

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting/Hangout Meets/In Person

The Town of Oxford Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:33 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. 5/17/21 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 5/17/21 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

2. 5/19/21 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 5/19/21 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Library FY 2020 – 2021 Transfer Request

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Library FY 2020 – 2021 Transfer Request as Item #5. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

2. Award Tropical Storm Isaias Brush and Wood Grinding Bid

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Award Tropical Storm Isaias Brush and Wood Grinding Bid as Item #6. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries

3. Board of Selectmen Appropriation Request for Assessor Legal Fees

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Board of Selectmen Appropriation Request for Assessor Legal Fees as Item #7. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries

4. Board of Selectmen Appropriation Request for Labor Legal Fees

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Board of Selectmen Appropriation Request for Labor Legal Fees as Item #8 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #9. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Oxford Main Street Committee Appointments

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Jeff Luff to the Oxford Main Street Project Committee. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated Jeff Luff has been very involved with this project, and has come up with some great ideas. When all is finished it will be a beautiful park in town.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Jim Sanders to the Oxford Main Street Project Committee. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple said Mr. Sanders gets very involved and it is the infusion of that excitement we need in this committee to move it along. First selectman Temple said he is in favor of it, all agreed.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Helen Leung to the Oxford Main Street Project Committee. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple said Helen has been a terrific employee in the town hall. She has been really enthusiastic about this project, and she is going to do a great job. First Selectman Temple backed this.

First Selectman Temple also recommended that, since there had been two resignations from this committee; Kathleen O'Neill, a very important member of the committee, and Mary Lopresti, who was the minutes taker, the feeling is, he would like Jeff Luff to be named chairman of the Committee, he's here all the time to handle whatever comes up, he is smart, on top of everything, and he is experienced. Selectman Heather Haney agreed, Jeff Luff has been doing a great job all along.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved that the Board of Selectman make a strong recommendation to the Oxford Main Street Project Committee to appoint Jeff Luff as Chairman. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$3,538.69, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 6/1/21 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: These are just basic transfers.

2. Police Department FY 2020 – 2021 Transfer Request

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Police Department FY 2020 – 2021 transfer request:

TO: Police	5430-769	Supplies Departmental	\$6,000.00
FROM:	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$6,000.00

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: This is because the cost of ammunition has gone up. Jim Hliva, Finance Director, explained that they have the opportunity to get a hold of some much lower than market price, from a major manufacturer, and it is worth it.

3. Hire Public Work Utility Person

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Jesse Echevarria as a Public Works Utility Person at a pay rate of \$25.01 and a start date of Monday, June 7, 2021. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple inquired if this is to replace our recent retiree. Finance Director Jim Hliva confirmed that it is. Kristyn Rosa, Jeff Luff and Wayne Watt all were present for the interview. Wayne Watt explained that Jesse Echevarria worked as one of the fill-in part timers, he worked well, has experience already being there, and he is a great choice. Jeff Luff agreed he was the standout applicant, a go getter, hard worker and his first choice. Selectman Arnold Jensen said he is all for it.

4. Hire Assistant Senior Services Director

MOTION:

No action taken at this time.

5. Library FY 2020 – 2021 Transfer Request

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Library FY 2020 – 2021 transfer request:

TO: Library	5390-613-0000-0000	Facility Maintenance	\$9,985.00
FROM: Library	5390-517-0084	Wages All Part-Timers	\$9,985.00

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: Robbie Costigan, Library Director, explained that this is to have Cutting Edge Landscaping install a 36' x 16' foot paver patio in the back of the building. This is needed for outdoor space for the patrons, and outdoor programs. People may read or use the internet and Wifi devices out there also, which recently was made possible to be expanded outside due to a recent grant received. Also, due to another grant received, some devices are even provided that can be used on said patio. Selectman Heather Haney stated she loves the idea personally, and thinks the people will to. Robbie also explained that two awnings worth over \$9,000 are being donated so this Patio space can even be used in the poor weather. First Selectman George Temple added he personally thinks its forward thinking, and will be good for the whole town. All agreed.

6. Award Tropical Storm Isaias Brush and Wood Grinding Bid

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to award the Tropical Storm Isaias Brush and Wood Grinding Bid to Total Landscaping & Tree Service, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$44,000.00, for the removal of debris from Lot 14 Commerce Road East, deliver the material to a licensed facility, remove all garbage and return site to a gravel lot as presented in their bid proposal. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

(Note: FEMA will pay 75% with \$11,000 cost to the town)

Discussion: Jim Hliva, Finance Director, explains this was a FEMA declared disaster, so of \$44,000 FEMA is picking up \$33,000 of the bill, and the town will only have to pay \$11,000. Total Landscaping & Tree Service, LLC was the only bidder. They are coming in to chip/shred it on sight, bring it back to their facility to dye, and sell as mulch. They have a grinder, cat excavator, loader and a trailer.

7. Board of Selectmen Appropriation Request for Assessor Legal Fees

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Board of Selectmen appropriation request for Assessor's Office Legal Fees performed by Cummings & Lockwood:

TO: 5535-672-207	Legal Service Assessor	\$80,772.39
FROM:	Fund Balance	\$80,772.39

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: This was in regards to an audit of a taxpayer.

8. Board of Selectmen Appropriation Request for Labor Legal Fees

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Board of Selectmen appropriation request for Labor Legal Fees for Pullman & Comley:

TO:	5535-672-203	Outside Legal Services	\$9,649.22
FROM:		Fund Balance	\$9,649.22

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion: Jim Hliva explained, this is for the attorneys that handles all of the towns legal work, negotiating a one-year extension on the UPSEU contract last year for when we couldn't negotiate due to Covid-19, the current negotiations on the UPSEU are for a three- or four-year deal, and all the grievances and lawsuits filed mainly by the police department. First Selectman Temple agreed this is legitimate and recommends it is approved.

9. Report of First Selectman

Congrats to everyone for the Memorial Day Parade. Even with awful weather it turned out well. It was a solemn ceremony but, the dedication to the Howlitzer Cannon in front of the board of ed building, was very nice. Lyle Schriber, Lila Ferillo, Corky Burke and others were there.... they had planted all the flowers around it, looks very nice and they did a great job. It was a great turnout; we had a lot of bands too which is always nice. Also, it is really great to see all of our equipment out there going down the street, and to see how it is really second to none, the police and ambulance and fire trucks. But the most important thing is it was Memorial Day, it is not a time to celebrate but a time to remember.

There will be a Budget Referendum coming up on June 3rd 6am-8pm, the First Selectman Temple stated, that we couldn't have done any better than this. The mill rate is decreased by 3.5%, taxes are going down. A code red was sent out today to encourage people to vote.

Wednesday, June 9, 10am-3pm is a Blood Drive, at Town hall. Visit the American Red Cross website to book your appointment. Giving blood is very important especially now in the summer time, and less donators due to Covid-19, so it is encouraged to donate if you can.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

NO COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

21 JUN -9 PM 2:49
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Margaret A. West
TOWN CLERK

Respectfully Submitted,


Shannon-Lee Hicks
Clerk, Board of Selectman