

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 2023
7:30 PM - Town Hall

First Selectman George Temple opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman David McKane and Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 4/19/23 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 4/19/23 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

NONE

APPOINTMENTS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

1. OASIS Presentation

Mr. Vincent Provenzano gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen about OASIS (Oxford Addictive Substance Information Services). Mr. Provenzano began by showing the Board a collage of photos of his daughter, who overdosed in their home when she was just 15 years old. OASIS was formed in 2016 in response to the rise of drug overdoses. He spoke to the Board about possibly using funds to raise awareness of the young children of Oxford as early as

middle school age. He went on to say how early education is key. Mr. Provenzano outlined a possible plan spanning over four years. The cost would be \$40,000.00 over four years. His presentation was about raising awareness, and some of the ways the funds would be used are:

- Become a Prevention Corps host site for a person to focus exclusively, build an LPC team in all sectors and maintain a website. \$5000.
- Annual School Awareness Campaign in middle school and high school by providing posters, flyers, and materials as needed for both schools. \$1500.
- Community Awareness such as Red Ribbon Week and DEA Prescription Drug Take Back. \$2500.
- Freshman Forum (event every two years) \$1000.

The above strategy would enable the consistent building of the local prevention council and flexibility for raising awareness as communities' needs change.

Mr. Provenzano went on to describe what OASIS is:

OASIS is Oxford's Local Prevention Council. A dedicated group of volunteers and concerned citizens from many community sectors that work together to keep Oxford families happy, healthy, and safe. Their mission is to address issues that impact self-image, human potential, quality of life, and other public health concerns through partnership, prevention, and education. This committee serves the entire community, focusing on young people as a support network of information and resources with events relating to addiction, mental health, and social concerns. Building relationships with schools, government, law enforcement, and community agencies.

Prevention is an essential step in the program. To help achieve this goal, they would hold awareness-raising events, school programs, medication drop boxes, and mass mailings. Educating by providing a collection of available resources. Offering educational and skills training events for individuals and families. Encouragement by providing support to help families, such as the care support group and smart recovery support group. OASIS currently receives funds for the growing opioid crisis specifically.

First Selectman George Temple discussed attending funerals for young people 16 to 25 years of age in Oxford who have passed away from addiction. When attending these funerals, you see the pictures of the children when they were very young, catching their first fish and dance recital. It's very emotional. We have to admit as a Town that it is a problem that exists here. We need to help the people that want assistance, and that's not just for the person that is addicted but also for their families. Unfortunately, drug use is usually hidden as a family. This must change. This isn't about money; this is about broken lives. We need to help the parents of an addictive child. Give them guidance and resources and, most of all, support.

Mr. Provenzano discussed the Takeback Program that should be promoted. It is a program for properly discarding prescription drugs. Most children's first drug use experience comes from their home's medicine cabinet. Drugs must be discarded properly and not left hanging around the house.

The Board thanked Mr. Provenzano for his very informative presentation.

2. ARPA Funding for CPM Environmental Clean-Up of Windows at Oxford Center Municipal Annex Building (Old Center School) – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the ARPA funding request, in the amount of \$7,500.00, for CPM Environmental for asbestos clean-up of windows at Oxford Center Municipal Annex Building as approved by the Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Committee at their meeting held on 4/11/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Selectman Arnold Jensen asked Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee Chairman Jeff Luff if this was the only asbestos in the building. Mr. Luff stated that we are only required to remove this asbestos in this area since we are making modifications there. They have a small amount of asbestos in them, and it needs to be removed by law. Walls will be built, and smaller, energy-efficient windows will be installed. This \$7,500.00 is only to remove the asbestos.

3. ARPA Funding for 8-Mile Reserve Trails Grant – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the ARPA funding request, in the amount of \$14,600.00, for the establishment of walking trails at Cubberly Park in the 8-Mile Preserve in order to be compliant with the State of Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant for the Vaill property; as approved by the Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Committee at their meeting held on 4/11/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: It was explained that this was a grant, and part of the conditions of the grant was that the Town put in trails. It was never done. In order to get the grant for the Vaill Bunny Farm, we have to put in the trails as we promised. The figure of \$14,600.00 is for Mr. Joe Lanier and the Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) to build the trails. First, Selectman Temple asked that Grant Writer Karen Cook receive a monthly report from the YCC to get an update on the

progress of the trail system. First Selectman Temple stated that they are happy to pay for the trails, but these trails can only be used as walking trails. No bikes or ATVs will be allowed. Strictly walking trails.

4. ARPA Funding Request for 40-Slip Jackson Cove Marina – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the ARPA funding request, in the amount of \$350,000.00, for a 40-slip marina to be created and located at Jackson's Cove, as presented in the ARPA Committee recommendation, and as approved by the Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Committee at their meeting held on 2/16/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Mr. Bill Miller, Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee Member, discussed how Jackson's Cove is a great site to bring in docks and a marina. There is a huge demand for boat slips, and this would be a great resource for Oxford. The site was toured, and the ground is firm; not much work would be needed to complete the project.

Selectman Arnold Jensen asked if there was enough parking. Mr. Miller stated a few spots could be added. He said the docks take little effort to put in and take out of the water. It was suggested that Mr. Miller visit other area towns with boat slips and find out how they implemented their docks. First Selectman George Temple stated It is a good idea, but more information and discussions are needed. Parks and Recreation Chairman **Glen Schumitz** stated that he is upset that the Parks and Recreation Department was not included in this proposal to the ARPA committee. He asked that the Parks and Recreation Commission be kept in the loop on all discussions and research of the docks since they will be responsible for them if installed.

Mr. Miller explained that he is not a boat guy and has no interest in owning a boat. However, he feels this will be beneficial to the residents of Oxford and will bring in revenue. First Selectman Temple is concerned about gasoline in the water since this river area is more stagnant. Selectman Jensen is concerned about parking. Selectmen Jensen mentioned that we have summer concerts and other events at Jackson's Cove and the parking lots are full. First Selectman Temple stated that he would like more research on this idea and would like to have discussions with other Towns on how they run their slips, etc. He appreciated this new idea and thanked Mr. Miller for his presentation but requested that this be tabled for more information.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to **table** the ARPA funding request, in the amount of \$350,000.00, for a 40-slip marina to be created and located at Jackson's Cove, as presented in the ARPA Committee recommendation, and as approved by the Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Committee at their meeting held on 2/16/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

5. Community Support Committee Request for Oxford Babe Ruth Fields Renovation – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support Committee's request for Oxford Babe Ruth's application, in the amount of \$7,000.00, for the fenced Posy and Kaether field renovations that are necessary for the maintenance of the playing fields and practice areas, as approved by the Community Support Committee at their meeting held on 4/17/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Glen Schumitz, Community Support Committee Chairman, stated that he believes this would significantly improve the fields that have not been touched for many years. This would make the field's tournament ready. First Selectman George Temple appreciates the work done so far and fully supports the renovations.

6. Community Support Committee Request for Make a Difference Club's Switching and Planting Generations – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support Committee's request for the "Make a Difference Club" application, in the amount of \$2,575.00, for the Switching and Planting Generations application for Veteran Memorial Phase 2 plantings (\$2,175.00) as approved by the Community Support Committee at their meeting held on 4/17/23. The Crocheting Together Blankets for Animal Shelters (\$410.00) that the Community Support Committee approved at their meeting on 4/17/23 was tabled. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Greg Schumitz, Community Support Committee Chairman, stated that Mr. Joe Lanier's group is working with the Oxford Senior Center. They would like to make blankets for the animal shelter. Selectman Jensen stated that he

spoke with the Animal Control Officer, and they received many blankets, so many that they had to donate them to other shelters. First Selectman Temple suggested that we hold off on the blankets. Maybe the group can make blankets and donate to another cause.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to **table** the request for the Crocheting Together Blankets for the animal shelters for the sum of \$410. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

7. Hire Parks & Recreation Summer Maintenance

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Erik Guerra as a Parks and Recreation Summer Maintenance with a start date of June 19, 2023, and a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Parks and Recreation Director Kyra Nesteriak stated Erik is currently a sophomore at Nonnewaug High School and he's moving to Oxford. He will be a good fit for the position.

8. Hire Senior Center Driver

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Margaret Hamila as a Senior Center Driver, with a start date of Monday, May 8, 2023, and a pay rate of \$16.65 per hour. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple supports this hire and Mrs. Hamila has the qualifications for the position and is well-liked among senior center members.

9. Hire Part-Time Police Officer

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire David Montini as a Part-Time Police Officer, with a start date of Monday, May 8, 2023, and a pay rate of 10% below

the police union contract scale. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated this will now give us three part-time officers. This will keep overtime down. These officers will be assigned to enforcement and radar.

10. Report of First Selectman

On May 1, 2023, there was a Town Meeting regarding the FY 2023 - 2024 budget. There will be a slight increase in the mil rate. First Selectman George Temple encourages everyone to get out and vote at the Budget Referendum on May 11th, 2023, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Quaker Farms School.

The Memorial Day Parade is quickly approaching. Many members of the Legion are getting older now and unable to organize the parade, so Jenn Miles has stepped up to the plate. So far, we have four marching bands and many groups and organizations. I have no doubt Ms. Miles will do a great job! Hope to see everyone there!

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee Chairman Jeff Luff explained that the application for the Youth Services Bureau is being withdrawn. They are asking the Board to appoint an advisory committee to work with the Board of Selectmen to form a committee. Ms. Lynn Aiksnoras explained that she would like more time to provide a concrete plan. Selectman David McKane explained that after hearing the presentation from Mr. Provenzano regarding the OASIS group, it sounds as though a Youth Services Bureau and the OASIS LPC would be a duplicate effort. He suggested that the two groups could work together as one.

Resident Nil Guillet, of Douglas Drive, expressed frustration as he has been waiting five years for the culvert across the street from his property to be cleaned by the Public Works Department. He stated that approval was given to clean up the culvert two months ago. He wants to know what the hold-up is. He stated that if it's not cleaned up, he will go to his neighbors and have them come to speak to the Board of Selectmen. He requested that this project finally be completed. First Selectman George Temple stated he would look into the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM. Seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By

Kathleen Sundstrom

Kathleen Sundstrom, Clerk

2023 MAY 16 PM 5:55
TOWN OF DEXTER, CT
David McKane
TOWN CLERK