

**Board of Selectmen's  
Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016**  
**7:30 PM - Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by First Selectman George Temple, 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. 4/12/16 Special Joint Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 4/12/16 Special Joint Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**2. 4/21/16 Special Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 4/21/16 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple gave the explanation that he could not make the regular meeting, and held a Special meeting in lieu of it.

**AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

**1. Tax Refunds**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Tax Refunds as Item #9 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #10. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Discussion: The Facilities Upgrade Committee will have some openings since some of the people are not able to continue. First Selectman Temple expects to accept some resignations next week. The committee has done a great job on the school roof. If anyone knows of anyone that would like to serve on this committee, please let First Selectman Temple know.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Hire Parks & Recreation Summer Staff**

#### **MOTION:**

Kathy Johnson moved to table this item since the employee list is not ready. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

### **2. 2015 Homeowners State Tax Relief Program – Approve**

#### **MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Homeowners Town Benefit Income Guideline for the 2015 Grand List at a cap of \$45,899 for unmarried and \$45,899 for married; with an eligibility age requirement of 65 or proof of total disability, as presented by the Tax Assessor in her letter dated 4/21/16. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: People who do need help with taxes should get this.

### **3. Manufacturing Exemption – Discuss with Possible Action**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

This is at the request of the Assessor. This is for the exemption for which they are eligible, to be reinstated. There is a tight timeline, and this company missed it by a day or two. They made a mistake, but they are a good tax payer. First Selectman Temple made it clear that we take this matter very seriously. The Board of Selectmen has the ability to allow this.

#### **MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Manufacturing Exemption for Cast Global, of 66 Prokop Road, for their 2015 Personal Property Declaration filing for an assessment of \$21,510.00. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**4. Hire Part-Time Senior Services Driver**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to hire Lance Kruger, of 24 North Star Drive in Seymour, as a Senior Services Bus Driver, at the pay rate of \$14.85 per hour, and with a start date of Monday, May 9, 2016. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Pat Babbish interviewed the candidates and is recommending this candidate which she thought was the best. First Selectman Temple stated that in the future, have either the Board of Selectmen interview the final three potential candidates or have Joanne Pelton interview them. The Board of Selectmen's office should do the hiring. Joanne Pelton stated she did review the applications, and the candidates did come in to fill out an application. First Selectman Temple stated he does prefer to hire an Oxford resident. He asked Joanne Pelton to send out a letter to Pat Babbish regarding this matter.

Jeff Haney agrees that she did do her due diligence, and trusts her decision, but next time bring in the top three candidates to meet the First Selectman. First Selectman George Temple wants to be sure everything is done right.

**5. Award Bid for Homeland Security Mezzanine Project**

Jeff Haney recused himself from this item.

**MOTION:**

Kathy Johnson moved to award the following bid and approve the following funding for the Homeland Security Mezzanine Project:

- Award Jeff Haney & Son Builder, LLC the bid, in the amount of \$13,928.00, for the construction of the structure
- Approve B.P. Heating & Cooling, LLC, in the amount of \$3,975.00 for the HVAC
- Approve Conn-West, in the amount of \$1,200.00, for the electrical work
- Approve Jeff Haney & Son Builder, LLC, in the amount of \$1,800.00 for additional work to finish insulation in ceiling of radio room
- And approve \$2,500.00 from Contingency for unforeseen costs

All for a total of \$23,403.00; as presented and recommended by the Emergency Management Director in his letter dated 4/26/16. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes, 1 recusal by Jeff Haney. Motion carries.

Discussion: Scott Pelletier had put this out to bid to seven contractors. He only received two bids back, and these bids were sealed. This is the first time Jeff Haney has ever bid on a project. The Mezzanine will be a 16 X 30 climate controlled storage area to store

emergency bottled water and MRE's under optimal conditions. There is a five year shelf life for MRE's, the bottled water has to be kept fresh. We were criticized for this at the last hurricane drill for this. We have to keep on hand enough for 10% of the population of Oxford. We have to be prepared. It has to be stored in a climate controlled area. Once the bottled water gets to the end of its shelf life, it was discussed as to who we should donate it to. This project area also will have the emergency communication system housed there. Scott Pelletier is very confident that the bidding was very fair and that everything was done correctly. Kathy Johnson stated that in all of the years she has known Scott Pelletier, he has always been on the up & up, and knows he has done it well and correctly.

**6. Hire Part-Time Library Circulation Clerk**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to hire Marie Stocker, of 144 Prokop Road, as a Part-Time Library Circulation Clerk at a pay rate of \$10.25 per hour and a start date of Monday, May 9, 2016; as presented and recommended by the Library Director in her letter dated 5/2/16. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple has known Marie Stocker for a long time and she will be an asset to the Library. Jeff Haney stated the motion should read 144 Punkup Road not Prokop Road.

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to amend the motion to hire Marie Stocker, of 144 Punkup Road, as a Part-Time Library Circulation Clerk at a pay rate of \$10.25 per hour and a start date of Monday, May 9, 2016; as presented and recommended by the Library Director in her letter dated 5/2/16. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**7. FY 2015-2016 Appropriation Requests**

There are no requests so the matter remains tabled.

**8. FY 2015-2016 Transfer Requests**

There are no requests so the matter remains tabled.

**9. Tax Refunds**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Tax Refunds, totaling \$540.67, as presented by the Tax Collector in her letter received 5/3/16. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: These refunds are all for motor vehicles

**10. Report of First Selectman**

1. Construction will begin in Aggie Park on May 11, 2016. This will be a historic time in Oxford; eventually it will be an athletic complex in Oxford. First Selectman Temple looks forward to this, and it will start with two girls' softball fields and one all-purpose field.
2. We have a Town meeting by referendum at Quaker Farms School on Thursday, May 12, 2016, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be a cut in the mill rate with the budget as presented. It will be not as much as First Selectman Temple wanted it to be, but there will be a cut. There will be more money coming to the town mostly due to having to reimburse the State Police 100%. We will have to make some decisions to reduce our manpower requirements. The Board of Education is going up because of labor contracts going up. First Selectman Temple is satisfied with the Board of Education and they have had good results. Any questions on the budget can be directed to the Board of Finance, First Selectman Temple, or Jim Hliva. This was also a reevaluation year, and a lot of property values went down. Please get out and vote.
3. The Memorial Day Parade is going to have a fly-over this year. It will be a nice addition to the celebration. There will be the 5K race at 8:00 a.m., and Francis Teodosio is the organizer, and all of the proceeds go to benefit the Veterans.
4. There will be a forum on Opiate Addiction on May 19, 2016. We do have Narcan that can be administered at the scene. Addiction is a real problem in this country and it is not just young people.
5. First Selectman Temple had an Eagle Scout this week and will have another Eagle Scout on Saturday.
6. The first annual race at Rock House Park was held. This event went very well and people really enjoy it and it highlighted our trails. We are looking to expand the trails.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.

## **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

Susan Kasmin, 14 North Larkey Road Oxford spoke on the problems with the asphalt plant activities going on at 16 North Larkey Road. The activities start at 4 A.M. during the week, and 6 A.M. on the weekend. She has health concerns due to the emissions from this plant and the toxic chemicals, and odors that are making her and her fiancé sick. The odor permeates her home and is causing her to have headaches and nausea, and the fumes leave a tar taste in her mouth. The DEEP and the Health Department are doing an investigation. A DEEP violation is presently in progress. Bright lights are being turned on in front of her bedroom window at 4:30 A.M. The police were notified. One employee of the asphalt plant stated that they start early because they supply asphalt for the town's use. She wanted to know why the Town of Oxford is doing business with this company. The noise ordinance has not been followed. There are many other violations occurring. She had gone to the Planning & Zoning Board meeting and nobody from the Board of Selectmen was present. The whole operation is awful, and she got no response. There is a noise ordinance that is not being followed per Ms. Kasmin. She read excerpts from the ordinance. She feels her rights are being violated, and does not feel she is respected by the town. She cannot believe this town would let this happen, and wanted to know who is in charge, and how did this happen. She would like to ask the Board of Selectmen for a cease and desist order for all activities at 16 North Larkey Road for this whole matter. First Selectman Temple stated that the property is in an industrial area and there will be noise. First Selectman Temple is not prepared for this tonight, and stated that Planning and Zoning should handle it. When it comes to land use, this is a Planning and Zoning matter. Ms. Kasmin measured the noise level and it is over 80 decibels. First Selectman Temple stated he is willing to go up there at 4 A.M. and see what is going on. Joanne Pelton went to Ms. Kasmin's home in the afternoon, and Ms. Kasmin has not gotten a response from Joanne to her emails. Kathy Johnson did go there also and did smell the odor. Selectman Johnson stated that Ms. Kasmin does have a lawyer and she can depend on him and she knows he can sort this out. Selectman Johnson stated she does respect her as a citizen and is wondering why and how this came to be. Ms. Kasmin stated her home is a grandfathered residence and First Selectman Temple stated that her neighbors have a right to do their business. Ms. Kasmin presented pictures which will be included as part of the record. First Selectman Temple is not prepared to agree or disagree. First Selectman and the Town attorney will look into this matter.

Linda Czaplinski, 33 Freeman Road, Oxford, asked about the Homeland Security Mezzanine project and asked when this was decided on. First Selectman Temple stated it is a project that has to do with the Public Works Department in order to have a secure area to keep MRE's in a climate controlled room. This project has been going on for three years. Linda Czaplinski would like to learn more about it. First Selectman Temple stated to Linda that she should speak to Jeff Haney and Scott Pelletier after the meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

### MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

16 MAY -9 PM 5:38  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
*Angela H. West*  
TOWN CLERK







