

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 03, 2021, at 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting/Hangout Meets

The Town of Oxford Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:30 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. 2/17/21 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 02/17/21 regular meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to hire Heather Haney as the full-time Senior Center Director as #13 and move the Report of the First Selectman to #14. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. Selectman Heather Haney recused herself. All 2 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Cultural Arts Commission Re-Appointments

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint Amelia McGee to the Oxford Cultural Arts Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/23. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple said, "this is a good appointment." Chairman Cynthia Soucy agreed and is very happy to have Amelia on the Commission.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint Adriene Radcliff to the Oxford Cultural Arts Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/23. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Chairman Cynthia Soucy said that Adriene handles a lot of the website work and social media for the commission, and she is thrilled to have Adriene on the commission.

New Business

1. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$39,593.88, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 2/16/21 and authorizing two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Tax Collector, Ashley Schremmer, explained that most tax refunds are due to refinances. Many people took advantage of the low rate this year, but some didn't realize that they were escrowed from the bank; therefore, there were overpayments. This is what happened to the person who is receiving back \$22,000.00.

2. Oxford Center Fire Company LoCIP Funding Request for Wall Relocation – Approve and Forward to Board of Finance and Town Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen made a motion to table item #2 Oxford Center Fire Company LoCIP Funding Request for Wall Relocation; this was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. Fire Department 2020 Tax Abatements – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Fire Department's 2020 Tax Abatements (Attachment A) as presented and recommended in their letter dated 2/22/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries

Discussion: First Selectman asked each Selectman if they understood. Both said that they read thru and didn't have any questions.

4. Oxford Ambulance Association 2020 Tax Abatements – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve Oxford Ambulance Association's 2020 Tax Abatements (Attachment B) as they presented and recommended. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion:

Selectman Jensen stated that this is an excellent program for the community. First Selectman Temple said that it's a really good thing the community has these people willing to volunteer. Selectman Haney agreed.

5. Electrical Permit Refund – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve a refund, in the amount of \$350.00, for the Electrical Permit E-20-360 for 24 Autumn Ridge Road as the installation was canceled. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Hancy. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

option money. Both Selectmen agreed that they understand. First Selectman Temple said, not only do we get the \$250k in a couple of years for the sale of the property but, we get a taxpayer as well.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Option Agreement for Purchase of Real Property between the Town of Oxford and Oxford Industries, LLC, of 20 Old Country Road, for Lots #6 & #7 Woodruff Hills Road and to authorize the First Selectman to sign said contract; as presented and recommended by the Economic Development Director in his letter dated 2/24/21 and reviewed and approved by Town Counsel. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries. (Note: The Buyer has successfully been approved by both the Inland Wetlands and Planning & Zoning Departments)

Discussion: Jeff Luff, Economic Development Coordinator, stated that this contract is for \$275k for lots 6 and 7. Really what they are buying here is lot 6, a less desirable lot, and lot seven which is pretty much worthless, but he lumped it into the package just to move the property and get it to go with lot six is a more desirable piece of land. The First Selectman Temple asked, “ what type of company is this building for?” Jeff Luff stated, it is for a roofing recycling company. All recycling is done inside the building—no noise, smoke, garbage. Selectman Haney asked the size of lots 6 and 7. Jeff Luff said the lots are about 5 or 6 acres but only 2 or 3 acres buildable. These properties were appraised by MAI appraiser, and we received the full price for all of these lots, and we received the total price per the appraiser’s recommendation.

8. Engineering Study for Heating System at New Center School – Approve

First Selectman George Temple made a motion to table item #8 Engineering Study for Heating System at New Center School. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Building Official Gordon Gramolini explained that this was a solar project; the resident decided not to go through with the project and asked to be reimbursed. This is something that is not done often, but in certain circumstances, it is allowed. Gordon is not allowed to issue refunds, so this request was sent to the BOS for approval.

6. Tree Warden Budget Funding Request

First Selectman George Temple made a motion to table item #6 Tree Warden Budget Funding Request. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

7. Woodruff Hills Industrial Park Option Contracts for Lot 5 and Lots 6&7 – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Option Agreement for Purchase of Real Property between the Town of Oxford and Oxford Industries, LLC, of 20 Old Country Road, for Lot #5 Woodruff Hills Road and to authorize the First Selectman to sign said contract; as presented and recommended by the Economic Development Director in his letter dated 2/24/21 and reviewed and approved by Town Counsel. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

(Note: The Buyer has successfully been approved by both the Inland Wetlands and Planning & Zoning Departments)

Discussion: Economic Development Coordinator explained that this for LOT 5, 6 & 7. He broke them up into two applications through Planning and Zoning. This has been approved by Planning and Zoning and Wetlands, both approved. This is the last part of the option contract. They are ready to build. One deposit is for \$35k and one for \$40k. The purchase price was \$525k 10% is in the house as of the final amount today, so everything is complete.

First, Selectman Temple asked, we have \$250k for lot five, and we are doing a 10% option? Jeff stated, “ \$25k in house and Lot 6 and 7 is the difference which is \$275k, which makes a total of \$525k. First Selectman Temple made it clear to the other Selectman that this money does not go into the general fund till such time until the contract is contemplated. At the end of the two years, the town either accepts the fee of \$25k if nothing is built on it, if it is approved and ready to go, the town will get the remainder of the money for the purchase of the Lot. This means that the individual that buys this won't be able to buy it on spec; he has to do something, or he will lose his

9. Parks & Recreation Park Maintainer Wage Increase – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the wage increase for the Parks & Recreation Department's Park Maintainer from \$17.00 per hour to \$18.00 per hour as presented and recommended by the Director in her letter dated 3/1/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Park and Recreation Director explained that Hector has been with us for a few years now, and he does a great job. To her, it makes sense to give him the increase. First Selectman Temple said he thinks he is doing a good job and supports this. Hector does above and beyond. It's not just maintaining the park; he does the tree lighting and other town maintenance and events. When you have someone who does a good job, you want to keep him.

Selectman Jensen and Haney also support this. Selectman Haney said that Hector had helped her at the Senior Center and does a great job.

10. Parks & Recreation Hire Gate Attendant

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Isaac Chiapetta as a Parks & Recreation Department's Gate Attendant with a pay rate of \$13.00 per hour. He will work from March 14, 2021, until May 27, 2021, from September 7, 2021, until November 15, 2021, as presented and recommended by the Director in her letter dated 3/1/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Isaac is a senior at Oxford High and lives on Jackson Cove Road. Instead of having Hector drive to Jackson's Cove and Aggie Park each evening, it makes sense to hire someone who lives close by. First Selectman explained that Isaac is responsible and a good kid. He expects that he will do a good job. It will be one hour a day, in the evenings, while lifeguards are not on staff. When lifeguards are on staff, they are responsible for closing the gate.

11. Oxford Cultural Arts Commission Request for the use of Oxford High School for Oxford Arts Festival.

First Selectman George Temple made a motion to table item #11 Oxford Cultural Arts Commission Request for the use of Oxford High School for Oxford Arts Festival. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

12. Capital Improvement Plan – Approve and Forward to Town Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved the following:

Whereas, The Town Charter's Section 3-4: Capital Plan Town Meeting requires the Capital Plan Town Meeting be held annually on the second Monday of March, at which time the Board of Selectmen shall present an updated capital improvement program for the Town to be approved at a special town meeting; and

Whereas, the Board of Selectmen specifically finds that Connecticut is in the midst of a public health emergency with the number of cases of COVID-19 still increasing, and to hold an in-person town meeting at this time would pose a risk to the public health and welfare of the Town's citizens;

Now, Therefore, for the reasons described above and in order to avoid endangering public health and welfare, the Board of Selectmen moves to approve the Town of Oxford's Capital Improvement Plan as presented; all as in accordance with Connecticut's Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order No. 7JJ, Paragraph 4.

This was second by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

13. Hire Director of the Senior Center:

Selectman Arnold Jensen made a motion to hire Heather Haney as the Director of the Senior Center. This was seconded by First Selectman Temple. Selectman Haney recused herself. All 2 Ayes. Motion carries.

First Selectman Temple stated that Heather has been doing a great job as acting Director. She has had some challenges during COVID but has been able to keep the Senior Center up and running and provide services to our residents online during this difficult time. She has been working hard and has proved to deserve this promotion. The starting salary will remain the same as the acting director. However, she will have a probationary period. Congratulations Heather!

13. Report of First Selectman:

First Selectman Temple stated that our inoculation schedule has been going very well. On the 13th, the BOE will have 215 appointments for the teachers at a clinic held at the High School, and the Town will have a clinic at the old Center School for another 200 people to receive the vaccination. We are really doing well. Special thanks to Griffin Hospital, Waterbury Hospital, Pomperaug Health, and the Oxford Ambulance Association.

Audience of Citizens


None.


Adjournment:

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kristyn Rosa
Administrative Assistant
Office of the First Selectman

21 MAR 17 PM 3:38
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT

TOWN CLERK