



TOWN OF OXFORD

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

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

Wednesday, January 20, 2021
7:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Hangout Meets

The Town of Oxford Board of Selectmen Special Meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:32 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. 1/6/21 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 1/6/21 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Connecticut Water Customer Advisory Committee Oxford Representative

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Betsi Hellman to the Connecticut Water Customer Advisory Committee as the Oxford Representative. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Betsi Hellman is a customer, which is a required qualification to serve as a representative. She will serve well as a representative for the Town of Oxford.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 589 Investments, LLC Option Contract for Purchase of Lot #17 East Commerce Drive – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Agreement for Purchase of Real Property between the Town of Oxford and 589 Investments, LLC, of 29-1 Highland Road, for Lot #17 East Commerce Drive, as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign; all as presented and recommended by the Economic Development Director. 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 589 Investments, LLC in lieu of holding a special town meeting. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kevin Condon, Oxford Town Counsel, explained that the contract was originally an option contract stretched over five (5) years. Due to the lot topography, it was decided that it would be best to sell the lot outright for a cash deal of \$105,000. An additional contract clause requires that the lot cannot be transferred or sold within five (5) years. Jeff Luff, Oxford Economic Development Director, shared additional information pertaining to the buyer and what is planned for the lot, land appraisal and lot topography.

2. Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission Community Support Committee Application for Trail Mobility Bike – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support application for the Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission, in the amount of \$3,885.00 for the purchase of a Trail Mobility Unit: Surly Big Fat Dummy Cargo Bike; as approved by the committee at their meeting held on 1/1/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney.

Discussion: Glen Schumitz, Oxford Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission, explained that this item is at the request of Joe Lanier, Oxford Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission, for emergency and first aid use on Oxford's recreational trails. First Selectman George Temple expressed some concerns and the need for more information.

MOTION

First Selectman George Temple moved to *table* the approval of the Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission Community Support Committee Application for Trail Mobility Bike. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: More information is needed regarding safe storage, transportation to trails, qualified first aid staff.

3. Community Connectivity Grant South Sidewalk Project – Award General Contractor Bid

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to award the General Contractor Bid for the Community Connectivity Grant South Sidewalk Project to Grasso Companies, in the amount of \$342,760.00, as presented and recommended by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 1/15/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kathleen O’Neil, Oxford Grant Writer/Administrator, discussed the financial aspect of the grant. The grant pays for construction and materials; the town already paid approximately \$38,000.00 for soft costs. This was the lowest bid. The company has been thoroughly vetted and is expected to do a quality job on the project.

4. Trinity Solar Peddler’s Permit

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Peddler’s Permit for Trinity Solar with the following conditions:

- The Oxford Police Department must be notified daily, or each day you are soliciting, of the area in town where you will be soliciting along with the hours.
- No soliciting in neighborhoods where it clearly states “No Soliciting” such as, but not limited to, Oxford Greens, Meadowbrook Estates, River Bend Estates.
- Must have an identification badge available for inspection at all times.

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

Discussion: This is a routine approval for anyone who wishes to solicit business in town.

5. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$3,715.29, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 1/19/21 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: These are standard refunds.

6. Report of First Selectman

1. **Video with Dr. Browne.** An informational video on Covid 19 was created today with Dr. Browne, epidemiologist and infectious disease physician at Griffin Hospital. The video will be placed on the Oxford First Selectman page, Facebook and town website. It is very informative regarding the vaccine. First Selectman George Temple thanked Dr. Browne for his time and serving as a tremendous resource to the town. Dr. Browne is in charge of the vaccination program at Griffin Hospital.
2. **2021 Budget.** The Town of Oxford budget season is approaching. All departments are in the process of creating their budgets and requests for the year. First Selectman George Temple is optimistic regarding the town budget. The completion of the new middle school is approximately \$3 million under budget. The \$3 million will be used for the other schools to upgrade the heating system and perform other necessary repairs.
3. **Covid 19 Vaccine.** The Covid 19 vaccine is becoming available. The First Selectman would like Oxford to serve as a remote vaccination site.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary LoPresti
Clerk, Board of Selectmen