

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2023
7:30 PM - Town Hall

First Selectman George Temple called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George R. Temple, Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman David McKane, and Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 3/15/23 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to *table* the approval of the 3/15/23 Regular Meeting minutes. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

None.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Joshua Dykstra to the Planning & Zoning Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/21/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple explained that we had the resignation of Mr. John Kerwin. We need to appoint a Democrat or unaffiliated to replace him. Mr. Dykstra has been an alternate for 5 years, and First Selectman Temple said he has been doing a great job. Selectman McKane stated that anyone who is an alternate for 5 years deserves a seat

on the Commission. First Selectman Temple praised Mr. Dykstra for a good job in his past year's work with the Planning & Zoning Commission and feels he will do a fantastic job.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fair Housing Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Fair Housing Resolution and authorize the First Selectman to sign:

FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION TOWN OF OXFORD

Whereas all persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, the Town of Oxford is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Oxford hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of Oxford or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Oxford and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal

services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple reaffirmed the Town of Oxford is committed to providing fair housing to all town residents.

2. Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Resolution for Vaill Property – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Resolution for Vaill Property and authorize the First Selectman to sign:

Whereas, the Town of Oxford has applied for and received a grant for financial assistance under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA), established and administered by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Resolved, that George R. Temple was elected as First Selectman on November 2, 2021, and his term of office began on November 16, 2021, and will continue until November 21, 2023. As the First Selectman, George R. Temple serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of Oxford and is duly authorized to enter into agreements and contracts on behalf of the Town of Oxford.

This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Grant Writer Karen Cook gave an update on this grant. She explained that DEEP awarded the Town \$409,000.00 to purchase the Vaill property at 117 Good Hill Road. There were 4 phases to this grant, and this is the final phase. Town Council is reviewing the deeds and doing a title search. Once that is done, this will be reviewed by Planning & Zoning to split the parcel. Then the state needs to approve. First Selectman George Temple stated that this is the final step to buy the bunny farm property. This property fronts the property that we own on Lake Zoar. Not only will it be used for open space, but it will also be used for passive recreation. We may give this to the Boys and Girls Scouts to map out camping sites and hiking trails. The owner, Ms. Judy Vaill, is anxious to have this property be part of her legacy. First Selectman Temple stated that he came up with a great name for it. It should be called the VAILL TRAIL while now and to see the

Selectman Arnold Jensen stated that we have been working to purchase this land for a long time. Selectman David McKane stated that this was a top priority piece for the Board of Directors of the Land Trust. He feels this is a great deal for the amount of land the Town is receiving. First Selectman Temple stated that the appraiser said it took him 3 hours to walk the land. He thinks this is a very good piece of open space. The Boys and Girls Scouts can use this land to earn their rank and provide the Town with a map of camping spaces. First Selectman Temple stated that we would be paying the remaining amount of money out of the Miriam Strong Account. There is approximately over \$1 million dollars left in the Miriam Strong Account.

3. Fire Fighters 2022 Tax Abatements – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Fire Fighters 2022 Tax Abatements (Attachment A) as presented and recommended by the Board of Fire Chiefs in their letter dated 3/23/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple fully supports these tax abatements. He pointed out that many of the Fire Fighters have been with us for many years; they are a very devoted group. The Town of Oxford appreciates their work and dedication. Selectman Arnold Jensen stated that the list is long. We have very active volunteers, and not everyone gets the abatement. Those who receive it must meet certain criteria and do a certain number of hours. Selectman McKane said that this is a small token of our appreciation.

4. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$6,444.64, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 3/30/23, and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Selectman McKane stated that one of the refund amounts was larger than we are used to seeing. Acting Tax Collector Helen Leung explained that this was a real estate refund. The resident paid their taxes three times in error, so we are refunding the money. First Selectman Temple stated that Ms. Leung is doing a very good job in the Tax Department.

5. Lot 2 East Commerce Drive Option to Purchase Agreement – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Lot 2 East Commerce Drive Option Agreement for the Purchase of Real Property between the Town of Oxford and 589 Investments, LLC, as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign said Agreement. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried. This matter will be forwarded to a Town Meeting.

Economic Development Director Jeff Luff stated that this is Town's last lot to sell. This property is being sold to Mark Oczkowski with a 5-year option contract. The sale is for \$250,000.00. First Selectman Temple stated that the reason for the option contract is because we don't want to commit the Town to sell land for speculation.

If the owner does nothing with the land after 5 years, he will lose 10% of the \$250,000.00 amount. That 10% goes back to the town, as does the land. This way, we do not have land sitting up there for no reason. Mr. Oczkowski is responsible for a lot of the Town's economic development. He developed Pheasant Run and Fox Hollow.

Selectman McKane said that he is a homegrown guy. He is an Oxford guy. First Selectman Temple stated that he feels we are safe with this contract; if we are not, we get money and the land back.

6. Hawley Road Project Landscaping Agreement – Approve and Forward to Board of Finance

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the funding, in the amount of \$5,500.00 to be taken from Finance Contingency, for the installation of trees and landscaping at 121 Hawley Road, as presented and recommended by the Town Engineer in his email dated 4/3/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple stated that this is the first project to go over budget, and a lot of time was spent on this project. The property owner who is requesting the additional landscaping lost privacy on her property due to the road construction. She is asking the Town to provide more trees for future privacy. First Selectman Temple explained that the already-done landscaping needs time to mature. The resident is also concerned about water washing out on the hill, so she would like the town to add more rocks for drainage. First Selectman Temple stated that we did go over this project, but to hold up a project for \$5,500.00 would be silly. This request is being forwarded to the Board of Finance.

7. Ride For Hope Charity Motorcycle Ride 2023 – Approve Use of Oxford Route and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the use of Route 67 and Route 188 through the Town of Oxford, on Sunday, June 11, 2023, between 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM, for the 11th Annual Ride for Hope Charity Motorcycle Ride and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Application for Special Use Permit. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple stated he is in favor of the Charity Motorcycle Ride; there has never been an issue during the event, and he praised their efforts.

8. APRA Funding Application Request for Youth Services Bureau

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to *table* the ARPA Funding Request, in the amount of \$28,000 a two-year commitment of \$14,000 per year), for the establishment of an Oxford Youth Services Bureau to develop the oversee programs and services to serve the specific needs of Oxford. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Mrs. Lynn Aiksnoras, of 785 Oxford Road and a member of the Open Space Committee, spoke to the Board of Selectmen about a Youth Services Bureau program (YSB) for Oxford children and the funding request of \$28,000. Mrs. Aiksnoras explained that the town's commitment would be \$14,000 yearly for at least two years. The State of Connecticut matches that \$14,000 a year. The state will also give \$15,000 a year for the direct use of programming and services. The \$15,000.00 cannot be used for overhead. Mrs. Aiksnoras went on to explain that during the three public forums in 2022, many Oxford residents expressed their wishes for space in the old Center School for programs and services for our young people, especially those not in active sports.

Mrs. Aiksnoras explained that since 1988 Youth Service Bureaus had been a very highly effective, affordable, and flexible model to help the teen population grow, socialize and thrive. Currently, there are 103 Youth Service Bureaus serving 109 towns in Connecticut. There is a lot that Youth Service Bureaus can do, but the first step is to assess the needs of the community. Then under the Advisory Board and Director, the YSB can go on to bring in programs and services to meet those needs. The YSB would need a strong connection with the middle and high schools. Mrs. Aiksnoras stated that they met with the schools, and they were supportive, and commitment was enthusiastic and unanimous.

This would be a yearly commitment to the Town of \$14,000.00, and she is asking that the Board of Selectman approve \$28,000.00 out of the ARPA funds to cover this two-year commitment.

Ms. Kelly Cronin (Executive Director of Kelly's Kids) spoke to the Board of Selectmen about the YSB program and Kelly's Kids. Ms. Cronin stated that YSB programs have been active for over 20 years, and Kelly's Kids' goal is to help and develop youth services for the Town of Oxford. There is a need for this program at Oxford. She went on to tell the Board that the State of Connecticut would match the \$14,000 yearly. If, after the two-year commitment; Oxford does not feel the program is working, the Town can stop funding the program. Ms. Cronin stated that Kelly's Kids would help develop the program for the town.

First Selectman George Temple stated he spoke to the Mayor of Wolcott, who spoke very highly of this program. However, they are in the early development stages of the program. He pointed out, again, that if the results do not justify the effort, after two years, we can end the program.

Mrs. Cronin told the Board that the program has many possible funding opportunities. She stated the money would be used for recreation programs and mental health for the children. She went on to say that she attended a meeting with the Oxford high school principal, assistant principal, director of student counseling, and school social worker to discuss the possibility of establishing this program. They were very enthusiastic and identified some of the services and programming that would immediately benefit the high school community. Ms. Cronin stated that they would provide staff that would be paid under Kelly's Kids.

First Selectman Temple stated that he agrees there may be a need. Sometimes there is a disconnect with Teenagers, and maybe this will point us in the right direction, and there is only one-way to find out. Ms. Cronin explained that a lot of money is available for kids, but sometimes we do not know about it; We have to go looking for it.

Selectman Jensen asked Ms. Cronin to explain exactly what the Town would be getting for this money they were spending. Ms. Cronin stated that they would establish a Youth Services Bureau for the Town. First Selectman Temple asked Ms. Cronin when you said the money goes toward the Kids. What is the Town getting for the kids? Ms. Cronin explained that the Town would get mental health programs for kids and positive redevelopment for struggling children. She stated that you just have to bring kids back to being kids. She stated, to your answer, Mr. Jensen, the \$28,000.00 will go towards the administration to hire a part-time person to do programming for kids in the community, and then the \$15000.00 will be for positive redevelopment for Pre- K for example. In another town, the town wanted a recreational program for Pre-K students who had nothing to do, so we created a program for them. The part-time person would work about 20 hours a week and would be paid out of the funding but hired and supervised under Kelly's Kids. There would be programs available after school, dances, and programs for students who are struggling with Vaping, for example. We would need to assess what the

Town needs. The Town would have to create an advisory board made up of an educational person, parent, police officer, teen, or youth. The board would talk amongst themselves to determine what the town needs. First Selectman Temple stated that we could make this contingent upon a monthly report from the advisory board to the Board of Selectmen.

First Selectman Temple stated that he would like to provide something for the kids to do, a place to hang out and have fun. However, he would like to speak again with the Mayor of Wolcott. He told the other Selectmen to write down their questions, and he will get the answers from the Mayor. Selectman McKane stressed that if we use ARPA funds for this program, we need to make sure it meets the criteria. We do not want to jeopardize losing the funds for using them in a way we should not. First Selectman Temple said that there could be other ways to fund this program. He is willing to try anything that would be helpful to the kids.

Jeff Luff, Chairman of the ARPA committee, stated that he would put this request on the agenda for the next ARPA board meeting for the committee's approval. First Selectman Temple stated that is a good idea. He thanked Mr. Luff for his suggestion and thinks it's a good idea for Mr. Luff to discuss the Selectmen's concerns with the ARPA committee.

9. Selectmen Raises

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to *table* the Selectmen Raises. Seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

10. Report of First Selectman

First Selectman George Temple stated that he received notification today that the grant for the HVAC System at Great Oak School had been approved. We were the only one who had a grant approved in the 37 senatorial districts. Senator Berthel called Mr. Temple to notify him of the award. First Selectman Temple would like to thank Senator Berthel for his hard work and thank Representative Labriola and Commissioner Boughton, who have both been very helpful to the Town.

First Selectman Temple explained that there was an audit done today for school security. Lieutenant Kyle Rapp from Ct. State Police Troop A, Lieutenant D'uva from the Ct. State Police, our State Trooper Sergeant Roman Gray, myself, Kristyn, and Wayne Watt, Director of Public Works, toured the Great Oak Elementary School and discussed school security. He explained that this was a very productive meeting.

On Saturday, April 8, 2023, First Selectman Temple attended the town's Easter Egg Hunt. He stated that the kids had a great time. Unfortunately, the hunt was held in the gymnasium of Quaker Farms School due to the weather, but it did not stop the kids from

having fun. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their work in providing this event for the children in the community. All had a good time.

First Selectman Temple stated that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments is holding its 3rd Annual Composter and Rain Barrel sale. Residents will be able to place an order by May 11, 2023. The pick-up date will be in Waterbury on May 13, 2023. The Town is looking into a Community Garden here in Oxford, and these Rain Barrels would be helpful.

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, in Middlebury, there is a Hazardous Waste and Paint Drop Off at Shepardson Community Center from 8 AM until 2 PM. There is no charge for this event.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Christine Bavone, of 9 Macintosh Drive, spoke regarding the Youth Service Bureau. She stated she had attended several Board of Education meetings and has a child in middle school. The Board of Education has been working with the schools to bring in many programs for the kids, such as a Vaping program, Oasis just did a program for the eighth and 9th graders. The Board of Education brought in the Boys and Girls Club for the middle school for an afterschool program. Therefore, she is wondering why we would need this YSB when the Board of Education is already hiring and using resources we already have in Town. She suggested that we get parent input before spending money on this.

Resident Carol Kass attended the meeting on Zoom. She wanted to give her input and show her support for the YSB. She wrote that she feels there is a need for the program. She stated we need more support in the community for the youth, especially the ones who lived through the pandemic and remote learning. She said we would not know the toll for many years.

First Selectman Temple stated that any concerned parent should attend the next ARPA meeting or the next Board of Selectmen meeting. They can share their input with the Audience of Citizens.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By

Kathleen Sundstrom

Kathleen Sundstrom
Clerk

2023 APR 18 PM 12:31
TOWN OF DUNBROOK, CT
Arnold Jensen
TOWN CLERK

Firefighters Certified for Tax Abatement Calendar Year 2022

TOTAL Calls*	424	#Drills	10	Service Date	12/31/2022	10% to 25%
25 percent of calls	106	50%			\$ 1,000	
10 percent of calls	42.4		5 Tax Abatement		\$ 2,000	
*452-130/false alarms						

Name	# of Drills	Service Date	Oxford Resident Y or N	Years of Service as of 12/31/22	# of Calls Attended	10% to less than 25% of calls	25% of calls	Amount
Almeida, Anthony D.	8	07/13/21	Y	1	114		X	\$2,000
Andrew, Ryan W.	9	09/10/07	Y	15	99	X		\$1,000
Bernardini, Thomas R.	9	12/12/95	Y	26	240		X	\$2,000
Blood, Jenna	11	09/10/19	Y	3	270		X	\$2,000
Blood, Ken C.	10	10/10/89	Y	33	289		X	\$2,000
Calabrese, Joseph	6	07/10/06	Y	16	127		X	\$2,000
Ceste, David S.	9	02/23/12	Y	10	114		X	\$2,000
Conjiu, John M.	6	01/07/08	Y	14	81	X		\$1,000
Downs, Griffin R.	7	05/07/18	Y	4	242		X	\$2,000
Downs, John A. Jr.	8	07/09/79	Y	43	106		X	\$2,000
Evanchio, Michael S.	5	01/09/18	Y	4	46	X		\$1,000
Fette, Al R.	7	08/14/01	Y	21	131		X	\$2,000
Galla, Joseph	6	01/15/97	Y	25	72	X		\$1,000
Gies, Jim	7	06/14/87	Y	35	196		X	\$2,000
Gramigna, Daniel R.	8	09/11/06	Y	16	241		X	\$2,000
Halstead, Scott D.	9	01/25/95	Y	27	179		X	\$2,000
Hellaue Jr., Edward J	10	09/03/11	Y	11	167		X	\$2,000
Henningsen, Karl J.	6	08/25/21	Y	1	59	X		\$1,000
Hylinski, Gary W.	11	11/12/03	Y	19	128		X	\$2,000
Kalakay, Christopher	9	10/13/20	Y	2	440		X	\$2,000
Krassner, Mark P.	9	11/12/02	Y	20	235		X	\$2,000
Luskay, Louis A. III	9	06/01/92	Y	30	166		X	\$2,000
Lyder, Jeffrey K.	7	09/09/19	Y	3	191		X	\$2,000
Mannion, Joseph A. III	9	05/08/18	Y	4	305		X	\$2,000
Mazzucco, Louis E.	9	11/14/77	Y	45	200		X	\$2,000
McGee, Michael	5	08/02/21	Y	1	106		X	\$2,000
Muttick, George	10	03/06/06	Y	16	150		X	\$2,000
Nash, Colin W.	6	12/25/02	Y	20	65	X		\$1,000
Neisen, Keith D.	8	01/01/96	Y	26	58	X		\$1,000
Noil, Victor R.	8	01/04/82	Y	40	91	X		\$1,000
O'Connell, Ryan J.	11	11/09/21	Y	1	207		X	\$2,000
Pelletier, Grace K.	8	09/10/19	Y	3	91	X		\$1,000
Pelletier, Scott J.	11	10/24/79	Y	43	452		X	\$2,000
Potter, David A.	7	07/16/20	Y	2	55	X		\$1,000
Reeine, Vincent J.	9	10/05/20	Y	2	95	X		\$1,000

Firefighters Certified for Tax Abatement Calendar Year 2022

Tax Abatement Sorted 3.21.23

TOTAL Calls*		424	#Drills		10	Service Date	12/31/2022	10% to 2
25 percent of calls	106		50%		5	Tax Abatement	\$ 1,000	10% to 2
10 percent of calls	42.4						\$ 2,000	25%
*452-130/false alarms								
Name	# of Drills	Service Date	Oxford Resident Y or N	Years of Service as of 12/31/22	# of Calls Attended	10% to less than 25% of calls	25% of calls	Amount
Reynolds, Ryan W.	7	06/09/20	Y	2	82	X		\$1,000
Richmond, Timothy M.	8	01/01/94	Y	28	100	X		\$1,000
Romeo, Matt	7	10/01/93	Y	29	65	X		\$1,000
Romeo, Matthew J	8	04/18/17	Y	5	208		X	\$2,000
Sablitsky, Michael R.	8	07/06/20	Y	2	79	X		\$1,000
Satkowski, Albert J., III	9	10/07/19	Y	3	114		X	\$2,000
Schwartz, Jason S.	7	11/13/18	Y	4	179		X	\$2,000
Silberkleit, Jay N.	8	08/11/01	Y	21	268		X	\$2,000
Tichy, Joseph E.	5	05/10/10	Y	12	49	X		\$1,000
Vizzo, Brian J.	7	01/09/06	Y	16	83	X		\$1,000
Vizzo, David M.	10	08/10/09	Y	13	169		X	\$2,000
Wiener, Daniel B.	5	09/12/05	Y	17	195		X	\$2,000
Yish, John F.	11	06/08/21	Y	1	128		X	\$2,000
				0				\$0
TOTAL								\$79,000