

# **Minutes**

## **Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting.**

**Wednesday, May 18, 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 7:32 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. 5/4/22 Regular Meeting**

##### **MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 5/4/22 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Apraxia Awareness Day Proclamation and Presentation**

##### **MOTION:**

Selectman David McKane moved to Proclaim Apraxia Awareness Day. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

##### **DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION:**

Apraxia Awareness Day was Proclaimed in honor of sweet and handsomely dressed Jack Brennan, in his tuxedo and red bowtie. His mother gave a wonderful presentation and explanation of Apraxia, and the Board of Selectman presented Jack and his family a Town of Oxford coin and a teddy bear. Photos were taken.

**2. C. Burlinson Eagle Scout Presentation**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support Committee's Application for Caleb Burlinson's Eagle Scout Project, in the amount of \$2,200.00, for the installation of an ADA compliant handicapped accessible ramp for the historical school house moved to the Rowland Homestead; as presented and approved by the Community Support Committee at their meeting held on 3/21/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. No action taken or necessary.

**DISCUSSION:**

Caleb Burlinson spoke on his behalf, he raised the previously requested \$2,000.00 on his own and no longer needs the grant, and came to just let the Board know. First Selectman George Temple replied how very proud of Caleb he was and stated that he is very deserving of any award he received from the Boy Scouts, and that if invited to his ceremony he will state the same thing there, and if he should find he needs any more expenses just come back and talk to them, he has proven he has earned it and deserves it.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to table this matter, in the case of more funds being needed. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**3. Fire Department's Capital Request for New Chief's Vehicle**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Fire Department's Capital Request, in the amount of \$68,500.00, for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Fire Chief and to forward this matter to the Board of Finance and to Town Meeting. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Discussion was had that a third-party inspection was given upon request of the vehicle by the Town Mechanic, as well as inquiry with the vendor for trade in value which was provided to be \$4,500.00. So, the requested price would be reduced to \$64,000.00. This is

an eleven-year-old vehicle that is rusting away despite the yearly winter cleanings and treatments it receives, and everything on the vehicle needs replacing. First Selectman George Temple stated that he supports this, it is for the safety of our employees, volunteers and the public.

**4. Hire Parks & Recreation Lifeguards**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire the Parks & Recreation Lifeguards (Attachment A) as presented and recommended by the Director in her letter dated 5/16/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Kyra Nesteriak, Park and Recreation Director, stated that there were eight new hires this year, seven of which were from the Otter's swim program so they have been already swimming with them which is great. Hiring this 8 gives leeway in regards to having enough staff to work around schedules.

**5. Environmental Inspection of Pods at Old Center School for Demolition – Approve**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve an Environmental Inspection of the pods/classroom buildings at the Old Center School for demolition and presented and recommended by the Economic Development Director in his email dated 5/17/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. 2 ayes. David McKane abstains. Motion carries.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the quote for an Environmental Inspection of the pods/classroom buildings at the Old Center School for demolition to Arcadis, in the amount of \$12,795.00, as presented and recommended by the Economic Development Director in his email dated 5/17/22. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. David McKane Nay. 2 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

This is the first step necessary and required by the state to be sure there is no lead paint and asbestos in the pods before demolishing them, Jeff Luff-Economic Development Director stated. There were three bids and all came back with the same work scope so it was comparing apples to apples. First Selectman George Temple commented that regardless of what is done with this space, this inspection needs to be done. These buildings need to go and this is step one. Funds will be taken from the ARPA fund.

**6. Rename Old Oxford Center School**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to rename the old Oxford Center School to Oxford Center Municipal Annex Building. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**7. Establish Town of Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee, Approve Charge and Appoint Members.**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to establish the Town of Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee and approve the following Charge:

**Mission:** To make a holistic review of the space requirements and space available to the Town of Oxford, then make recommendations on how to best use this space. The space to be reviewed shall include the current Town Hall building (including the basement area) and the Oxford Center Municipal Annex Building, previously known as the Old Oxford Center School. The requirements should include but are not limited to office space, meeting rooms, public access, reception, storage/archival, and general-purpose/shared. The committee is to integrate the recommendations for the expenditure of ARPA funds and advise and recommend to the Board of Selectmen on the usage of such funds.

**Responsibilities:** Gather information, hold public meetings, and recommend professional services, i.e., architects, structural engineers, or whatever is deemed appropriate by the committee to make required recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

This charge may be modified and amended by the Board of Selectmen as they deem necessary. The committee will consist of nine people, and all meetings held will be in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. The committee will meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

First Selectman George Temple will be present for the first meeting to get things going.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the motion that the first meeting of the Town of Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee, will be the third Tuesday of June,

at 7pm. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint the following members to the Town of Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee:

Jeff Luff  
Bill Miller  
Herman Schuler  
Betsi Hellman  
Mary Beth Nelson  
Larry Ellis  
Lynn Aiksnoras

This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Discussion was had that all the members appointed in the group have the credentials of being in a committee and are hard workers, which will be necessary, and will have a positive influence on the committee. Selectman Arnold Jensen will be the liaison and will attend all meetings, and the other Selectman may occasionally be present as well, to help with any guidance.

**8. Fox Pest Control Peddlers Permits – Approve**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Peddler's Permit for Fox Pest Control with the following stipulations:

- The Oxford Police Department must be notified daily, or each day you are soliciting, of the area in town where you will be soliciting along with the hours.
- No soliciting in neighborhoods where it clearly states "No Soliciting" such as, but not limited to, Oxford Green, Meadowbrook Estates, River Bend Estates.
- All peddlers must have identification badges.
- No soliciting on Sundays or Holidays

This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Comments were made that this has been done with Fox Pest Control every year, and there are no problems with it.

**9. Disband Long Range Planning Committee**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to disband the Long-Range Planning Committee as they have not met in over 10 years. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**10. Disband Plan of Conservation & Development Committee**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to disband the Plan of Conservation & Development Committee as this was complete in 2017. This was seconded by This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**11. Disband Roads Commission**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to disband the Roads Commission as they have not met since 2015. This was seconded by This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**12. Disband Town-Wide Rubbish Removal Study Committee**

*No action at this time*

**13. Disband Veterans Tax Exemption Committee**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to disband the Veterans Tax Exemption Committee. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries. (Note: This committee may be re-established in the future with more current local ordinances and guidelines)

**DISCUSSION:**

This will be re-examined, and possibly re-established.

**14. Ratify Municipal Employees Union Contract 7/1/21 – 6/30/24**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to ratify the Municipal Employees Union Contract for the period beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, as presented, and authorize the First Selectman to sign. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane.

**MOTION:**

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

**15. Report of First Selectman**

- The Oxford Police Department have been following the school buses.
  - This has been successful, two people that passed the school buses have been caught so far, this is a \$450.00 ticket as well as having a large impact on car insurance policies.
  - Despite the unease of having to put stress down on people we must protect our children, and has been well supported by the town residents.
  - We will continue to do this.
  -
- Memorial Day Parade
  - This is run by the American Legion and will be on Monday May 30<sup>th</sup>. It will begin at Market 32 Plaza and end at the Oxford Town Hall where a ceremony will follow.
  - For those Service people currently on duty, there will be a collection for those who would like to donate, working with Kelly Spak who has been collecting items for them thus far.
  - What better time for this collection, and with so many people in various NATO countries right now, how nice it will be to let them know they are not forgotten.
- Skate Park in Newtown
  - The First Selectman paid a visit to the Newtown SkatePark, before seeing it, I admittedly had a negative opinion of the idea, but after seeing what they had done he was thoroughly impressed with what they did. These skaters are truly athletes, and they also care for and are very respectful of their environment. It was clean, done very nicely, and changed the whole

perspective on the idea of incorporating one in our town. The First Selectman is very interested in taking a look at the one in New Milford next, and would like people in the committee to join him as well...this is a future possibility.

### **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

**Marsha Franko**-35 Dutton Rd – pointed out that on the appointment of committee members for the Town of Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee, a name was missing, Richard Franzino.

First Selectman George Temple stated this was in error, an oversight, and will be rectified at the next meeting.

**Paula Guilette**-175 Good Hill Rd – Commented on the municipal contract, that between 10.5 and 56% of the increase will be going to increase cost of insurance as proposed. Roughly an average of 30%- so between 10.5 and 56% of the employee increase is going toward insurance.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks*

Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

22 MAY 26 PM 4:19  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
*August A. West*  
TOWN CLERK