



TOWN OF OXFORD

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

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, December 16, 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 7:36 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. 12/2/20 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 12/2/20 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to amend the agenda to add Hire Kevin Tymon as a Part-Time Plower. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Tax Refunds as #5 on the Agenda and move the Report of First Selectman to #6. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Selectman Heather Haney moved to add Appoint Ann Cummings of Oxford to the Oxford Housing Authority Crestview Ridge Commission to the Agenda. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Riverside Fire Company 2021 Chief Re-Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint John Downs, Jr., as Riverside Fire Company's 2021 Chief as presented and recommended in their letter dated 12/8/20. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: John Downs is doing a great job.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hire Kevin Tymon as a Part-Time Plower

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Kevin Tymon, of 5 Anna Drive, Oxford, CT, as a Part-Time Plow Operator for the Public Works Department at the standard pay rate for plow drivers. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kevin Tymon was recommended by Wayne Watt, Director of Public Works.

2. Appoint Ann Cummings to the Oxford Housing Authority

MOTION:

Selectman Heather Haney moved to hire Ann Cummings, of Punkup Road, Oxford, to be a member of the Oxford Housing Department Crestview Ridge to serve the remainder of Bill Burns' term until 2023. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Bill Burns was never sworn in, therefore Ann Cummings will serve the remaining term. She was an excellent town employee and will serve well on the Housing Authority Board.

3. Town of Seymour Holbrook Road Project – Approve Town of Oxford Easements

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Motion:

Whereas, the Town of Seymour is engaged in the reconstruction of Holbrook Road, and portions of said road encroach upon Town of Oxford property.

As such it is necessary for the Town of Oxford to grant certain Easements to the Town of Seymour, to facilitate the reconstruction project.

Whereas, the Town's Charter pursuant to Section 306(A)(4) requires a Special Town Meeting be convened for any sale or purchase of real estate, or any interest therein belonging to the Town.

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 granting of Easements to the Town of Seymour in lieu of holding a special Town meeting; and

Whereas, the Board of Selectmen specifically finds that: (1) 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; (2) approval of the proposed granting of easements by the Board of Selectmen is necessary to permit the orderly operation of the Town; and (3) the Town of Seymour faces certain deadlines imposed by the State of Connecticut, and has asked the Town of Oxford 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 granting of the proposed easements to the Town of Seymour, as presented and as reviewed and approved by Town Counsel and Town Engineer, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign said easements; 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, explained that these are drainage easements around the Town of Oxford. Bryan Nesteriak, Town Engineer (B & B Engineering), explained that there is a total of 15 easements that are needed for the upgrading of drainage. Questions and discussion by the Board of Selectmen regarding the time line for approvals and why the process takes so long to obtain approvals. Bryan Nesteriak discussed the approval process.

4. Solid Waste & Recycling License Permits

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Solid Waste/Recycling Permit License as approved by the Recycling Coordinator:

- USA Hauling & Recycling Solid Waste/Recycling, 15 Mullen Road, Enfield, CT 06082 (Solid Waste and Recycling).

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

Discussion: This is done every year. The USA Hauling & Recycling contract will be renewed.

5. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds as recommended by the tax collector in her letter dated December 16, 2020. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: None.

6. Report of First Selectman

1. **Oxford Tree Lighting and Santa Drive-Thru.** Everything went well with the event.
2. **Oxford Senior Center Party.** The Oxford Senior Center party has been postponed to Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 11:30 AM. The Town Hall party will be held on the same day.
3. **Covid-19 Vaccine.** Very close to having a Covid vaccine. The first responders have inquired about the vaccination program.
4. **Town of Oxford Bond Rate.** First Selectman George Temple, Finance Director James Hliva and the Bond Counsel met to renegotiate the short-term bond rate. The rate has been renegotiated to .5593%, down from 1.66%, a savings of approximately \$116,000.
5. **Town of Oxford Re-Evaluation.** The re-evaluation process is going well. Everyone's real estate values have gone up. Commercial property values have increased 20%. Taxes will rise, but the mill rate can be readjusted.

- 6. Contact Number for the First Selectman.** If anyone has any problems with the storm, they can contact the First Selectman at (203) 906-0348.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary LoPresti
Clerk, Board of Selectmen