

# Minutes

## Board of Selectmen's

### Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 7:30 PM**

Virtual Meeting/Hangout Meets/In Person

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 David McKane, Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman

Absent: None

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

##### **1. 2/2/22 Regular Meeting**

###### **MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to approve the 2/2/22 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

###### **MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to reconsider the approval of the 2/2/22 Regular/special Meeting minutes. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

###### **MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to amend 2/2/22 Regular Meeting minutes to Special Meeting minutes. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

##### **2. 2/8/22 Special Meeting**

###### **MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to approve the 2/8/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. Fire Department's Chief of Chief Re-Appointment**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to re-appoint Scott Pelletier as the Fire Department Chief of Chiefs as presented and recommended in their letter dated 1/28/22. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Discussion of how Scott Pelletier is doing a terrific job and how the board is very happy with the Fire Department.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Tax Refunds**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$11,434.91, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 2/14/22, and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Discussion was had that this is most likely motor vehicles, or leases up on cars. Routine.

### **2. Route 67 Alternative Transportation Study Presentation – Review and Endorse**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to endorse the Route 67 Alternative Transportation Study, Final Report submitted on 1/3/21; as recommended by the Oxford Main Street Project Chairman in his letter date 2/11/22. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Aaron Budris, NVCOG Senior Regional Planner, presented a thorough explanation and slide show displaying the findings by the Route 67 Alternative Transportation Study, to allow a currently nonexistent pedestrian and bicyclist access to areas in downtown Oxford. This walkway's ultimate goal is to stretch from the North, Larkin Bridal Trail in

Southford, to the Seymour sidewalk network and the Naugatuck Greenway trail to the South. The plan and discussion were laid out in the slideshow, explaining the process, funding, phases and suggestions from the study. The results of this study are also posted on the project website NVCOGCT.Gov. Discussion was also had and several opinions were raised in regards for the need of a barrier to protect the pedestrians and bicyclists, on top of the distance from the road. This barrier would have to be able to withstand weather and plowing throughout the winter, but the barrier cannot be added until project completion, so there is time to decide which method and material would work best and be aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Budris also presented suggestions for a solution to the fact there is no other transportation options in the town of Oxford besides a resident getting in a car and driving to a location. Despite a few transit options, which could be costly to get going, the most financially efficient suggestion would be to work with the Valley Transit District. The Valley Transit District (VTD), which currently operates a micro transit system already in Seymour, Derby, Shelton and Ansonia. Upon a preliminary discussion with the VTD, they mentioned that they would be interested in extending their services to Oxford. This is just a suggestion, and rests only upon implementation by the Board of Selectmen, but was pointed out to be the best option economically. The Board thanked Mr. Budris for his wonderful presentation.

**3. Tarby Lane Proposed Improvements – Discuss with Possible Action**

First Selectman George Temple moved to *table* this matter at this time. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**4. Oxford Main Street Project Corporation Police Station Proposal**

***Presentation:***

Jim Sanders of the Oxford Main Street Project Corporation presented the desire to have the old Oxford Police station, once vacant, to be kept and be re-used as a nature center. The cost to the town would be little, mainly keeping the lights on, and that the rest of the costs can be funded through grants and fundraising through the Main Street Project Corporation. First Selectman George Temple agreed with the idea of keeping the building there and running, that it is a historic building in town. He went to state that it is close to the nature walk, perhaps it could even perhaps be used like a visitor center, or self-service facility of the like. Agreement was had that something definitely needs to be there, consideration will be made.

**5. Agreement Between Guerrera Construction and Town of Oxford for Removal of Structures and Land Grading at Oxford Centralized School Located on Route 67 – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Agreement Between Guerrera Construction and the Town of Oxford for the removal of structures and to level and grade

land to store the crushed stone and other surplus materials at the Oxford Centralized School located on Route 67 and authorize the First Selectman to sign said Agreement; all as described in their Agreement. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 2 Ayes, Selectman Dave McKane abstained. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Selectman David McKane expressed concerns over some items in the Agreement, specifically items in bullet point three regarding blasting that will be done by Guerrera Construction Company and his concern of it going on during functions held at that location. It was agreed and pointed out that the company will have to give notice prior to blasting and an amendment to the motion was made to ensure that. Selectman McKane also pointed out a concern he has with item ten, of the town being responsible in paying for any environmental rehabilitation removal and disposal fees for the buildings to be removed. Jeff Luff, Economic Development Director, explained that the removal of the buildings will be put in dumpsters and disposed at Guerrera's expense. The part involving the town is in regards to things such as lead paint or asbestos, and that there is minimal likelihood of those issues based upon a close inspection and research done by Jeff Luff. Selectman McKane expressed his worries of the oil tanks on all of the building as well. It was stressed that no one wants the town to have to pay anything, and precautions will be taken to avoid that as much as possible. Mr. Luff stated that the town would be responsible if there were oil leaks but the area was inspected and there is no foreseen leakage, and the tanks are above ground. Selectman Arnold Jensen posed a question in regards to item thirteen in regards to the town selling Guerrera Lot 3 East Commerce to assist in obtaining use for storage process and sale of earth materials. His concern was that this could go on forever and could become a contractor's yard. Mr. Luff explained that site development is temporary but Guerrera needs it for use to process material, so, yes it will essentially become a contractor's yard. However, within ten to fifteen years Guerrera plans to build a building there, it is just so much material and will take that long to do. Mr. Luff explained that this lot cannot be seen anywhere from Woodruff Hill, it is under the power lines, with a drop down close to one hundred and fifty feet. First Selectman George Temple stated he understands the concerns and that this is just the beginning step of a very big vision; and it is a pretty good vision.

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to amend item three that Guerrera will provide a three-day notice to the blasting official Scott Pelletier before blasting. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**6. Police Department Funding Request for Idemia Livescan Fingerprint Machine – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to approve the Police Departments funding request, in an amount not to exceed \$12,500.00, for the purchase of an Idemia Livescan Fingerprint

Machine, a printer and potential networking infrastructure costs and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the contract for this purchase. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Sgt. John Acampora explained that this is in regards to the need for an electronic fingerprint scanner. This is currently not in the budget but would indeed be a huge asset to the town. Fingerprinting is for many areas such as pistol permits, teachers, substitutes, employees of childcare facilities, coaches, nurses and many other professions that require fingerprinting. Having it electronic will allow instant feedback on results, allow better tracing in the case of name changes, as well as be more agreeable with the state and federal government, which will reduce inconveniences and hang ups on timing. The town is indeed seeing an influx of fingerprinting and this would be a huge asset on many levels. The town currently does fingerprinting manually, and often can delay processes and even at times be unaccepted by the State or Federal Government. Sgt. Acampora also stated that soon, down the road, eventually everyone will have to switch over to the electronic method, and he feels it is best to get ahead of the game, besides the huge advantages that go along with it. The only other cost that this would incur is a yearly networking maintenance besides the machine itself. First Selectman George Temple agreed that it is a valid expense, and is in favor of passing it on to the Board of Finance. All were in agreement and would like to equip our police the best we can.

### **7. Apraxia Awareness Day Proclamation – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to approve the following 2022 Apraxia Awareness Day Proclamation and authorize the First Selectman to sign:

#### **2022 PROCLAMATION FOR APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY**

**Whereas**, May 14, 2022 marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout Connecticut about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1,000 children.

**Whereas**, childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children.

**Whereas**, the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia require early, appropriate, and intensive speech therapy, often for many years to learn to speak.

**Whereas**, without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia will have diminished communication skills, but are also placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills.

**Whereas**, that such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities and challenge the ability to become productive, contributing citizens if not resolved or improved.

**Whereas**, public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Connecticut is essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who support them to achieve the needed services for those learning to use their own voice.

**Whereas**, our highest respect goes to these children, as well as their families, for their effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

**Let it be resolved**, that May 14, 2022 is “**Apraxia Awareness Day**” and citizens of the Town of Oxford, Connecticut are encouraged to work within their community to increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

Apraxia Kids is the leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech. Please visit [www.apraxia-kids.org](http://www.apraxia-kids.org) for more information.

This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Cara Brennan, citizen advocating to bring the proclamation for Apraxia Awareness Day to Oxford, stated she wanted to unite community members, children with childhood apraxia of speech, and their friends and family to be an unstoppable, united force advocacy for children with childhood apraxia of speech. Discussion was had that this is approved, and the Board commends her on doing the groundwork on this and is happy to support her, on ONE condition - that Cara must bring her son Jack to the second meeting in May so the Board of Selectmen can wish him happy awareness day, as well as anyone else who wishes to join. The Board of Selectmen thanked Ms. Brennan again.

**8. Hire Public Works Utility Man**

First Selectman George Temple *table* this matter at this time.

**9. Town-Wide Cleanup Month – Approve Resolution**

**MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to approve the following Town-Wide Cleanup Month Resolution as presented and requested by the Conservation/Inland Wetlands Agency:

**WHEREAS**, the Oxford Conservation Commission Inland Wetlands Agency has declared from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> as Town Wide Cleanup Month; and

**WHEREAS**, Town Wide Cleanup Month is celebrated annually to recommit to protect our flora and fauna and make Oxford a beautiful place to live; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford reaffirms its commitment to the goals and principles of Town Wide Cleanup Month and in keeping with our goal to protect and make Oxford a beautiful place to live, and supports Town Wide Cleanup by:

1. Inviting and encouraging all citizens, businesses, organizations, schools, clubs, neighborhoods and families to participate in community Town Wide Cleanup activities; and
2. By providing support through participation of Town Departments.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford declare from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> as Town Wide Cleanup Month and authorizes the Public Works Department to remain open until 5:00 PM on the last two (2) Saturdays of April.

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

**DISCUSSION:**

First Selectman George Temple stated this will be posted online and on social media. He thanked Denise Randall, of the Oxford Conservation Commission for taking this on.

**10. FY 2021 – 2022 Transfer Requests**

**MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to approve the following FY 2021 – 2022 transfer requests as presented by the Finance Director in his letter dated 2/10/22:

TO: Registrars	5465-557	Conferences	\$454.00
FROM: Registrars	5465-517-30	November Election	\$454.00
TO: Police	5433-613	Facility Maintenance	\$4,500.00
FROM: Police	5433-603	Equipment Depreciable	\$4,500.00

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

**DISCUSSION:**

Jim Hliva, Finance Director stated that the first line item will allow the Registrars to attend a state-run training session. The funds are being taken from the remaining November elections funds. First Selectman George Temple stated this is important and it is not based around politics but more so the job; he has no objection to this.

As far as the second transfer request, Sgt. John Acampora explained they had used this money for their tasers, training and replacement cartridges and have been able to

conserve monies from that as well as money owed back to them for ones that failed or were defective. This money saved is to be used for facility maintenance. First Selectman George Temple stated that he agrees with this, that the town has been having their custodian going down there every week to clean. With Covid and everything else a thorough once a week cleaning is needed. Sgt. Acampora stated that especially since they are a 24/7 operation, an initial deep cleaning on top of weekly thorough cleaning and also to do the carpets, will help keep the police safe and healthy and will also preserve the building that they take pride in. Sgt. Acampora also went on to state that Tyler Hicks, current town custodian, does a fantastic job, he is awesome and they love having him there but he is stretched so thin. He also stated that they are doing their best to offset the costs. Besides the refund from the tasers, they also renegotiated contracts, changed some vendors and have been successful in offsetting much of the cost.

#### 11. Report of First Selectman

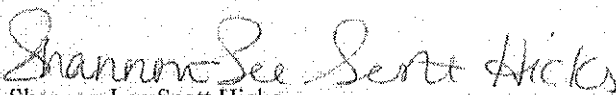
- Covid is relaxing, mask mandates will be relaxing as well in all town buildings.
  - According to people in the health field, they said the number of cases is reducing.
    - Before relaxing mandates, the town would like to hold one last booster clinic and get it to as many people as we can.
    - Despite numbers going down though we do still need to be cautious
- An APRA Fund meeting was had last week to discussion the use of the Federal Covid Relief money and how it should be spent. Many of the views were focused around the old Center School and to a good memorial.
  - It would be really nice to see something tangible result from the Covid tragedy that will leave a positive lasting impression
  - Another pertinent use of these funds could be for the leak on Towner Lane, which needs to be fixed, not patched.

#### ADJOURNMENT

#### MOTION:

Selectman David McKane moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks  
Clerk, Board of Selectman

22 FEB 23 PM 2:28  
TOWN OF DEXFORD, CT  
Margaret A. Whit  
TOWN CLERK