



TOWN OF OXFORD

S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall
486 Oxford Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478-1298

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2020
7:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Hangout Meets

The Town of Oxford Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:30 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq., Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman Heather Haney, Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman

Absent: None.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

First Selectman George Temple asked everyone to remain standing to observe a Moment of Silence in memory of Tom Kelly, a former Board of Finance member who recently passed away.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 10/7/20 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 10/7/20 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Hire Oxford Police Officer

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Hire Oxford Police Officer as Item #7 under New Business. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. Add a Selectmen's Plaque to the New Middle School

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add a Selectmen's Plaque to the New Middle School as Item #8 and then move Report of First Selectman to Item #9. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Great Oak Middle School Evaluation & Improvement Committee Phase II Funding Request

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve an additional funding, in the amount of \$8,028,183, in order to complete the renovation of the Great Oak Middle School Building and grounds as outlined in the letter dated 10/7/20 from the Great Oak Middle School Evaluation & Improvement Committee Chairman. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to *table* this item. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: None.

As an aside, First Selectman George Temple gave some background information for future reference. There will be a review of improvements, priorities and financing, and then a discussion with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Questions were posed to both Herman Schuler (School Building Committee) and George Renzoni (Oxford Public Schools Facility Manager).

2. Everybody Learns Library Grant – Accept and Approve Budget

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved accept the Everybody Learns Grant, in the amount of \$26,449.00, to be used by the Library and expended in accordance with the attached budget (Attachment A). This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Robbi Costigan, Director of Municipal/Library Media Operations, explained that the grant came from the governor's office and was awarded to 62 public libraries across the state to increase library capacity and to be spent on categories provided (see Attachment A). First Selectman George Temple thanked Robbi for her hard work.

3. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

First Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$606,387.99, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 10/19/20 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This was reviewed by the Board of Selectmen. Eversource had previously received an incorrect bill from tax assessor.

4. FY 2020 – 2021 Transfer Request

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved approve the following FY 2020 – 2021 Transfer Request as presented by the Finance Director:

To: 5535-672-207	Legal Service Assessor	\$24,326.50
From: 5320-560-5320	Finance Contingency	\$24,326.50

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple explained that the money is to pay for legal fees incurred to present a case against a particular taxpayer to recoup taxes that were underpaid. This will go to a Board of Finance executive session if deemed necessary by the Board of Finance Chairman.

5. Hire Part-Time Custodian

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire John Decker as the Part-Time Custodian with a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour and a start date of Tuesday, October 20, 2020. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 2 Ayes: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Arnold Jensen. 1 Recusal: Selectman Heather Haney. Motion carries.

Discussion: John Decker will assist with the work load increase that has resulted from Coronavirus sanitizing measures.

6. FY 2019 – 2020 Annual Report - Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 2019 – 2020 Annual Report as presented. This report will be made available on the Town's municipal website and in the office of the Town Clerk by January 15, 2021 per Town Charter. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: None.

7. Hire Oxford Police Officer

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Robert Boroski as an Oxford Police officer with a pay rate of \$34.78 and a start date of January 1, 2021. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: State Trooper Sgt. Robert Boroski will retire from the State Police on January 1, 2021. He will then serve as an Oxford policeman. Discussion was held concerning the police schedule. Sgt. Boroski thanked the Board of Selectmen for hiring him.

8. Add a Selectmen's Plaque to the New Middle School

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to add a Selectmen's Plaque to the New Middle School. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple would like to acknowledge everyone who worked on the New Middle School project.

9. Report of First Selectman

1. **Tax Collection Rate.** The 2020 collection of taxes for the Town of Oxford has increased by 2% from last year.
2. **Speed Limit Signs.** The State of Connecticut will give the Town of Oxford a couple of speed limit signs. Placement of the signs will be discussed with the police.
3. **Oxford Middle School Opening.** The new Oxford Middle School will celebrate a ribbon cutting and opening this Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Noon at 40 Great Oak Road in Oxford. Congressman Himes will be in attendance. A tour of the school will be given, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 12:00 PM Noon. All are invited to attend.

4. **Light the Valley CT - Shine for Breast Cancer Survivors.** A fundraising event to benefit the Hewitt Center for Breast Wellness at Griffin Hospital will be held on October 24, 2020 at the Oxford Quarry Walk from 6:00-9:00 PM. There will be live music, speakers and local vendors at the event. First Selectman George Temple will lend his support and speak at the event. There will be fundraising luminaries available, and anyone who posts a photo of their luminary on Facebook will be entered into a weekly raffle.
5. **Trick or Trunk.** This year's Trick or Trunk will be held on October 31, 2020 at the Oxford High School. Decorated trunks will be displayed, and there will be a decorated car procession. Following the procession, candy will be distributed following all measures for social distancing along with the wearing of gloves and masks. Kyra Nesteriak, Parks and Recreation Director, was thanked for her work on the program.
6. **Pink the First Selectman.** The fundraising event will take place at the Oxford Town Hall on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Donations of \$10.00 will be accepted to have a picture taken with First Selectman George Temple. Wearing of masks is required. The donations will go to Griffin Hospital to raise money for breast cancer awareness.


AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Jack Kiley, Oxford Board of Finance Chairman, noted that 70% of taxes collected this year was from mortgage payments to the banks. Banks always pay owed property taxes to the town.

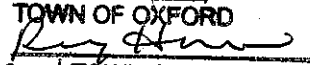
ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary LoPresti
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

RECEIVED 10/27/2020
AT 10:00 AM
TOWN OF OXFORD

Asst TOWN CLERK