

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
7:30 PM - Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:40 p.m. and the Pledge of allegiance was recited.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 2/3/16 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 2/3/16 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to reaffirm the funding request from the Oxford Board of Education to complete Wolverine Field at Oxford High School as item #5 and move the Report of First Selectman to Item #6.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Council of Governments Regional Planning Agency – Appoint Herman Schuler

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Herman Schuler, of 125 Meadow Brook Road, to the Council of Governments Regional Planning Agency. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple cannot think of anybody that would do a better job. Thank you Herman for volunteering. Harold Cosgrove was the previous appointment. Mr. Cosgrove stated that at last night's meeting they appointed Tanya Carver, but he believes we can have two people. Kathy Johnson stated that the reason this was brought to the attention of the town is because she attended the Land Trust meeting, and it was stated that there was nobody to represent Oxford. She brought it back, and First Selectman George Temple took care of it. She thanked Herman Schuler for taking it on and thanked Harold Cosgrove for doing it in the past. First Selectman Temple thanked Harold Cosgrove for his service.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Water Pollution Control Authority Sewer Inspector Funding Request

MOTION:

Jeff Haney move to approve the additional funding request, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 to be taken from Available Fund Balance, to cover the cost of the Sewer Inspector as presented and requested by the Water Pollution Control Authority in their letter dated 2/1/16. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting.

Discussion: The sewer project is underway and was previously approved for \$10,000 and it is not enough money. We are about 20% done with the project and used 50% of the funds. They had cut the inspector's hours. This winter they hit a lot of rock so it is going slow. First Selectman Temple stated this is very important and this needs to be done right.

2. Municipal Resolution for Regional Performance Incentive Program – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Municipal Resolution for Regional Performance Incentive-Program Applications and authorize the First Selectman to sign:

RESOLVED, that the Oxford Board of Selectmen endorse the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposals listed below, as referenced in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s (2014 Supplement):

1. Implement Regional Municipal Property Revaluation & CAMA Procurement Program, Standardize & Centralize Parcel Data Management and Hosting.

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

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple thought this should be done in order to obtain grants. This was requested by the Council on Governments, and it will save the town money. They are going for a regional grant of \$772,000 and will have all the mapping for our COG. It has been in the planning stages for a year.

3. Hire Acting Grant Writer Administrator

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to hire Robbi Costigan, of 300 Chestnut Tree Hill Road, as the Acting Grant Writer Administrator effective immediately and at a pay rate of 20% less than the current Grant Writer Administrator pay scale. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kathleen O'Neil went on a leave of absence due to health issues and we wish her the best. In the meantime over the past nine months Robbi Costigan has been working with Kathleen to learn the administration of grants and has gone to school for this, and is picking it up very well. Kathleen will be available for Robbi to consult with if questions arise. Every grant the town gets is very important. We wish Kathleen the best. She has done a great job.

4. Proposed 5310A Application for New Mini-Bus – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Proposed 5310A Application for a new mini-bus and to authorize the First Selectman to sign said application; as presented and recommended by the Acting Grant Writer Administrator in her letter dated 2/11/16. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This mini-bus is for the Senior Center and they are definitely in need of this. Thank you for another great job on writing the grant for this. This mini-bus will replace the old one, but we will not take the old one out of service.

5. Reaffirm Funding Request to complete Wolverine Field at Oxford High School

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to reaffirm the motion made at the 1/20/16 Board of Selectmen meeting to approve the funding request for the Oxford Board of Education, in an amount not to exceed \$94,795.95 in order to complete Wolverine Field at Oxford High School (this includes numerous equipment items, some site work, and a unit storage construction) as they presented and requested in their letter date 1/4/16. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This was sent to the Board of Finance and it expired under the 60 day rule and the Board of Selectmen would like it sent back to the Board of Finance to consider this quicker.

6. Report of First Selectman

1. We are working on budgets. Many of the budgets came in flat already. The town is in excellent financial shape and this will be less stressful for the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. These will be done on time.
2. The old Engine 51 from the Riverside Fire Dept. was donated to a town in northern Vermont. They were delighted to get this fire truck. Our firemen were delighted also that they were able to help each other out. First Selectman Temple showed a picture of the fire truck that was donated and asked that anyone who wants to see it can come forward and look at the picture. The truck was over 25 years old and it looks great because the firemen take care of their equipment.
3. The referendum for the tax agreement was defeated by 68 votes. We will have to figure out what is the next step which will be done in the next couple of weeks.

AMENDMENTS

None

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Jack Kiley, 88 Bee Mountain Road, Oxford, CT stated he thought it was ironic that one individual at the Town Meeting stated that we are spending too much and need to keep taxes low, and in another town meeting stressed we didn't need money from other sources and we should pay more taxes.

Peter Bunzl, 160 Country Club Drive, Oxford, stated at the Oxford Economic Development meeting it was stated that Masonicare started litigation to retrieve monies currently held in escrow to pay the town of Oxford, \$300,000 to pay for a fire truck as previously agreed to.

Mr. Bunzl asked if Masonicare is no longer interested in coming here. First Selectman George Temple stated he misread that. When Masonicare bought their property, it was subject to paying the town of Oxford for a truck, and that money was put in escrow from the individual that they bought it from. Now Masonicare wants the escrow money released so they can pay the town the \$300,000. Mr. Bunzl called Masonicare and spoke to someone up there and stated he lives in Oxford, and has several years to retire and was interested in their facility being built in Oxford. That person told him those plans are only in the planning stage and are not going forward at this time. First Selectman George Temple stated it is a conclusion that Mr. Bunzl jumped to and is not correct.

Andy Mcgeever 204 Flag Stick Ct., Oxford. What Mr. Bunzl is talking about is that money is being held in escrow. There was an agreement between the previous owner and his attorney who at that time was Fran Teodosio. When it came time to turn out the money, the gentlemen who sold the property made a claim that they were spending too much of the money that was being held, and because of that he wanted Masonicare to stop spending the money from the fund and put more money back in the fund to make up the difference. The people from Masonicare are suing the previous owner to get this straightened out. What Masonicare will build in Oxford is a facility similar to the one in Wallingford. There will be about 300 people who will be living there. Within walking distance from that facility in Wallingford, is a power plant and that has been there for 20 years.

First Selectman George Temple stated that the action that is brought about was his recommendation. They fully intend to locate in Oxford. First Temple stated he wanted the \$300,000 for a fire truck, and insisted on it and the only way they could do it is to commence the action that is being talked about.

Wayne McCormick, 593 Putting Green Lane, Oxford, asked what is going on with the west side of Woodruff Hill Road, that is town owned, and is being cleared and has a lot of construction equipment on it. First Selectman Temple stated it was where the road is going in. First Selectman Temple stated we have construction agreements, we have a tax agreement, and we have easement agreements. They are proceeding with the agreements they have with the town. The road is closed because the Board of Selectmen closed it to limit traffic up to that site, and the possibility of accidents on the site where there will be heavy construction going on.

Herman Schuler, 125 Meadow Brook Road, Oxford stated he was up Woodruff Hill Road, and there were six trucks up there and it scares him. He drove down E-Commerce drive and half way up to the airport, and the parking lots are already laid out there, all of this was previously approved and it is being implemented now.

Augie Palmer, 11 Red Barn Road, Oxford. As Chairman of Economic Development, they had a meeting last night and had discussed at length the lies that were sent out to the people in mailings, press, or on the telephone. They will entertain the idea of bringing in an attorney to bring action to that group. This referendum cost this town a lot of money. This was caused by a lot of misinformation. Mr. Palmer discussed the items that were sent out. First Selectman Temple stated they have to go through the Board of Selectmen for permission to sue, unless they do it privately.

Peter Bunzl, 160 Country Club Drive, Oxford, asked if anyone knows the name of the Town Administrator. He spoke to him twice and he was surprised at the amount of money they were getting. Everything on their website is correct. Does Mr. Palmer even know the gentleman's name? It is Michael Boynton and you can call him anytime and he will be happy to discuss their agreement they got. Everything they told the town's people is correct. Mr. Bunzl commented on the cost of the mailings that the Economic Development sent out, and asked who paid for it? Question was asked of Mr. Bunzl if he is saying that the Economic Development sent out two mailings. That did not come from the Economic Development per First Selectman Temple. Mr. Bunzl stated that the fact that the multicolor flyer cost at least \$1000 more than if they did in black and white.

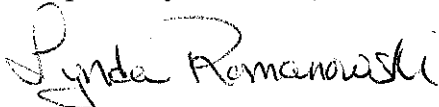
Herman Schuler, Chairman of Securing Oxford's Financial Future stated that they sent the mailings out and it is stated on the bottom of the flyer, and Mr. Bunzl will find out who donated when he files his financial papers with the Election Commission. This is a self-correcting problem. We have two views of reality and very shortly we will find out who is right or wrong. This will resolve itself. If the plant is built we will get \$5,000,000 and it continues to go up, then he was right, if it does not get built, then they will be right.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

16 FEB 22 PM 1:27
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Priscilla A. West
TOWN CLERK