



**TOWN COUNCIL
HYBRID MEETING – VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON
September 18, 2023
Regular Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers**

APPROVED MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trinks called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Donald Trinks, Deputy Mayor Lisa Rampulla Bress, Councilor Black-Burke, Councilor James Dobler, Councilor Ronald Eleveld, Councilor Ojala Naeem, Councilor Kenneth Smith, and Councilor Walker

Absent: Councilor Kristin Gluck Hoffman

2) PRAYER OR REFLECTION

Councilor Dobler led the group in prayer/reflection.

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Dobler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS

- a) Proclamation designating September as National Suicide Prevention Month

Deputy Mayor Bress read the proclamation designating September as National Suicide Prevention month.

5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Paul Panos, 48 Brookview Road, stated that he is talking for himself about the Oliver Ellsworth project. He visited the school with Councilor Smith and they had a look at some of the equipment with one of the plant supervisors. After that, he went again by himself with the plant supervisor to visit the site. He has a background in this area as he was a boiler designer for 40 years and was in energy management for 7-8 years. The chiller is an indirect system. It doesn't go from the refrigerant directly and blowing out air, it is done indirectly. When asked what the reason is, he read all the reports and he can't find any explanation except to say that the chiller was oversized. It doesn't appear to him that is a likely reason for this to happen. He looked at the ventilation units and what he thinks is the configuration of the heat exchanger itself is the origin of the problem. It doesn't have the depth (you need to have a certain depth for the water to drop out before the air

goes out). It only has four rows and it is extremely wide. Normally it's more square and deeper. The duct work also works against it. Before we spend too much money, we should have an engineer look at this. He explained further what he feels should be looked at.

6) COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Naeem echoed Councilor Dobler's sentiments. She had the opportunity to volunteer at the Tavern Trot event. She thanked the Police Department and the rest of the volunteers as it was a great event. This past Thursday, there was an event put together by CT Main Street, the Windsor Chamber of Commerce, First Town Downtown and our economic teams. Patrick McMahon and Peter Souza attended as well. The event highlighted the opportunities in Windsor. There were developers as well as those individuals that promote economic development from all across the state. They had some wonderful tours of our town center and all the key areas around there. She thanked everyone that pulled the event together. She gave a shout out to Nurse Jenifer Waldo, whom she has run into at just about every event in Windsor that happened over the course of the summer. She thanked her for the work she is doing.

Councilor Dobler stated that he attended the Annual Tavern Trot. There were 830 people that registered to run. Another great turnout for a great cause. He thanked everyone that showed up.

Councilor Walker said at the last meeting he spoke of the Collective Space and some of the people that occupy that space. Lucinda is a midwife who does prenatal care and follows through to birth. He thanked the Town Manager and the people at the Club for repairs to North Meadow Road. He recognized Team Paragon on all their accomplishments so far. They should be commended for the entire team for building robots and doing well in competitions. We need students to go into trade, but we also need engineers and scientists. He congratulated all the kids that are doing well in athletics. He asked if we have tested all of our school buildings for air quality.

Councilor Black-Burke gave a thank you to those who came out tonight and for their comments. She reminded everyone it is getting darker, so please slow down. Also, please honor the stop signs on the school buses. She gave a shout out to the art teacher Ms. Lloyd and the P.E. instructor at JFK school, Mr. Potter, on how they transformed the gym's rock wall. Two Windsor students, Elsie Hale and Gabbie Williams were able to display their art work on the rock wall.

Councilor Gluck Hoffman - absent

Councilor Eleveld said Saturday the Windsor Rotary Club packaged 14,000 meals in about two hours for individuals that are food insecure. It was supported by Team Paragon. Food was sent out to Enfield, East Windsor and the Windsor Food Bank, which received the bulk of the food. We do have a lot of activity in Windsor. It's the volunteers, managed through clubs or individually, that makes Windsor a great place to live.

Deputy Mayor Bress echoed Councilor Naeem's remarks about Ms. Waldo. Her work in the community is stellar. She recognized that it is Hispanic Heritage month.

Councilor Smith had nothing to report.

Mayor Trinks said that he heard a comment from a couple of individuals that said 'not every town does this', which they were referring to the CT Main Street event where they have townspeople, government, businesses, and economic development all coming together. He commended the town for having the event. Saturday was the second annual reunion for the 82nd Airborne and they chose to have it in Windsor. Everyone that recognized him congratulated him on a beautiful town. They were all so impressed with it. He gave his thanks to Alex, his driver at Northwest Park, and his friend Jim who was a glider pilot in WWII. He thanked all the helped to keep the town beautiful.

7) REPORT OF APPOINTED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

a) Public Building Commission

Gary Johnson, Board of Education, gave the following report:

Sage Park Middle School Energy HVAC Efficiencies Upgrades Project Phase 2 & 3 - 9542

Work continues to progress with contractors working nights and weekends as needed to stay on schedule. The abatement of HazMat are complete. Replacement of air handlers in music wing is 75% complete. The installation of the complete new heating plant in boiler room is 75% complete. The replacement of all classroom wall unit ventilators is on schedule. Current project schedules are for phase two to be completed by end of August 2023 and Phase three to be completed end of November 2023.

Aquatic Facilities Improvements Goslee Pool Houses Renovations - 9564

Construction work is complete and pool opened on July 31st. Items remaining are minor punch list items, which should be completed by the end of August 2023.

Milo Peck School HVAC Construction - 9538

The PBC is waiting further directions from Town Council regarding this projects progression.

Clover Street School Roof Replacement Design Project - 9549

The project design architect, Hibbard & Rosa, has completed the construction and specification drawings. The PBC reviewed the completed drawings. Construction is scheduled for FY2026.

LP Wilson Community Center HVAC Renovations Project - 9551

Phase One of this project continues with contractors working nights and weekends as needed to stay on schedule. The HazMat abatement has been completed. New electrical power conduit installation has been completed. New flooring and room painting are completed. The GC will be setting the three new Dedicated Outside Air Systems on the

roof Saturday, Sept 23rd. They All phase one work is expected to be completed by the end of October 2023. The PBC expects to bid phase two in late fall 2023.

330 Windsor Ave. Community Center Gym HVAC Renovations - 9550

The three new roof top units are installed and are operating. The Direct Digital Controls are 90% complete. Roof top required new interface card to communicate with the Direct Digital Control system. This has been ordered and received. The PBC expects the controls to be completed by end of August 2023.

Design for Clover Street School Restroom ADA Code Compliances - 9552

The PBC reviewed completed drawings at our September 13, 2022 meeting. Construction is scheduled for summer 2024.

Design for LP Wilson BOE Restroom Renovations - 9553

The PBC reviewed completed drawings at our September 13, 2022 meeting. Construction is scheduled for FY2025.

Sage Park Middle School Roof Design Project - 9541

The design is substantially complete. This project would replace the remaining 93,000 sq. ft. of roof section that was installed in 1995 and is currently out of warranty. Funding authorization for the construction portion of this project will be introduced later on this evening.

Poquonock Elementary School Roof Design Project - 9558

The awarded architect has started the process of designing construction drawings for this project. The PBC expects to receive completed drawings at one of its fall 2024 meetings. Construction funding is scheduled for FY2025.

JFK Elementary School HVAC System Upgrades Phase III Project - 1932

The GC is continuing work on this project and is working nights and weekends as needed to stay on schedule. This project includes installing new HVAC units for the gymnasium and hallways. Construction is expected to be completed in October 2023.

Sage Park Middle School Slab Moisture Mitigation Project -

12 locations have been tested to determine the source of moisture. The PBC will be receiving a comprehensive report assessing the existing moisture conditions in the buildings concrete slab. The report will also provide the architects professional opinion regarding the underlying causes of slab moisture, along with recommendations for the advisable corrective actions with probable present-day cost values. Preliminary findings discovered slab moisture as high as 98% where 75% and less would be the norm. Report has been received and Architect to present to PBC at next meeting.

Welch Park Pool House Renovations Project -

Engineer presented design and answered questions at last PBC meeting. The PBC is expecting to receive the completed construction drawings for this project for the next PBC meeting. After staff review and PBC approval, we expect to put this project out to bid in October 2023.

Oliver Ellsworth School Humidity Issues:

Long term solution: The Town's Facility department has reached out to three Engineering firms to provide recommendations, timeline, and pricing. PBC will be presented with the best solution of the three, at the next scheduled PBC meeting. Facility department has also request quotes from three Environmental firms for Infrared Moister Imaging, Building Envelope Pressure Testing, and Concrete Slab Moister Testing. These quotes will also be reviewed and presented at the next scheduled PBC meeting.

On-going efforts: BOE facilities group has purchased and installed de-humidifiers for each classroom, which has helped with the humidity levels. Humidity levels as of today are between 45% and 55%. Additional, BluSky Hartford was contracted last week to cleaned the school. Technicians sprayed all affected walls, cabinet faces, and soffit above cabinets with a plant based antimicrobial and wet wiped clean. Walls were cleaned to height of 4 feet. Technicians also removed and wiped down unit ventilator covers.

Mr. Johnson stated that he had been appointed by the Governor to hold a seat on the Metropolitan District Commission.

b) Library Advisory Board

Cheryl Curtis, Library Advisory Board, stated the following:

The Meeting Room and Use of Public Space Policy was the topic of discussion at two of our meetings this year. While no changes were made to the policy, the Library Director wanted us to be aware that she had received a request from the Windsor Library Association to hold a 3 day indoor mini-golf fund raiser for the library inside the library. The policy allows either the Library Director or the Board to make an exception but she did not feel comfortable making the exception as it would disrupt normal library operations and show favoritism towards one group over other groups who might also wish to use the library to hold fundraising events. The Board agreed with that decision along with another that would limit outside group use of the meeting room to 25 people due to limited parking as well as the library's inability to provide wireless access to more than 30 users at one time. This change in procedure was precipitated by the growing number of requests from businesses to use the library's meeting space to train large groups for their employees or to others interested in offering large group presentations aimed at attracting new clients.

The Board amended the Collection Development Policy to include library displays. This would entrust staff to not only select items to be added to the collection but to then also use those items in library displays. The State Library will be awarding libraries in Connecticut with a \$1,200 incentive grant for maintaining a current Collection Development Policy that also includes a clear process for residents to request reconsideration of materials. Windsor is eligible to receive that grant.

Life at the library has finally resumed pre-pandemic normalcy. In addition to serving more of our own Windsor patrons again we also began seeing many Bloomfield and South Windsor residents in our main library and branch as their town's libraries entered into

periods of transition. We checked out 2,000 more items this July than we did last July, welcomed 3,000 more people into our buildings and nearly doubled public computer use. That trend continued in August when nearly 19,000 patrons visited the libraries to check out over 20,000 items, attended a meeting, a program, made a fax, a photocopy, scanned a document or simply connected with one another in person, on a public computer or through the library's wireless network using their own electronic devices. There were 1251 participants in summer reading programs and over 300 museum passes were used by Windsor residents during July and August.

Included this year in the items that the library now lends are a "Library of Things" collection comprised of gadgets, tools, cookware and games for patrons to borrow and use for short term projects, an American Girl doll collection, Storytime bags filled with books and themed activities for those interested in hosting their own storytime at home and a twelve Switch video games. A returned interest in music recorded on vinyl inspired the library's reprised LP collection and a growing interest in sustainability encouraged Reference Librarian Cailey Klasson to set up a seed collection swap in collaboration with the UConn Extension Service and the Knox Foundation.

The "Librarians in Training" student intern program, created to develop a more diverse workforce by hiring young adults who might not otherwise consider pursuing library science as a career was a success. Staff worked with three seniors from Windsor High School last year and have recently recruited Sophia Wilson, a talented student with interest in helping patrons use equipment on the library's Makerspace. Other staffing changes this year included the hiring of Mark Gervino as Head of Reference and Technical Services, Tricia Jefferey as the new Tutoring Program coordinator at the branch and Victoria Huertas as full time Children's Librarian.

Each of our Advisory Board meetings includes a report from the Windsor Library Association on their activities. In addition to outlining projects that support the library, President Mike Zager announced that the Wilson Branch Library property was transferred to the town in October. The theme of their winter meeting this year was Censorship, Book Bans and our Public Libraries and inspired lively discussion.

Councilor Black-Burke thanked Ms. Curtis for the robust report. She was encouraged to hear about the requested use of the library. She was hoping Ms. Curtis would talk about summer reading which she did. There are 1,251 summer readers in the program which is amazing. She wants to continue to see that our library services grow. She added that there is a chess program at the Wilson Library during the summer.

Ms. Curtis added that there are chess boards outside of the main library in town for use by all.

Deputy Mayor Bress thanked Ms. Curtis for her report. She echoed the sentiments of Councilor Black-Burke. All those individuals that are coming in to use the library's meeting space, we need to start sending them over to the Collective Space or Windsor Worx. If this is something that is needed on a regular basis, we can refer them to those places.

c) Human Relations Commission

Castella Copeland and Lisette LaTorre, Human Relations Commission, gave the following report:

Donations, Sponsorships, and Grants

1. A grant the WHRC received is named the Lynne Farley Gillette Grant For Social Justice. The commission continues to work with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to place funds towards educating the community in Social Justice and Human Rights.
2. Donations were given in honor of Judge Kevin Washington and the legacy that he has left behind. We will continue to collect donations in honor of Judge Kevin Washington which will be deposited into WHRC's already established scholarship funds.
3. Sponsorships from First Church in Windsor and individual community members were also given in Spring 2023 to support the Human Relations Commission's current initiatives.

We are continuing to build relationships with our Community.

Our "Conversation Series" is a very well received program that draws the attendance many of our Town Council have participated in. It focuses on educating, discovering and exploring the differences of our Windsor community that has a population of almost 30,000 people. The recordings of the conversations over the past four years can be found here: [Human Relations Commission \(townofwindsorct.com\)](http://Human Relations Commission (townofwindsorct.com)).

The commission has hosted or collaborated with others during the 2022 –2023 fiscal year to support programs such as:

- Collaborated with Town Library on Halloween Candy Give Away
- MLK Day Event: Collaboration with the Windsor Art Center: Celebration Through Poetry
- Annual One Book One Windsor Event: first year with two youth books and an adult book
- Black History Month Movie Night: Hamilton the Musical
- Black History Month: Representation versus Appropriation versus Appreciation
- Annual Phenomenal Women Award Ceremony
- Annual Bridge Builder Award Ceremony
- Information Booth at Shad Derby (in the rain)
- Conversation Series
- Juneteenth

For this upcoming fiscal year we will continue the conversation Series. We will present topics for discussion once or twice a month as planned and around regularly scheduled events. Conversations will be led by commissioners and or our student representative for the community.

The Commission will be developing a new program, called Experiencing Windsor: Your Community. For this program we are considering “field trips” to destinations that give hands-on experience to human rights, social justice, and recognizing our past. This program will include overnight trips and day trips within CT and surrounding states. To kick off this initiative, the HRC has partnered with the Windsor Freedom Trail in their walking tour coming up on Saturday 9/23/23.

Potential Trips for this program are (to name a few):

- Indigenous People Museum
- Food Insecurity-Foodshare/Windsor Food and Fuel
- United Nations
- African American History Museum-Washington DC
- International African American History-South Carolina
- Freedom Trail /Underground Railroad

The Commission will continue to hold major annual events that the WHRC is known for.

- One Book One Windsor
- Bridge Builder Award Ceremony
- Phenomenal Women award ceremony
- Juneteenth Celebrations
- Black History Jeopardy
- Poetry Collaboration with the Windsor Art Center during Juneteenth

The commission will continue to have a CVS window display and will continue to collaborate with local community members on the Juneteenth celebration event.

Councilor Black-Burke thanked them for all the work they do. It was a difficult year. She lifted up ‘The Experience in Windsor’ event. She believes it will be absolutely phenomenal.

Deputy Mayor Bress thanked the Human Relations Commission for all their hard work. They do a phenomenal job. She added the Personnel Committee has interviewed some individuals and there were two individuals who were interested in the Human Relations Commission. We have more interested individuals as well.

8) TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Town Manager Souza gave the following report:

Household Hazardous Waste Day

September 23rd is Household Hazardous Waste Day sponsored by the Metropolitan District Commission. Bring your household hazardous waste to the MDC Water Pollution Control Facility at 1222 Poquonock Avenue for free disposal from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you can’t get to the MDC today, go to themdc.com or call 860-285-1800 and we’ll give you the dates for drop off in other communities.

The Longest Table, A Community Meal

In observance of Hunger Action Month, the Windsor Hunger Action Team will be hosting The Longest Table, A Community Meal at the LP Wilson Community Center, Friday September 22nd from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Any Windsor resident is welcome to the table. Together, we will increase awareness of social justice concerns, address the mental health concern of loneliness during COVID, and share a meal and community conversation on local hunger issues and solutions. Free. Registration is required. Call 860-285-1839 to register.

Weekend Wheels 10th Anniversary

The Windsor Food & Fuel Bank's Weekend Wheels program celebrated its 10 anniversary of distributing food to Windsor school children this year. Many children receive free or reduced meals during the school week, but may be lacking food on the weekends. Weekend Wheels keeps children be nutritiously satisfied through the weekends so they are ready to focus and learn in school. Children from eligible families will receive a weekly home delivery bag filled with groceries.

The program began distributions to elementary age children, then expanded its program to include middle school children. Starting this fall, the program will further expand to include high school age children. Since 2013, this program has made 23,500 weekly distributions totaling approximately 136,000 pound of food.

For more information, contact Susan Nunes at 850-285-1839.

Farmington River Clean Up

The 36th annual Farmington River Cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 23rd from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The Farmington River Watershed Association (FWRA) is the prime sponsor of this event and as in past years, the town is participating by having a cleanup location at the River Street Park / Canoe Launch. Up to 20 volunteers can be accommodated at this location. More information is on the FWRA website. Individual volunteers can go to the town's website at www.townofwindsorct.com for more information and register using the following link: <https://grow.withlome.com/a/f24134bd-c689-4c34-9b8b-89716b4274e8>

Special Town Council Meeting – Review of Ambulance Study

A Special Town Council Workshop/Meeting to review the recently completed Emergency Medical Services Study will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Town Hall.

Eversource Electrical Work – West End of Day Hill Road

Eversource is planning an upgrade of their underground electrical infrastructure on Day Hill Road. The project spans from Blue Hills Avenue to Great Pond Village. This improvement is to support the increasing electric demand on Day Hill Road, including Target's refrigerated distribution center at Great Pond. Work will begin in the coming weeks and last approximately 45 days. Construction will be in the roadway and will affect west bound traffic. The road will be open but subject to lane closures and shifts.

Windsor Worx Grand Opening

There will be a grand opening celebration of Windsor Worx, Wednesday, September 20, 2023 from 4:00-7:00 PM. Windsor Worx is a new co-working space and small business resource center in the heart of Windsor Center on Central Street.

Councilor Walker asked if we will be testing the air quality in other school buildings. Town Manager Souza responded that is a question for the superintendent and he will talk to Dr. Hill and then get back to Councilor Walker with a response.

Councilor Eleveld stated we are a triple net landlord to the Board of Education. They are responsible for the basic maintenance of the buildings, not major maintenance. They are responsible to paint them, to fix the floors, to pay the utility bills, etc. correct? Town Manager Souza stated that is correct.

Councilor Eleveld stated he has been hearing the Town Council is dropping the ball on this issue. He could be wrong but based upon how he understands it, the Board of Education hasn't attacked the issue as well as they could have. He'd like to see this issue be resolved quickly. He stated that there will be three engineering firms taking a look at the building. Let them all come and assess the situation and then get back to us. He feels that one of those firms would have a solution. He understands why parents are upset and would like to get this resolved as quickly as possible.

9) REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Town Improvements Committee – Councilor Dobler – nothing to report.

Finance Committee – Councilor Naeem – nothing to report.

Health and Safety Committee – Councilor Black-Burke – nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Deputy Mayor Bress stated the Personnel Committee has recommended some individuals names for the Arts Commission for the Town Council to vote on tonight. The Personnel Committee will also be beginning the process of the Town Manager's evaluation. An email was sent to all councilors on Friday which has the process and procedures in it.

10) ORDINANCES - None

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Approve multi-use path on Day Hill Road between Prospect Hill Road and 2100 Day Hill Road

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve the proposed path segment as shown on Attachment 'A' in the Day Hill Road Corridor pursuant to Section 15-33 of the *Town of Windsor Code of Ordinances*.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

12) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Accept Connecticut Department of Public Health grant related to immunizations

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Black-Burke to accept the CDC immunization and Vaccines for Children COVID-19 Supplement Grant and authorize expenditure of funds.

Michael Pepe, Director of Health Services, and Jen Waldo, Public Health Nurse, stated the Windsor Health Department will use the grant funds to complement the Center for Disease Control's R.I.S.E Program which stands for **Required Immunizations on Schedule for Everyone**. The program includes all vaccines across the lifespan; therefore, funds will be used to promote vaccinations for children, youth and adults.

The Health Department will receive over \$95,000 for this grant and it is required to spend 25% of the grant funding on community awareness and education initiatives.

Another requirement of the grant funding is to complete a Rapid Community Assessment (RCA). A RCA is a targeted needs assessment used to determine vaccine barriers, educational needs, etc.

The Health Department will also provide educational materials and resources through community events such as the Windsor Neighborhood Block Parties, Windsor Back to School Block Party, Shad Derby, etc.

The Health Department is also partnering with Senior Transportation to subsidize transportation services to help residents get to and from their local primary care provider or pharmacy to receive vaccines.

Mayor Trinks asked if the latest COVID vaccine is out yet. He heard it would be available at the end of September. Ms. Waldo stated it is out.

Town Manager Souza added that the name of this grant may be a little misleading. This is the actual funding source so we are required to have the grant titled as it is, but this program will be for all ages, it's not just for children.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

- b) Accept Connecticut Department of Public Health grants related to lead paint testing

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Walker to accept the State of Connecticut grant for Lead Poisoning Epidemiological Investigations and authorize the expenditure of grant funds.

Michael Pepe, Director of Health Services, stated the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support the State's response to lead poisoning for children. The Windsor Health Department will receive \$11,440 through this grant reimbursement program. Childhood lead poisoning is one of the most common pediatric public health problems that is preventable. Lead poisoning can seriously harm a child's health including damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems and hearing and speech problems.

When there is a child whose lead screening results are equal to or above the regulatory threshold, the local health department initiates an epidemiological investigation and on-site inspection of a residential dwelling to identify lead hazards. This investigation is a thorough examination of lead hazards for the child and the family and includes environmental, demographic information and residency information. It also includes child medical status and child behavior risk factors. Other information that is gathered includes lead hazards related to household renovations, water, soil, food storage, imported goods such as spices, jewelry or toys.

The Health Department works with the individuals on remediation, which varies depending upon the source. The Health Department is involved until the source is remediated and testing levels are reduced to acceptable limits.

Councilor Eleveld stated that the money will go to staff salaries and that is presuming that it is based on the fact that someone else has paid for the blood tests correct? Dr. Pepe responded that is correct, it is part of their normal care for the child. It's picked up by the insurance.

Councilor Black-Burke asked about the remediation that has to take place. What happens next? Dr. Pepe stated that a remediation consultant is hired by the owner of the property and they will come up with a plan of various ways of removing or covering over those areas that are causing the elevated lead. Once that happens, there are different avenues they can use to defray the cost of remediation. They can go to the Windsor Community Development office to see if any grants are available. If there are structural

updates needed, then the Building Department would get involved, such as the replacement of windows or larger structural surfaces. Once that is all done, the remediation consultant will go back and recheck the area to make sure the lead levels have decreased and it's safe.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

- c) Accept Connecticut Department of Public Health grant related to public health workforce development

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Naeem to accept the Public Health Workforce Development and Infrastructure Grant and authorize the expenditure of grant funds.

Michael Pepe, Director of Health Services, stated the Health Department will receive \$64,938 in grant funding. These monies will be used to provide funding support for the Sanitarian position that was approved as part of the FY 24 budget. The grant proceeds will also provide funding support for up to five additional hours per week for our part-time code enforcement position.

In addition the grant will provide staff the ability to attend regional conferences as well as other training sessions in order to provide increased professional development and learning opportunities.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

- d) Accept Connecticut Department of Public Health grant related to suicide prevention

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Eleveld to accept the Preventive Health Strategies at Work in Connecticut Communities Grant in the amount of \$281,250 and authorize the expenditure of grant funds.

Michael Pepe, Director of Health Services, stated the Health Department will collaborate with other town departments, public/private schools, community and regional partners to promote mental health awareness and provide suicide prevention programs and resources. Existing programs such as *QPR* (Question, Persuade, Refer) will be offered and new programs such as *On Our Sleeves* will be introduced. *On Our Sleeves* will provide an avenue to promote mental health awareness for children and adolescents in both public and private schools in Windsor. New partnerships with private businesses, not-for-profits, fitness centers and sporting venues will be formed to target men aged 25-64 as well as other impacted groups. This outreach will help to reduce the stigma surrounding help-seeking and work to promote self-care and mental health support.

The grant requires the town to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Conducting a CHNA is essential to identify gaps, as it allows for a better overall

understanding of the health needs and priorities of a community. Data will be gathered through live interviews, phone interviews, focus groups, paper surveys and electronic surveys. The results will be reviewed and discussed with a multi-disciplinary team of town staff in collaboration with community stakeholders. The CHNA will be completed with the support of a subcontractor funded through the grant.

The Windsor Health Department will receive a total of \$281,250. The grant period starts in February 2024 and will run through September 2028. At this time, the Town Council is respectively requested to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of the grant.

Councilor Naeem thanked Jen Waldo and Mike Pepe for the work they did to identify this as an important area for us to look into and to apply for grants. It is unsettling for her to hear that Windsor has the second highest suicide rate in the state. A lot of programs that you mentioned today add value such as the speaker series, points of engagement and hearing from others. You also mentioned what the surgeon general released about the epidemic of 'loneliness and isolation'. She's not sure that we have a way of addressing this as an underlying challenge when it comes to some of the situations we've had in town. How do we address those challenges? How do we do more and do better, because the second highest rate of suicide is beyond her comprehension. Ms. Waldo explained that they will be working with other departments who host activities, such as the libraries and parks and leisure, to try and bring individuals together. They'll also be working with face-based organizations. They were a part of our letters of support. How do we again create that connection and get people together? We have to remember that during the pandemic we isolated to prevent transmission. Now as things change and we get better at our other strategies, how do we bring people back together? It's not just getting together but getting that support within the organization to help them.

Town Manager Souza added that the Town Council had previously approved funds for a Community Wide Health initiative which is "Be Well Windsor". To date, we've offered over 32 different programs through the library and recreation. We've served over 800 participants. We'll be teaming up with other departments and community organizations including private entities such as some of our fitness centers in town so we can reach a broader range of individuals. Deputy Mayor Bress made a few suggestions last week on how some of the national associations are reaching out to some of the populations. We'll be exploring that as well.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that the agenda item summary read, '....second highest crude suicide rate'. She's trying to get more of a definition as to what that means. What is the data source? Is there somewhere else we can go to gather more information as citizens and councilors? Ms. Waldo stated the data source is from the CT Department of Public Health. The crude rate is a way to compare apples to apples. It's looking at 100,000 people. That's where it is similar to the COVID case rate. Where we compare state wide is second with a 22.67. We had 20 suicides from 2020-2022. As a comparison, from 2015-2019 there were 21 suicides and the rate was 14.5.

Deputy Mayor Bress asked how the survey will be taken in terms of access for some of the age groups we are looking at. Ms. Waldo stated that they will be working on an RFP

for proposals and work with a different agency to conduct the Community Health Needs Assessment.

Deputy Mayor Bress asked if it will be an online survey or an in person survey? Ms. Waldo stated they expect it will be done in a variety of ways. It could be in the form of survey groups, on line, via discussions, paper, etc. We want to cross as many in the town that we can.

Deputy Mayor Bress stated that one of the approaches she had stated earlier that was successful in reaching out to that particular age group is online with gaming type of activities, or activities where individuals feel like it's a little less stigmatized and less frightening to join a group of individuals of a particular age online playing a game.

Councilor Eleveld stated the 25-64 age group was a little surprising. Do we have any idea on what the demographic makeup is? He knows that many veterans have a relatively high rate of suicide. Do the veterans fall into that 25-64 group? Ms. Waldo stated she doesn't have specific demographics on the individuals themselves.

Councilor Eleveld asked if they are looking at working with some of the veteran organizations. Ms. Waldo stated they are open to working with community partners and other organizations.

Councilor Black-Burke said thinking about the age spread of 25-64. Where is the starting point and where can we get the information to the individuals that may be in need of it. Do we even have that information in town? Was there some commonality? Ms. Waldo said that we are aware that the veterans are at risk. The data that we have is for the 25-44 group, there were 7 deaths by suicide and for the 45-64 group, there were 8 deaths by suicide.

Councilor Smith recapped that there are 6-7 suicides a year in Windsor. Ms. Waldo said on average, yes.

Councilor Smith stated there is a lot of information out there, there are hot lines available and it should be posted in all public buildings.

Councilor Eleveld added that 9-8-8 is the suicide help line.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

- e) Approve resolution related to Mill Brook Open Space grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Dobler that Peter P. Souza as Town Manager of the Town of Windsor is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Windsor an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement and a Conservation and Public Recreation Easement and Agreement for property known as

Mill Brook Open Space” OSWA #529 with the DEEP, and to manage said land as open space land pursuant to Section 7-131d of the *Connecticut General Statutes*.”

Town Manager Souza stated the open space parcel is part of the Mill Brook Greenway corridor and previously was a privately-operated golf course. It is undergoing reclamation into a varied mix of wet and upland meadow with high grass and low shrubs along with an early successional forest.

The purchase price of \$2.1M was funded through use of the Town’s Open Space Fund, General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance and an Open Space and Watershed Protection Grant of \$1,086,000 from the State.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

13) RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Eleveld to accept with regret the resignation of James Madison from the Human Relations Commission and Joyce Armstrong from the Human Relations Commission.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Black-Burke to:

- APPOINT Christian Ryan as an Unaffiliated member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed..
- APPOINT Sarah Laiuppa as an Unaffiliated member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.
- APPOINT Michael Daly as a Democratic Alternate member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.
- APPOINT Christina Swaidan as a Democratic member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.
- APPOINT Kathryn Grimshaw Parker as a Democratic member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.
- APPOINT Edward Richters as a Democratic member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.
- APPOINT Neill Sachdev as a Democratic member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.

- APPOINT Spencer Moore as a Republican member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.
- APPOINT Catherine Lewis as a Democratic Alternate member to the Arts Commission for a three year term to expire August 29, 2026 or until a successor is appointed.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

14) MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the September 5, 2023 Regular Town Council Meeting

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Bress, seconded by Councilor Naeem to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 Regular Town Council meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 7-0-1 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent, Councilor Eleveld abstained)

15) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS - None

Darlene Klase, 318 Hitching Post Lane, wanted to address the comment on the relationship between the Town Council and the Board of Education. She agrees in part that the Council and the town is responsible for the buildings and the major maintenance and the Board of Education is responsible in letting the Town Council know when there's a major issue. However, she believes the Board of Education did let the town know of the major issue and they believed that the contractors that the town brought in were going to address that major issue. She doesn't think that is what happened. She doesn't think it's the time to point fingers but rather to go forward. Maybe we need to understand our responsibilities a bit better, but in her opinion in looking at the document it was articulated that there was a problem. She believed and trusted that what was going to be remedied in those problems was going to take care of that.

Leonard Lockhart, 57 Columbia Road, said we walked into this process with the understanding that we weren't going to look backwards but look forward. He wants to publicly acknowledge on behalf of the Board of Education they recognize this is being pointed back at them. On behalf of the Board of Education, he invited all the councilors to the meeting they are having tomorrow. We will address this. We understand the landlord/tenant relationship. We will document exactly how we've been documenting this for a very long time. We will document any failures that the Board of Education may have not done. For example, as a tenant not pressing the landlord, etc. He thanked the Council for shining a light on the situation. He's inviting all of the councilors to the meeting tomorrow and they will provide a response that will address the situation in a very candid manner.

David Furie, 37 Lighthouse Hill Road, invited the Council and citizens to the Board of Education meeting tomorrow night. They will have the issue of mold at Oliver Ellsworth

on their regular agenda for every meeting until however long the process takes. He thanked Leonard, Councilor Smith, Mr. Panos and everybody working on this and not only working on it, but going to the school and looking at the pipe, etc. We need to go forward with this and get things fixed for our staff, residents and especially our students at the school. What people want to know is if it is safe in the building, can they bring their child there, should their staff person be working there and are there alternatives. He spoke of the situation that happened at Deep River school district and how they moved their kids to the high school. He spoke to someone on the Board of Education that is over that region and he said that they had two half empty buildings and that was how they could move the children from the school. The problem at Deep River was the chiller and it was causing mold. The Board of Education is looking at alternatives and if they have to close the building. Mr. Furie said the main question is are children safe to go into the building? He feels the Board of Education is being responsive and the dehumidifiers that are in the classrooms have been helping to lower the humidity rate. We need to make sure that what we put into the school now will solve this problem.

Councilor Black-Burke stated that it is important to know that commentary was shared in regards to Oliver Ellsworth and the landlord/tenant relationship. But it is also a great time as a Council to lay on the table that we need to revisit when they had a joint team that was comprised of the Board of Education and Town Council. That helped when things like this came up where they could be discussed and addressed in real time.

Deputy Mayor Bress stated she is with Councilor Black-Burke 100%.

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17) ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor Eleveld, seconded by Councilor Black-Burke to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Motion Passed 8-0-0 (Councilor Gluck Hoffman absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Helene Albert
Recording Secretary