



TOWN OF OXFORD

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

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

Wednesday, December 2, 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 7:31 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.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 11/18/20 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 11/18/20 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

Selectman Heather Haney questioned her appointment to the Housing Authority Board. First Selectman George Temple explained that according to state statute an elected official cannot sit on the Board. However, First Selectman George Temple would like Selectman Heather Haney to be an advocate and represent the Board of Selectmen on the Housing Authority Board. Selectman Heather Haney agreed to volunteer in that capacity.

First Selectman George Temple stated that he would like to appoint Betsy Hellman to the Sustainability Committee.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to amend the agenda to include Appoint Betsy Hellman to the Sustainability Committee under Appointments. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Appoint Betsy Hellman to the Sustainability Committee

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to Appoint Betsy Hellman to the Sustainability Committee. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Selectman Heather Haney discussed the positive attributes that Betsy Hellman will bring to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

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

This matter will remain on the table.

2. Change Part-Time Fire Department/Fire Marshal Clerk to Full-Time Fire Department/Fire Marshal Clerk

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 change the Part-Time Fire Department/Fire Marshal Clerk to a Full-Time Fire Department/Fire Marshal Clerk and approve the attached job description as presented; as recommended by the Chief of Chiefs in his letter dated 2/18/2020. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney.

Discussion: The job description will be revised to show change in title, hours and pay rate. The motion will need to be amended to include the Finance Department as part of the job responsibility.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to change the Part-Time Fire Department/Fire Marshal Clerk to a Full-Time Fire Department/Fire Marshal/Finance Department Clerk. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to hire Marni Soss to be the Full-Time Fire Department/Fire Marshal/Finance Department Clerk, which is a non-union position, at a pay rate of \$22.50. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This non-union position is for 34 hours, Monday through Thursday.

3. Cornerstone Assembly of God Purchase and Sale Agreement – Approve in Accordance with Governors Order No. 7JJ, Paragraph 4

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 following *Resolution*:

Whereas, a proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement for the sale/swap of certain undeveloped real property from the Town of Oxford (“Town”) to the Cornerstone Assembly of God (“Cornerstone”) was approved by the Board of Selectmen on October 7, 2020 and received a positive recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission; and

Whereas, the Town’s Charter requires any sale of Town real property to be approved at a special town meeting; and

Whereas, the Town’s Charter notwithstanding, Governor Lamont’s Executive Order No. 7JJ, Paragraph 4, specifically authorizes the Town’s Board of Selectmen to approve the proposed sale of real property to Cornerstone in lieu of holding a special town meeting; and

Whereas, the Board of Selectmen specifically finds that (i) Connecticut is in the midst of a public health emergency with the number of cases of Covid 19 increasing rapidly and to hold an in-person town meeting at this time would pose a risk to the public health and welfare of the Town’s citizens; (ii) approval of the proposed sale of real property by the Board of Selectmen is necessary to permit the orderly operation of the Town; and (iii) Cornerstone faces certain deadlines with respect to a related matter and has asked the Town to act on this matter as soon as possible.

Now Therefore, for the reasons described above and in order to avoid endangering public health and welfare, the Board of Selectmen moves to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the Cornerstone Assembly of God and the Town of Oxford, as presented and as reviewed and approved by Town Counsel, and to authorize the First

Selectman to sign said Agreement; all as in accordance with Connecticut's Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order No. 7JJ, Paragraph 4.

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Atty. Kevin Condon, Oxford Town Counsel, reviewed the agreement. He stated that the governor's executive order needed to be referenced in the motion. The Selectmen discussed the agreement and had no further questions.

4. STEAP Grant Woodruff Hill Industrial Park Sewerage Pump Station Project – Approve Engineer

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve Nafis & Young Engineers, of Northford, as the STEAP Grant Woodruff Hill Industrial Park Sewerage Pump Station Project Engineer, at a rate of \$60.00 per hour not to exceed \$25,000.00 to be taken from the CPV Towantic, LLC Funding Agreement, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign their contract as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Moving forward with the pump station will allow the Town to market the Woodruff Hill Industrial Park lots. Atty. Kevin Condon, Town Counsel, discussed the industrial lots.

5. Oxford Middle School Outdoor Learning Pavilion Request – Approve Project and Funding

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve funding for the Oxford Middle School, in an amount not to exceed \$135,000.00 as quoted by Coverworx Recreational Architecture of West Hartford, for the installation of two (2) pavilions (one on the concrete pad located outside the media center and the second outside the cafetorium). The cost of these two structures will be absorbed by the savings to the existing budget; all as presented and recommended by the Oxford Middle School Committee Chairman in his letter dated 10/30/20. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Bob Slie, Oxford Middle School Committee, stated that the construction is \$3 Million under budget. He explained how the two areas will be used for outdoor education as well as school events and Town activities.

6. Hire Land Use Attorney

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Attorney Kevin McSherry, of Naugatuck, as the Town of Oxford Land Use Attorney with a pay rate of \$190.00 per hour. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple discussed Attorney McSherry's qualifications. Dave Sauter, Chairman of the Oxford Planning and Zoning Commission, was introduced to Atty. McSherry.

7. Dad's Cannoli Truck Peddler's Permit – Approve

No Action Required

8. Report of First Selectman

- 1. Lighting of the Christmas Tree.** The Oxford Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on Friday, December 4, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Oxford Town Hall. It will also appear livestream on Facebook at 6:00 PM. At 6:30 PM there will be a Santa drive-thru at the Oxford Center School gazebo. Children will receive a free bag of goodies. At this time, non-perishable donations will also be accepted for the Oxford-Seymour Foodbank and the Police Department Toys for Tots drive.
- 2. First Annual Holiday Lights Contest.** The contest entry period is Friday, November 27, 2020 through Monday, December 14, 2020. The judging period will be Friday, December 18th from 5:00 PM-9:00 PM. Judges will view the homes in person from the roadway. Winners will be announced on Monday, December 21st and posted on the Oxford Parks & Recreation website and Facebook page. See the Oxford Parks & Recreation website for details.
- 3. Covid 19 Protocol for Oxford Town Hall.** CDC protocols need to be followed at the Oxford Town Hall. These include cleaning hands with antibacterial solutions and wearing face masks. Protocols will also dictate how a town employee who has tested Covid positive will be allowed back to work at the Town Hall.
- 4. Fire Department Chief.** Scott Pelletier has been nominated as Fire Chief by the Center Fire Department for 2021 at the October monthly meeting. The nomination was accepted and passed. The department and the Town have benefited from his leadership.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary LoPresti", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary LoPresti
Clerk, Board of Selectmen