



TOWN OF OXFORD

**S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall
486 Oxford Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478-1298**

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, October 3, 2018
7:30 PM – Town Hall Main Meeting Room**

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 Jeff Haney, Selectman Scott Flaherty and Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant

Absent: None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 9/19/18 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to approve the 9/19/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Oxford Fire Department's Keyless Entry System Funding Request

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Oxford Fire Department's Keyless Entry System Funding Request as Item #6. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. Award Construction Manager Bid for Oxford Middle School Project

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Award Construction Manager Bid for Oxford Middle School Project as Item #7. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. Schreiber Farm Open Space Grant Appraisal Invoice - Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Schreiber Farm Open Space Grant Appraisal Invoice – Approve as Item #8 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #9. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Purchase Helmets for Fire Department

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to approve the purchase of seventy-eight (78) Cairns 1044 black helmets with helmet fronts from Firematic Supply Co., Inc. in the amount of \$21,996.78 to be taken from Capital and Non-Recurring; as presented and recommended by the Fire Department in their letter dated 9/20/18. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: The current fire department helmets are at the life expectancy of 10 years. The firefighters are now in need of new helmets. This is the first of a two-part process. Every interior firefighter from all three fire companies in Oxford will receive new helmets.

2. Teamsters Local 677 Tentative Agreement – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to approve the Teamsters Local 677 Tentative Agreement effective July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021, as presented, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Approval of this agreement was received from the Town Attorney. The Selectmen have seen the significant changes. First Selectman George Temple was involved in the negotiations. Selectman Jeff Haney questioned the meaning of Article 15 #7. Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant, explained that this was the change from \$3,500 to \$4,500 for the health service and insurance plan, resulting in an increase of \$10.45 per hour. The biggest change was in the pension plan. Anyone hired after 2020 will not receive a pension plan if it is allowed by the State of Connecticut. They will receive a 401(k) plan. Also, a Town employee will need to be hired by July 1st of each year to receive pension credit. First Selectman George Temple stated that this is a good agreement.

3. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$4,582.40, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 10/2/18. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: The approval of tax refunds does not get forwarded to the Board of Finance. The money is going to the people who overpaid their taxes.

4. Oxford Main Street Project Phase 1 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails 2018 – 2019 Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Oxford Main Street Project Phase 1 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails 2018 – 2019 Resolution and to authorize the First Selectman to sign; as presented and recommended by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 10/2/18:

RESOLVED THAT THE Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford met on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 and adopted a resolution which:

- (1) Authorizes submission of the funding application for the Little River Nature Preserve Phase 1 of the Oxford Main Street Project under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Recreational Trail Grant for an estimated \$120,000.00. The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford commits to the \$24,000.00 cash or in-kind match.
- (2) Identifies, George R. Temple, Oxford First Selectman, as an individual authorized to sign the Recreational Trails application and administer the grant and the project.

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to amend the above Motion to change the word “an” to “the” in #2 of the above Resolution: Identifies, George R. Temple, Oxford First Selectman, as the individual authorized to sign the Recreational Trails application and administer the grant and the project, and approve the Motion as presented with this change. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kathleen O'Neil, Oxford Grant Writer, explained that this is an important grant. The Oxford Main Street Project Phase 1 will be funded by this grant. Phase 1 of this project is to maintain the 18 acres of open space across from Oxford municipal buildings on Rt. 67 as a nature preserve. The grant will fund the trails through the preserve. A nature center is planned to bring an educational component in understanding the importance of the wetland habitat to the environment. It will present the identification of plant and wildlife species native to

the environment. Selectman George Temple stated that it is advantageous to have plants identified on the trail, and it is important to educate people on the importance of preserving the wetlands and natural environments. First Selectman George Temple congratulated the Grant Writer on her efforts with this project, and explained that this preserve will help define the Town of Oxford as well as give access to the trails for everyone to experience the natural habitat.

5. Hire Oxford Main Street Project Clerk

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to hire Mary LoPresti, of 433 Chestnut Tree Hill Road, as the Clerk for the Oxford Main Street Project at a pay rate of \$15.05 per hour effective immediately. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that it is difficult to find people to serve as clerk on the committees, and thanked Mary for her willingness to serve.

6. Oxford Fire Department's Keyless Entry System Funding Request

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to approve funding in the amount of \$28,980.00 to be taken from LoCIP for the Oxford Fire Department's Keyless Entry System as this was included in the 2018 – 2019 budget. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This funding is part of the Capital Plan in the Town Budget, which has already been approved by the Board of Finance. The fob system in the firehouse was started last year. This money is for the balance of the outside firehouse doors for added security. First Selectman George Temple indicated that the police department and the First Selectman should also be given fob keys for access. Selectman Jeff Haney noted that the Oxford Finance Director gave the Selectmen a copy of the time frame for this. The Board of Finance will meet on October 22, 2018, and the Town Meeting will take place in early November. The grant application will be completed in one (1) day. The State Bonding Commission will then vote, which could take another 45 days. The keyless entry system will not cost the Town any money.

7. Award Construction Manager Bid for Oxford Middle School Project

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to award the Construction Manager Bid for Oxford Middle School Project to O&G Industries, Inc., of 112 Wall Street in Torrington, in an amount not to exceed \$661,500.00. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: The reasoning for the selection of the Construction Manager was well-founded. First Selectman George Temple thanked the Selectmen for their support of the project. He also stated that the decision was very difficult, as all companies bidding on the project were very qualified. According to First Selectman George Temple, O&G Industries, Inc. has a fine reputation in the State of Connecticut. The First Selectman and Selectman Scott Flaherty personally visited the company's work site on another project. First Selectman George Temple was very impressed. He stated that he will try to negotiate the price down, and his intention is to be on-time and under budget.

8. Schreiber Farm Open Space Grant Appraisal Invoice – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to approve the invoice from Sheehy, LLC, in the amount of \$4,500.00 to be taken from Finance Contingency, for the Schreiber Farm Open Space Grant Appraisal. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: It is possible that the Town will purchase Schreiber Farm, or a large portion of the farm, to preserve the land as open space and as a wildlife sanctuary, and to maintain the rural character of the Town. A price cannot be agreed upon until an appraisal of the land is obtained by a registered appraiser. The appraisal is the first step in acquiring the property. The Town currently owns approximately 16% of open space to preserve for future generations.

9. Report of First Selectman

1. On October 2, 2018, First Selectman George Temple attended an opioid addiction service at Church of the Good Shepherd in Shelton, CT. The service was very educational and informative. Oxford has had seven (7) deaths from opioids. Fortunately, no deaths from the drugs were reported last year. A Town opioid committee has been formed to address this ever-growing problem. The Town will continue its efforts in searching for and providing resources for assistance with opioid addiction and treatment, as well as educating the public on this problem.
2. The month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. A fundraiser will be held to support the Griffin Hospital Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. Raffle tickets may be purchased from Kelly Weymer, Secretary to the First Selectman, at \$5.00 a ticket. Kelly organized the drawings and prizes: there will be a weekly drawing, with one (1) main prize and two (2) secondary prizes. First Selectman George Temple and Selectman Scott Flaherty have agreed to be "pinked". Donations will be accepted to "pink" the Selectmen. All proceeds will benefit the Griffin Hospital Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign.
3. The Oxford Police have been diligent in road enforcement. First Selectman George Temple has directed that he wants more road enforcement, as well as a monthly report from the police on road enforcement. There have been many complaints about the driving in Oxford. The increased enforcement is an effort to maintain road safety:

respect the speed limit, our neighborhoods, children and animals. The Town of Oxford is in the process of purchasing moving radar and looking for a plate reader grant. First Selectman George Temple complimented the Oxford Police on their good work.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

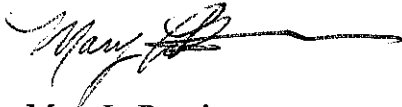
1. Mark Purington, of 1 Echo Valley Road, asked when the repairs to his property will begin. He is having drainage issues with a bordering development property that is causing mud and extreme water flow onto his property. Mr. Purington has already cleaned and regraded his property four (4) times. First Selectman George Temple stated that he has given the approval for the repair to begin.
2. John Downs, of 666 Roosevelt Drive, reported that nothing has happened with the cell tower. First Selectman George Temple indicated that he is aware of the situation and is working on the issue. Mr. Downs was on the other side of Town by the powerhouse and asked when the road will be reopened. First Selectman George Temple said that the road is closed because it is accepted as a Town road, and therefore cannot be reopened until certain conditions have been met to bring the road up to Town standards. This includes proper grading, having the man hole covers flush with the surface of the road, and other issues. The Board of Selectman will not approve any road in the Town until the Town Engineer presents a report stating that the road meets Town standards. As of the present time, the Town Engineer is saying that the powerhouse road does not meet Town standards. It is expected that the station will make the conditional repairs soon. Mr. Downs said that there are signs on Woodruff Hill saying that you cannot enter the road. First Selectman George Temple explained that the signs are there because it is the power plant's property. He also said that he will find out how much of the road belongs to the power plant. Mr. Downs then added that the road needs to be open to go from Prokop Road to Juliano Drive for safety emergency vehicles. It was noted that there is access emergency access to Juliano Drive.
3. Anthony Pevornick, of 14 Sioux Drive, stated that he has been in contact with the Town Attorney Kevin Condon for over a year because he wants to buy three (3) lots that are behind his property. The owners of the lots live in California, and they want to give the land to the Town. In the meantime, an adjacent neighbor to the property is encroaching on the lots and has taken them over. The owners of the property sent a letter to Attorney Condon stating that they want the people off the property. Selectman Jeff Haney asked for clarification as to who owns this property. Mr. Pevornick explained that the property is owned by five (5) family members who live in California. The owners do not want the property any longer. They want to give the property to the Town because they owe back taxes. First Selectman George Temple said that if the Marshall does a tax sale on the property, Mr. Pevornick will be able to purchase the land for the amount of taxes owed. He also explained that the owners need to make a formal complaint to the Zoning Enforcer. The Tax Collector determines if the property goes to auction. No one else has the authority to do that. It is not the responsibility of the Town Attorney to send a letter to the Zoning Enforcer. First Selectman George Temple went on to say that he would be happy to meet with Mr. Pevornick if he makes an appointment by contacting Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Selectman Jeff Haney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary LoPresti
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

18 OCT -9 AM 11:41
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Angela J. Clark
TOWN CLERK