

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the American Youth Cheerleaders.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq, Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman Kathy Johnson, Joanne Pelton, Administrative Assistant

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 11/12/15 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 11/12/15 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 2 Ayes. 1 Abstention by Kathy Johnson who was not in attendance. Motion carries.

2. 11/18/15 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 11/18/15 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. MOTION

Jeff Haney moved to move Item #2 under New Business - American Youth Cheerleaders Recognition to Item #1. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries

First Selectman George Temple stated that we are all proud of the AYF Cheerleaders and they have done excellent this year. He had seen them practice at the High School and they were great. The Town of Oxford is very proud of their accomplishment, and would

like to thank the coaches and everyone involved, including the moms and dads. First Selectman George Temple recognized each of the cheerleaders along with their coaches with a certificate. There will be a banner going up in town at the new Haynes project with "Congratulations D10 Champions!"

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to take a 10 minute recess at 8:00 P.M. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

First Selectman George Temple called the meeting back to order at 8:10 P.M.

2. Economic Development Coordinator Employment Status

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Economic Development Coordinator Employment Status as Item #10. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. Library Planning & Building Committee – Reduce Membership

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Library Planning & Building Committee – Reduce Membership as Item #11. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

4. C-PACE Resolution

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to add Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy(C-PACE) resolution and forward to a Town meeting as Item #12 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #13. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Economic Development Commission Appointment

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to re-appoint Daniel Wall, of 28 Wedgehill Road, to the Economic Development Commission with a term to commence on 1/1/16 and expire on 12/31/20. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: He will do a great job.

MOTION:

Kathy Johnson moved to appoint Michael Caprio, 6 Old Farm Road, to the Economic Development Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/19. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that Mike Caprio is very much interested and will do an excellent job. Kathy Johnson stated Mike Caprio is a great guy and will do well on this committee.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Jay Borkowski, of 22 Newgate Road, to the Economic Development Commission as an Alternate with a term to commence immediately on 1/1/16 and expire on 12/31/16. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated Mr. Borkowski is another good choice for this committee.

2. Parks & Recreation Commission Re-Appointments

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to re-appoint Jim Leach, of 7 Greenbriar Road, Kenn Maher, of 10 Knorr Road, and Glen Schumitz, of 197 Freeman Road, all to the Parks & Recreation Commission with terms to commence 1/1/16 and expire on 12/31/18; as presented and recommended by the Parks & Recreation Director in her letter dated 12/10/15. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. Quaker Farms Volunteer Fire Company 2016 Chief – Re-Appoint Andrew Coy

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to re-appoint Andrew Coy as the 2016 Quaker Farms Volunteer Fire Company's Chief as they requested in their letter dated 12/2/15. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Andy Coy is doing a great job and is a good fireman

4. Riverside Volunteer Fire Company 2016 Chief – Appoint John Downs, Jr.

MOTION:

Kathy Johnson moved to appoint John Downs, Jr. as the 2016 Riverside Volunteer Fire Company's Chief as they requested in their letter dated 12/10/15. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kathy Johnson is very happy to support this. First Selectman George Temple supports John Downs, Jr. and he will do a good job.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Vickie Tkacz, 10 Park Road, Oxford went to the Police Department to make a complaint about what she believes is a theft of one of her dogs. They told her to speak to the First Selectman. It was brought to her attention that another dog bit several people and was not placed in quarantine. Her understanding was that the dog warden cried, and did not want that dog under quarantine. Ms. Tkacz dogs got taken from her for 6 months and were quarantined. Two puppies were taken from her home, and she looked all through the woods, to try to find them. She breeds Newfoundland's. These dogs were stolen from her. People that worked for the Town know that the puppy was impounded and the following day Cori took that puppy home. It was supposed to be at the dog shelter for 7 days. When she called day after day to see if her puppy was there, the woman who took her puppy deleted her messages. When she asked Cori about the dog, she stated that that dog came from North Carolina. Ms. Tkacz has now a DNA profile to prove that this puppy is hers. She stole my dog. First Selectman George Temple asked why she did not go to the police. Ms. Tkacz did and was told to go to the First Selectman. This is the first George Temple has heard of this. Ms. Tkacz asked if the dog warden has the fiduciary responsibility. She was told this is a civil matter. Ms. Tkacz asked, "How is it a civil matter, when she is hired by the Town of Oxford?" Her brown puppy went missing. A six month old puppy was brought to the Police Dept. and they took it to the Dog Pound, and was missing the next day. Is it protocol that the dog warden takes dogs home with her?

First Selectman Temple stated he saw a Newfoundland walking down Rt. 67. Ms. Tkacz stated sometimes she cannot contain them. First Selectman Temple stated he can't talk about personnel matters. Ms. Tkacz stated that Cori's father may be appointed as the dog warden.

First Selectman Temple stated the only thing on the agenda is to make it into a part time position. He would be happy to talk to her and Sgt. Semosky. It is a criminal matter if someone stole something. We need a lot more than hearsay. This is not a trial tonight. If you want to pursue this matter, come in to talk. Ms. Tkacz wrote down the First Selectman's phone number. Kathy Johnson would like to be there for this important meeting.

Wayne McCormack asked if it was safe to assume that the agreements will be available on the town website for perusal. These should be, and they are in the Town Clerk's office right now.

Nil Guillet, 2 Douglas Drive, asked about the town vehicle that was involved in an accident on Hogsback Road, what is going to happen with this, and if there will be a full investigation as to why this vehicle went off the road. First Selectman Temple stated the State Police are doing an investigation. First Selectman George Temple does not interfere with an investigation, when he gets a report from the State Police he will act on it.

Mr. Guillet stated he understands that this is the same gentlemen that did the paving work in front of the Firehouse. George Temple stated that Public Works did the paving. When Mr. Guillet drove by, the paving was ripped up; it took two times to do one project. Mr. Guillet stated those people do not know how to take care of our roads to make them safe for the general public. Scott Pelletier stated that when they did the curbing in front of the firehouse, a pipe was hit in the ground and Public Works had to dig it up to correct the problem. Mr. Guillet is really concerned about this. First Selectman George Temple stated people make mistakes.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Troop 1 Ornament Presentation

Joe Birch, Scout Master and the Troop 1 Scouts presented this year's ornament to First Selectman George Temple. This year's ornament is a depiction of Rich Farm Ice Cream. They are selling very well this year.

3. Fire Department Rescue Boat Funding Purchase – Approve and Forward to Board of Finance

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved approve the funding in the amount of \$40,168.00 to be taken from the Long Term Non Recurring Capital Fund for the following purchases:

- 2 rescue boats (one 18-foot, the other 12.5-feet) and trailer set up
- Motor for 12.5-foot boat
- Modification expenses to trailer to conform to CT DOT standards
- Maintenance to trailer
- Letter for two boats

All as presented and recommended by the Board of Chiefs in their letter dated 12/9/15, and to forward this matter to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple asked Scott Pelletier to give an explanation of what this is for. Scott Pelletier discussed the survey and the different bodies of waters in Oxford and it was found that one big boat would not be able to do the job for all of these different bodies of water. The committee came across this option and both of these boats will be able to cover all of the areas, and this would be the best option for Oxford. The amount that was budgeted was \$36,000, so they are asking for an additional \$4,168. These boats will be housed at the Riverside Fire Dept. Jack Kiley, Finance Director, asked if they were going to sell the old boat, and how much would they be able to get. Scott Pelletier stated they were going to keep the old boat as a backup, and they would not be able to get that much for it. First Selectman George Temple stated that if there is a motion to amend the capital plan, and a two-thirds vote, then we can amend the Capital Plan.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the Capital Plan for an additional \$4,168 more, to purchase the two rescue boats for \$40,168. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

4. Animal Control Officer Position – Make Part-Time

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to change the Animal Control Officer position from full-time to part-time. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 2 Ayes, 1 Opposed by Kathy Johnson. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kathy Johnson stated that Jim does a great job, and there is a problem with this. Sandra Merry is our Animal Control Officer and is out on comp, and when she comes back, her position will be a part-time position, and does not think it is fair. Kathy Johnson does not want to see Sandra Merry lose her position. First Selectman George Temple stated that the Animal Control facility had only 1 dog in there for the last four months, and is costing the town a lot of money for benefits as well as salary. This is also the wishes of the Board of Finance.

5. Aggie Park Project Budget – Request Detailed Information

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to request a detailed budget from the Agnes Tetlak Park Fields Committee for their Aggie Park Project. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries. Once the information is received, the Board of Selectmen will review it, act upon it, and then forward to the Board of Finance.

Discussion: Jim Hliva discussed that under the new Charter, the Board of Finance has to take action within 60 days. The Board had concerns that they did not have a detailed budget, so they sent it back to the Board of Selectmen. We want to get this project going and need to get a valid budget in accordance with the Board of Finance. Jack Kiley stated they need to get a breakdown for the budget.

6. Non-Union Employee Raises Retroactive – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve a 2.5% wage increase for the full-time non-union employees, retroactive as of July 1, 2015. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion – This mirrors the wage that the union employees received.

7. Proposed Tax Stabilization Agreement, Community Development Agreement and Development Agreement between CPV Towantic, LLC and the Town of Oxford – Approve and Forward to Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2016

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Proposed Tax Stabilization Agreement, Community Development Agreement and Development Agreement between CPV Towantic, LLC and the Town of Oxford and forward this matter to a Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2016. This was seconded by First Selectmen George Temple.

Discussion: Atty. Kevin Condon discussed this matter. Since the election, he has met with CPV and tried to engage them in a new agreement. Some of the changes in the new agreement, regardless if it is built, and pending the December 22, 2015 appeals being heard, the outcome no one knows, on January 1, 2016, the Power Plant will pay the Town of Oxford \$1,175,000, which we would not have had with the previous agreement. In regards to the Community Development agreement the change is an increase in the money by \$50,000 than it was before. The terms and conditions stay the same. The amended and restated Development Agreement changes address easements that have been granted and also E Commerce Drive. These agreements are in the Town Clerk's

Office for anyone wishing to review them. Question was raised if they will be on the Town's website, and was stated they will try. All of the Board of Selectmen has copies of the agreement. Kathy Johnson asked about the \$5,025,000 that they still owe us and the other \$2.5 million dollars, and was told we were going to revert back to the old agreement. Discussion was held regarding the Town Meeting previously held. None of CPV had any desire to modify the agreement, and if they didn't we would have brought legal action against them.

First Selectman George Temple stated that the Motion is on the floor to approve the Proposed Tax Stabilization Agreement, Community Development Agreement and Development Agreement between CPV Towantic, LLC and the Town of Oxford – Approve and Forward to Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2016 This was seconded by Jeff Haney. 2 Ayes, 1 Opposed by Kathy Johnson. Motion carries.

8. Establishment of the David T. Schreiber Memorial Fund

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the terms of the Last Will and Testament of Miriam S. Strong, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford authorizes and approves the establishment of the David T. Schreiber Memorial Fund, which shall be used for the acquisition of land by the Town of Oxford for school or recreational facilities, or for the open space purposes with the following conditions:

- a) Prior to the use of assets received hereunder for any land acquisition by the Town, any such proposed purchase of land shall be approved by the electors of the Town at a Town Meeting or by referendum on the ballot of any regular or special elections for municipal, state or federal offices.
- b) Any deed of conveyance received for recording with respect to any land acquired by the Town hereunder shall include a provision setting forth the restrictive purposes of this bequest.
- c) Any land for open space purposes may also be used for limited recreational purposes, including: fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, nature study, snow skiing, ice skating, sledding, and viewing and enjoying historical, archaeological, scientific, or scenic features, as applicable. Furthermore, any woodland on any such open space land shall be managed in accordance with established forestry principles.
- d) If this bequest is used for the acquisition of open space land and said purchase does not deplete the assets received hereunder, the remainder of the funds may be used by the Town to maintain said land.
- e) No land acquired by the Town pursuant to this bequest shall be held, managed, or administered by or under the direction of the Oxford Land Trust or its successors.

If the Town of Oxford declines to accept this bequest, the bequest shall be added to the scholarship fund set forth in section F, paragraph 3 of the Miriam S. Strong Last Will and Testament.

Money funded shall be held in a segregated account by the finance director of the Town, and used only for the purposes aforementioned.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Mariam Strong bequeathed a large sum of money to be used to fund 1) The Town of Oxford Library Fund, 2) a David Schreiber Memorial Fund, and 3) a Scholarship fund.

As everyone knows that estate was stolen by the attorney handling the matter; however, we were able to retrieve all of the funds and they have been paid to the successor administrator which is Judge L. Boyle. The estate totals \$4.2 million. The town of Oxford is going to get about 80% of that, in fact some of the money has already been disbursed. The purpose of these funds is so the Board can establish the funds are there, and are being handled by the Finance Director. The scholarship fund is going to have to be established as a 501c3 which is a tax exempt organization. If invested properly it will yield \$50,000-\$75,000 per year. Kathy Johnson commended Atty. Condon and First Selectman George Temple for retrieving all this money. Jeff Haney stated that he has known Mariam Strong very well and she really loved Oxford. Mariam and Dave Schreiber were very good for our Wetland Committee, and they knew every little piece of wetland in Oxford. Kathy Johnson stated that she removed Mariam Strong from her position when she became the First Selectman, but would like to support this Library and have it named after Mariam Strong if that is what the Board wants. First Selectman Temple stated that was one thing Mariam Strong did not want.

9. Establishment of the Oxford Public Library Building Fund

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford hereby authorizes and approves the establishment of the Oxford Public Library Fund in the memory of Rowland R. and Edith H. Strong.

Once funded by the estate of Miriam S. Strong, this building shall be held by the Town's finance director in a segregated account for the sole purpose of construction of said Oxford Public Library.

Furthermore, in the event a new Library has been constructed and paid for at the time of the distribution by the Miriam S. Strong estate, said distribution shall be held in the

aforementioned account and shall be used for capital improvements or additions to the Library.

Furthermore, upon funding and completion of the construction of the Library, a suitable plaque be erected in a prominent area of the Library bearing the names of Rowland R. and Edith H. Strong.

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated we have approved a \$3.5 million grant for construction and funding of the Library. The amount of \$850,000 from the Strong estate will augment that money and will reduce the amount by that amount so we will not have to bond that much. Miriam Strong was a very humble lady and very supportive of the Library, and Edith and Rowland are her mother and father. By establishing this fund we will be able to take some of that money and put it to good use.

10. Economic Development Coordinator Employment Status

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the original addendum to the Employment Agreement between Andrew McGeever and the Town of Oxford acknowledging that Mr. McGeever has been a full-time employee of the Town of Oxford since December 11, 2011 as the Town has paid the U.S. Treasury in full. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Atty. Kevin Condon discussed the discrepancy of Mr. McGeever was a full-time employee and there was a problem with the taxes not being paid by the town. The Board of Finance met to resolve this issue. The taxes were paid by the town and Andrew McGeever will be considered a full-time employee. Kathy Johnson asked if he was originally hired as a consultant. First Selectman George Temple stated no, he was hired as the Economic Development Coordinator. First Selectman George Temple stated he becomes an employee and has an employment agreement which can be modified and/or removed. This is not considered a union position.

11. Library Planning & Building Committee – Reduce Membership

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to reduce the membership of the Library Planning & Building Committee from seven (7) members to six (6) and remove Leslie Alexander. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This was a request made by the Chairman of that committee to make it easier to have a quorum. Leslie Alexander has not been feeling well and is unable to

make the meetings. If she wants to be reappointed in the future, we would have no problem with this. This just makes it more manageable to have a quorum.

12: C-PACE Resolution

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to add a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) resolution and forward to a Town meeting on January 12, 2016. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion: C-PACE is a program from the State of Connecticut that funds businesses for clean energy and saves the environment. The only thing that the town would have to do would be if a certain business took out a loan, that loan would be paid through the tax collector. The Town of Oxford would get to be a clean energy community. We have gotten four inquiries from businesses requesting that we become a C-PACE community. Businesses get a very low interest rate loan to enhance their needs, and Oxford becomes a clean energy community.

12. Report of First Selectman

1. We are getting a check in the amount of \$125,429 as a refund from insurance.
2. Oxford received an award in Hartford from the State Economic Development for the Haynes project in Oxford.
3. The Town Meeting will be held on January 12, 2016, concerning the Power Plant and seeking a Town Meeting by referendum. It is set up the same as the election commission hours. If it does snow, the Town attorney can cancel the meeting and reschedule it.
4. We did discuss our cheerleaders and coaches and are very proud of them. They are excellent.
5. This is the last meeting before the New Year and First Selectman George Temple wished everyone happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.
6. Kathy Johnson asked about the second Audience of Citizens, and thought it was tabled. According to Roberts Rules of Order, First Selectman George Temple sets the agenda.

AMENDMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

15 DEC 21 PM 5:28
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
George Temple
TOWN CLERK