

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING - BOARD OF FINANCE  
OXFORD TOWN HALL  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015, 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Chairman Jack Kiley, Richard Burke, Lila Ferrillo, Robert DeBisschop, Tom Kelly.  
Also present: James Hliva, Finance Director. Absent: Nancy Schmitt.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiley at 8:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Revenue projections 2015-2016**

This issue was not brought up for discussion at this meeting.

**Update on the Towner Lane Sewer repair and future costs**

Scott Halstead was in attendance to discuss this matter. He went into detail about the original design of the gravity sewer line and the force main. All the piping would need to be changed and would not be cost-effective. Running a new line would be more efficient. Mr. Kelly asked can the line can be abandoned and the response was yes. Contents of the line are biodegradable so there is no danger leaving the line in the ground. Mr. Kiley asked that Mr. Halstead keep the Board of Finance informed of the planning. Mr. Kelly said Mr. Halstead should be assessing the future planning of repairs and future costs which can be incorporated into capital budgeting every year. Ms. Ferrillo said it could have been just a defect in the line as most lines last a longer time. She suggested digging up about 500 feet away to check out status of the line to see if there is any more deterioration in the line. Mr. Halstead said the cost is approximately \$30,000 to dig up line to check condition of the line. \$45,000 got charged against maintenance account accordingly to Mr. Hliva. Ms. Ferrillo said the money should really come out of general fund.

**Discussion with the First Selectman on future Capital Projects**

The Board of Selectmen have voted to sell cell towers that are currently leased. Price was \$1,350,000. Mr. Temple said he supported the sale. With the windfall, there are several projects to be addressed:

1. Tetlak Park: Oxford received a \$500,000 grant from State of Connecticut. Bids went out for site work (3 fields: 2 girls' softball fields and 1 utility field) and came back at approximately \$750,000. Oxford should opt to fund the \$750,000 because if they don't there is a possibility of losing the grant. This is an opportunity to provide fields for sports use.

Mr. Kelly asked why Oxford would lose the grant. Mr. Temple explained that if bids are not supplemented, grants go away. Mr. Kelly asked if the grant money would not cover what needs to be done. Mr. Temple said the project is attempting to be addressed in three phases. Boys' baseball and a storage area are the next two phases. Mr. Kelly asked if the grant would be lost if all Town did was work covered by the amount of the grant. Mr. Temple said that the State does not like to provide grants and not have the town provide some of its own money to accomplish the projects.

Mr. Kelly pointed out that Board of Education research reports child population is decreasing. Mr. Temple countered with an explanation that recently a trailer park of 160 units has been approved and affordable housing is going in. He is concerned that there are no facilities provided for children at either the trailer (modular housing) park. These fields are genuinely needed.

The total amount for Tetlak Park would be approximately \$800,000 including engineering and Clerk of the Works. Mr. Temple went on to discuss the advantages of having the property. Selling price is \$50,000 for three acres. Mr. Temple asked Mr. Hliva to get in touch with the realtor for the property on Great Oak to try to purchase both properties.

Because of a question by Mr. Kelly regarding the political correctness of the designation of "girls' fields" and "boys' fields", a lengthy discussion ensued by Mr. Temple and Ms. Ferrillo to explain why the differentiation is needed and the importance of the necessity of the fields.

Mr. Temple read off of a handout regarding the costs for the field behind the high school. Mr. Kiley offered to pass out the paper. Mr. Temple stated that these are estimated numbers and he is not wedded to the amount.

2. Lily Park: Mr. Temple is concerned about the need for security cameras for Lily Park. These are solar battery cameras. The cost would be about \$20,000 for hookup. There would be remote access to Town Hall and the police station. There also the capability to read license plates. Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Temple why only Lily Park. Mr. Temple said he wants to see how it works. If it works well, he will ask for all the parks. Mr. Kelly asked if more police will be needed. The answer is no; the cameras are recorded to the tapes can be viewed.
3. Fire Truck: Ms. Ferrillo said money coming from Masonicare will be for one-half of one fire truck. Mr. Kiley reminded Mr. Temple that the \$1.2M coming in from the sale of the cell towers will be going right out again for sewer repair.

Mr. Kelly asked what the maintenance cost impact would be on the fields. Mr. Temple said the baseball field would be nothing, Tetlak Park would be nothing and Ms. Ferrillo questioned how that could be. Mr. Temple then said Tetlak Park will have some cost,

Lily Park will be some cost; that there will be some economic development which would make these costs less prohibitive. Ms. Ferrillo asked what new economic development is coming in (Mr. Kiley referred to an attachment which outlined these projects).

There was some discussion with Mr. Temple regarding the new anticipated housing and other economic development. Ms. Ferrillo asked when the Haynes project came up couldn't they have been forced to provide some open space/recreational facility for children. Mr. Temple referred to Mr. Herman Schuler, who was there as an audience, for clarity on the affordable housing and Mr. Schuler began his explanation. Mr. Burke commented on the impact study done regarding the housing. He believes that the shopping center and the housing will contribute to a big change not just the police force but also on the three public safety offices.

Mr. Burke asked if the affordable housing will be high-end housing and Mr. Schuler said it would be very nice housing. Mr. Burke said he would not pay a lot of money for a house where the front door looked out on a shopping center and the back door looked out on whatever will be there.

A very in-depth discussed began among several members including Mr. Temple regarding the impression made by the Town of Oxford, that being the condition of roads, sports fields, the appearance of Route 67, etc.

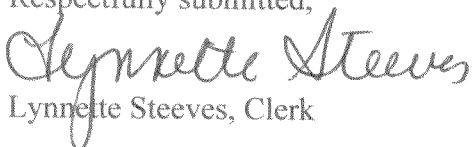
Mr. Kiley suggested listing all projects in an order of priority that need to be done. Ms. Ferrillo said there is so much that needs to be done, Board of Finance needs to be made aware. Mr. Hliva suggested sending out the five-year plan to everyone and everyone makes their notes.

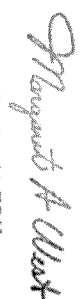
Mr. Temple said he would have liked more money for roads funds. Ms. Ferrillo said LOCIP funds were designated for this.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kelly made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mr. Kiley. All in favor; motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lynnette Steeves, Clerk

15 AUG 24 PM 6:56  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
  
TOWN CLERK