

# **MINUTES**

## **Board of Selectmen's**

### **Special Meeting**

**Monday November 25, 2019**

**5:15 PM - Town Hall**

The Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting was called to order 5:25 p.m. by First Selectman George Temple and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman Heather Haney, Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Aircraft Registration Official Appointment**

##### **MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple, moved to appoint Ashley Schremmer, Tax Collector, as the Aircraft Registration Official with a term to commence immediately. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

##### **Discussion:**

First Selectman George Temple, congratulated Ashley Schremmer on being elected as Tax Collector. He explained this appointment is required by the state and it is always the Tax Collector.

## **2. Board of Education Appointments**

### **MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to appoint Nicole Levine McGrath, of 34 Old Country Road, to the Board of Education with a term to commence immediately and expire 11/16/21. This was seconded by Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes.

### **Discussion:**

First Selectman George Temple explained that he met with Nicole who is an Attorney. He stated that Nicole is intelligent and was recommended by a lot of people that he respects.

### **MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to appoint Scott Flaherty, of 265 Chestnut Tree Hill Road to the Board of Education with a term to commence immediately and expire 11/16/21. This was seconded by Selectman Jensen.

### **Discussion:**

First Selectman George Temple, stated, "This is in no way a political move. Scott ran against me and I found Scott to be very intelligent and centered on the town. Scott was involved as the liaison to the Middle School committee. Scott worked closely with me on the new middle school committee and his insight was very impressive." First Selectman Temple described Scott as a young man who has a great deal of potential and is someone he likes and respects. Temple stated, "I know Scott will do a great job." Two Ayes. Selectman Haney opposed.

**3. Elderly Commission Appointment:**

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to appoint Harue Bailey, of 16 Towner Lane, to the Elderly Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire 12/31/23. This was seconded by Selectman Jensen. All 3 Ayes

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple described Harue Bailey to be a wonderful lady who loves the Senior Center. He stated, "She is very involved and I have known her for 8 years. I am impressed with her and I know she will be a good addition to the Commission."

**4. Board of Finance Appointment**

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to appoint Sue Arpin, of 1003 White Birch Lane, to the Board of Finance with a term to commence immediately and expire 11/16/21. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes

First Selectman George Temple said, "I highly respect the work Sue has done on the Board of Finance. Sue has done a great job and I am delighted to have her back."

**5. Oxford Center Fire Company 2020 Fire Chief Re-Appointment**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint Scott Pelletier as Oxford Center Fire Company's 2020 Fire Chief; as presented and recommended in their letter dated 10/14/19. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

First Selectman George Temple stated, "I rely heavily on Scott. He is extremely knowledgeable and extremely motivated. Scott has done a marvelous job with the fire dept. The Oxford Fire Department is now one fire department and not 3 separate departments. This is largely through the efforts of Scott. He has come

up with much innovation and I cannot say enough good things about him.” Selectman Jensen added, “I spent the day with Scott about a month ago and he explained what was going on at all the fire departments. What he has done is really outstanding”. First Selectman George Temple agreed and said, “Scott is a real professional”. Selectman Haney, stated “I have known Scott for many years and I know that he has done a great job. I have dealt with him at the housing authority and he is amazing”.

**6. Riverside Fire Company 2020 Fire Chief Re-Appointment**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint John Downs, Jr. as Riverside Fire Company's 2020 Fire Chief; as presented and recommended in their letter dated 11/6/19. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

First Selectman George Temple said, “John has done a great job at the Riverside Fire Company and I know that Scott relies heavily on John for his expertise and knowledge. People over in Riverside all like him.” I can't say enough about him.” Selectman Jensen asked, “Why the Quaker Farms Fire Chief is not being re-appointed. First Selectman George Temple explained that with the passing of Chief Coy, the appointment is extended.

**7. Water Pollution Control Authority Re-Appointments:**

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to **table** this matter. This was seconded by Selectman Jensen. All 3 Ayes.

**8. Appoint Acting First Selectman**

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to appoint Arnie Jensen as the Acting First Selectman. This was seconded Heather Haney. Selectman Jensen abstained. All 2 Ayes.

First Selectman George Temple stated that, "Arnie has done a great job since he has been Acting Selectman". He is still a rookie, but he is coming into it and he feels that he will do a great job".

**9. Appoint Administrative Assistant**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen, moved to re-appoint Kristyn Rosa, of 6 Skyline Drive, as the Administrative Assistant with a term to commence immediately and expire 11/16/21. This was seconded by Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes.

First Selectman George Temple stated," Kristyn has been doing a very good job and I like the way she handles herself and does things in a very professional way."

**10. Appoint Town Engineer**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Jensen moved to re-appoint Brian Nesteriak P.E., L.S., of B&B Engineering located at 39 New Haven Road in Seymour, as the Town Engineer, with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/16/21, at a pay rate of \$85.50 per hour. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple stated, "Oxford was the first town to appoint Brian as a Town Engineer and now he is working for three other towns because they realize how good he is. He does a very good job. We are lucky to have him; he is a very good engineer."

## **11. Appoint Land Use Engineer**

### **MOTION:**

Selectman Jensen moved to re-appoint Jim Galligan, P.E., of Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. located at 1355 Middletown Ave in Northford, as the Land Use Engineer, with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/16/21, at a pay rate of \$85.00 per hour. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

### **Discussion:**

First Selectman George Temple stated that "Galligan works for the Inland Wetlands, Planning and Zoning or ZBA if they need him. He is extremely experienced in this area I have known him since I was Town Attorney in Seymour. He was the land use engineer there and he did a great job. He works with several other towns, but spends a lot of time in Oxford. I have not heard anything negative about him and is always there when we need him. I strongly support this." Selectman Jensen stated, "I worked for 6 years on Planning and Zoning and worked closely with Jim. I have nothing but good things to say about him. I strongly support this as well."

## **12. Appoint Town Counsel:**

### **MOTION:**

Selectman Jensen moved to re-appoint Attorney Kevin Condon, of Condon & Savitt, P.C., as Town Counsel with a term to commence immediately and expire 11/16/21 at a rate of \$175.00 per hour. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

### **Discussion:**

Kevin has been town attorney for 8 years. First Selectman George Temple said, "I have known him for 40 years he is a very good lawyer comes from a very good firm. He is always there when you need him. As an Attorney, I have to use him a lot less than maybe other First Selectman or Mayors have to, but I do appreciate

his expertise and ability. He has a very good reputation in the legal community and with the judges so I believe this is a good choice." Selectman Jensen added, "Having worked on P&Z I have worked with him occasionally and I have very good things to say about him as well. He does a great job." Selectman Heather Haney stated, "I have known him most of my life and he is a great guy.

### **13. Appoint Deputy Treasurer**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman Jensen moved to appoint Paula Guillet, of 175 Good Hill Road, as the Deputy Treasurer with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/16/21. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

#### **Discussion:**

First Selectman George Temple stated, "This was a position we never had until we had money stolen from us. A Deputy Treasurer does an audit each week on the Tax Collector. We do trust her, but we have to verify. Paula has caught on very well and works well with Vinny Paulitis, our Treasurer. I strongly support this.

### **14. Appoint Council of Governments Representative Alternate**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman Jensen moved to appoint Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant, as the Council of Governments Alternate Oxford Representative with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/16/21. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated, "What that means is if the First Selectman is unavailable Oxford should have sent someone to represent. Council of Government consists of 28 towns and cities. All our grants

come thru COG. There are times when I can't make it for whatever reason, so I send Kristyn. She knows her way around there now and every town has an alternate and usually is the Administrative Assistant and she has done a good job". All 3 Ayes.

**15. Hire Tax Collector Clerk**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Jensen moved to hire Sandra Kozikowski, of 55 Cedar Lane, as the Tax Collector Clerk with a rate of pay of \$21.55 per hour, as in accordance with the Municipal Employees Union Contract, and a start date of Monday, November 25, 2019. This was seconded Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated, "Sandra has been working with us in the Tax Office. We knew we were losing our Tax Collector and had to replace her. Sandra has done a very good job and it makes sense to hire someone who can hit the ground running. I think this is a good hire."

**16. Hire Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Jensen moved to hire Michael Herde, of 165 Good Hill Road, as the Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer with an annual rate of pay of \$48,000 and a start date of Monday, December 2, 2019. This was seconded by Selectman Haney. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple said, "Mike Herde has been the Chairman of Inland Wetlands Commission. He will obviously have to resign. Mike is certified as an Inland Wetlands Officer and he will be taking the place of Andy Ferrillo who has retired about 4 months ago. Mike can start right away. I have a lot of confidence in Mike and he is very well familiar with the Board. They all like him and they respect him and his knowledge. I think this is a good hire."

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m. This was seconded by Selectman Jensen. All 3 Ayes.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

  
**Kristyn Rosa**

**Administrative Assistant**

**Office of the First Selectman**

19 DEC -4 PM 1:31  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
*Christina B. West*  
TOWN CLERK