

Board of Selectmen's

Special Meeting

Monday July 10, 2023

4:05 PM - Town Hall

First Selectman George R. Temple opened the meeting at 4:05 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman Dave McKane, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Kristyn Rosa and Finance Director Jim Hliva .

NEW BUSINESS:

1. ARPA Funding Request for Oxford Police Department New Police Vehicles – Approve.

MOTION:

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

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the ARPA funding request, in the amount of \$124,000.00, for the purchase of two new police vehicles, as presented and approved by the Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee at their meeting held on 6/13/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

State Police Sgt. Roman Gray presented the need for new police cars. He explained that there are currently 4 police vehicles that have mileage over 100,000 miles. Currently, one vehicle is out of commission, and a second vehicle 78-Ox a 2020 Dodge Charger with 74,000 miles just broke down, and it has been determined that it needs a new engine. Sgt. Gray stated that he is hoping that it is covered under warranty. Sgt. Gray indicated that not having enough vehicles is a huge issue and a safety concern.

Selectman Jensen expressed his concern about buying more Dodge cars when we had one that was only a few years old and needed a new motor. Sgt. Gray stated that police cars are in high demand and are back-ordered. It just so happens that the State Police ordered too many Dodge vehicles, and Oxford has the opportunity to buy two of them right now. If we do not purchase these two that are available and decide to go with a Chevy or Ford, the Town will have to wait.

Selectman McKane had concerns about purchasing two new cars that would be used for construction jobs or tree jobs. He feels that the new cars should be the cars out on patrol. Sgt. Gray agreed. He said that those cars would not be used for road jobs. He will use the older vehicles for that.

First Selectman Temple suggested purchasing one Dodge now and put in an order for a Chevy Tahoe. He explained that we are in a lurch now. We have one that just blew a motor, and he has to worry about getting these cars on the road. This money will be allocated from ARPA funds to pay for the Tahoe when it comes in.

MOTION:

Selectman Jensen amended the motion to take the \$124,000.00 from ARPA funds and purchase and outfit a Dodge Durango now and allocate the remainder to purchase one Chevy Tahoe and outfit it once it is available for purchase. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple stated that we may need to come back to ask for more money when the Tahoe is available. This money may not come from ARPA funds, but we will most likely need additional funding once it's time to purchase the second vehicle.

2. Update Selectmen's Salaries – Approve

MOTION:

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

Selectman David McKane recused himself.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to update Selectman David McKane's salary to \$22,959.56. Funding is to be taken from the general fund. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Selectman Arnold Jensen recused himself.

MOTION:

Selectman David McKane moved to update Selectman Arnold Jensen's salary to \$22,959.56. Funding is to be taken from the general fund. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

3. Update Treasurer's Salary – Approve

MOTION:

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

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to update the Treasurer's salary to \$7,408.32 with funding to be taken from Finance Contingency. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

4. Update Deputy Treasurer's Salary – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to update the Deputy Treasurer's salary to \$2,300.00 per year, with funding to be taken from the General Fund. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

5. Update Administrative Assistant's Salary – Approve

MOTION:

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

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to update the Administrative Assistant's salary to \$79,329.00, with funding to be taken from the General Fund. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

The Administrative Assistant's salary is being updated to make the pay commensurate with the responsibilities. Often there are times that the responsibilities fall after hours and or on weekends.

6. Non-Union Employee Raises – Approve

MOTION:

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

Selectman David McKane recused himself.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to update the full-time non-union employee's salaries to:

FY 2021 – 2022 3% increase retroactive

FY 2022 – 2023 3% increase retroactive

The funding will be taken from the General Fund. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to increase the part-time non-union employee's salaries 3%. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

7. Funding for Board of Education Capital Project – Approve.

MOTION:

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

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve funding, in the amount of \$39,000.00 to be taken from FY 2022 – 2023 Finance Contingency for the Board of Education Capital Project for site work for the relocation of the Board of Education's Administrative Offices. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Selectman Arnold Jensen stated that he feels that they do not need their own parking area. He is also unhappy that they suddenly found extra classrooms after we spent \$40 million on a school. We could have spent less on the new school and had enough classrooms. First Selectman Temple also doesn't understand why the parking area is needed. If it's to keep the two functions separate, that is fine, but he feels there should be some kind of wall or barrier separating them.

Selectman David McKane asked why the money wasn't coming from their budget, as they had stated they had a surplus. First Selectman Temple stated that was a good point; if the Board of Education has the money, why are they coming to the Town for it? The Board of Selectman agreed to table the item for more information and also requested the balance of the Surplus.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to table this item. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 2 Ayes, 1 abstention (First Selectman Temple). Motion carried.

8. Town Solar Project – Discuss with Possible Action

MOTION:

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

Discussion:

Mr. Aaron Alibrio from Johnson Controls attended the meeting to present the project once again and to answer any questions the Selectmen may have regarding the funding.

First Selectman Temple explained that there is a favorable response for this project from the Board Of Education and of the Board of Finance Chairman. Mr. Alibrio explained that the project finances come out of the existing budgets. The town is avoiding paying the utility. The town is reinvesting the savings that the solar arrays are doing to pay down debt service plus, there is a subsidy that has been applied for, and that is the renewable energy credits which are two programs. One of the programs is called Zero Renewable Credit, and one is called Anraz. PURA morphed the program that shut down after 10 years and renamed it the NON-RESIDENTIAL AND THE RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS, which is worth \$1.6 million dollars.

Mr. Alibrio stated that the finance mechanisms are that the solar arrays produce electricity and are consumed at the site location, and they are measured. When they produce a lot during the summer, they net on your bill; when they underproduce, it is a credit. The town would have a cost avoidance of \$182,000.00 where we would not have to pay the utility; it pays the debt service for the assets that the town is getting and will fund the \$380,000.00 to replace the HVAC system at the Town Hall. It's essentially budget neutral. Johnson Controls guarantees the production levels that are listed on the benefits table each and every year. If the town pays and it doesn't hit the savings target, Johnson Controls will pay the difference.

Selectman Jensen stated that this project will cost the Town \$6.4 million dollars. He asked how would the Town pay for that? Mr. Alibrio explained that the town pays over time as the savings are generated. There is a borrowing that would happen after the contract is approved.

Selectman Jensen asked if the Town had to borrow the \$6.4 million. Mr Alibrio explained that yes, the town would have to borrow the full amount at the beginning. Once the project is built, the town will get a certification letter, and \$2 million dollars will come from the Federal Government. However, the town would pay nothing upfront till the project is up and running. The construction interest is rolled into the proforma. Mr. Alibrio explained more about how borrowing works. He explained that the town is not borrowing against its tax basis, it would be borrowing against the budget. First Selectman Temple asked Finance Director Jim Hliva what this would do to the town's debt service. Mr. Hliva said it would show the debt service as a bond, not a lease. Mr. Hliva confirmed that the town's debt service is approximately about \$45 million dollars, which is about 10% of the budget. Mr. Alibrio explained that this is budget neutral. The

town would be using its existing budget to improve its infrastructure instead of taking it from reserves or raising the tax rate.

First Selectman Temple explained that the next step would be to have the Town Attorney review the contract, and the Board of Selectmen would have to approve it. Mr. Ailbriio will provide the name of the attorney that represented the Town of Seymour for the same project to Attorney Condon in case Attorney Condon has any questions about the contract. Once the contract is reviewed, it will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for a decision. It would then be forwarded to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 PM. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristyn L. Rosa

Administrative Assistant
Office of the First Selectman

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TOWN OF SEYMOUR, CT
TOWN CLERK