOLAR II, LLC vs. Town of Simsbury for the tax appeal on the taxable personal property located at 55-60 Hoskins Road as presented, and authorize Town Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo to execute the agreement. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

#### **a) Resignation of Cheryl A. Cook and Tom Steen from Community for Care**

Ms. Goetz made a motion, retroactive to August 1, 2022, to accept the resignation of Cheryl A. Cook as Regular Member of the Community for Care Committee with our thanks. Further move, retroactive to September 1, 2022, to accept the resignation of Tom Steen as a Regular Member of the Community for Care Committee with our thanks. Ms. Abbuhl seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

#### **b) Resignation of Robert Mule from the Board of Ethics**

Mr. Askham made a motion, retroactive to September 7, 2022, to accept the resignation of Robert Mule as a Regular Member of the Board of Ethics with our thanks. Mr. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

#### **a) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2022-**

Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to amend item f: Public Gathering Permit to say that Ms. Mackstutis questioned and was not in favor of the need for fireworks. She was concerned people were not aware of it as it was not the 4<sup>th</sup> of July or another planned event but after hearing that the Fire Department approved it and it was safe, she voted with the Board in favor. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. Ms. Mackstutis and Ms. Goetz were in favor with Mr. Peterson, Mr. Askham, Ms. Abbuhl and Mr. Wellman against the motion. Therefore, the motion did not pass.

Under Website submission – Ms. Mackstutis made a motion to add that she was committed to sending an apology to those impacted who might have been expecting one and did not receive a timely response from the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Goetz seconded the motion. Mr. Peterson, Ms. Goetz and Ms. Mackstutis were in favor with Mr. Askham, Ms. Abbuhl and Mr. Wellman against the change. Therefore, the motion did not pass.

#### **b) Special Meeting of August 25, 2022 –there were no changes to the Special Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2022 and, therefore, the minutes were adopted.**

Ms. Goetz made a motion to change the minutes under item (c), after Ms. Capriola is quoted, to reflect that Ms. Ms. Goetz raised concerns regarding internal transparency and that Town Manager Maria Capriola stated this discussion would be better addressed in executive session, to which there were no objections. Ms. Mackstutis raised related concerns.

Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. Ms. Goetz and Ms. Mackstutis were in favor with Mr. Peterson, Mr. Askham, Mr. Wellman and Ms. Abbuhl against. Therefore, the motion did not pass.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**a) Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(a) Review of Staff Performance**

Mr. Wellman made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(a) Review of Staff Performance and to include only the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Wellman made a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Wellman made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Radocchio  
Clerk