

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, January 6, 2016
7:30 PM - Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple, Esq., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George R. Temple, Esq., Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman Kathy Johnson, Joanne Pelton, Administrative Assistant.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 12/3/15 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 12/3/15 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. 12/16/15 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 12/16/15 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. 12/30/15 Special Joint Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 12/30/15 Special Joint Meeting minutes as presented however it should be noted that under attendance add Melissa Cole to the attendees. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to add to the agenda with discussion and possible action on the setting of a referendum date of February 11, 2016, with an alternate date of February 16, 2016, if there is inclement weather on February 11, 2016. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Elderly Commission – Re-Appoint Betty Andrews

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to re-appoint Betty Andrews, of 16 Reality Road, to the Elderly Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/19. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. Water Pollution Control Authority – Re-Appoint Larry Ellis

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to re-appoint Larry Ellis, of 23 Macintosh Drive, to the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/17. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. Water Pollution Control Authority – Appoint Robert Farnum

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add the appointment of Robert Farnum for Water Pollution Control Authority. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Robert Farnum, of 16 Barry Road, to the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/17. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Debbie Maas, 51 Jupiter Drive, Seymour, CT, a volunteer at the animal shelter since 2009, read a letter from Christin Zacarelli, of 102 Good Hill Road, Oxford in support of Cori Wlasuk and the shelter itself. (Attached)

First Selectman George Temple stated that everyone knows Cori has done a lot of good things for this town. There is an investigation going on and appreciates everyone's support and is sure she appreciates their support. The Board of Selectmen cannot discuss personnel matters openly. First Selectman Temple stated if they would like to make it part of the record, that it is fine.

Joanne Alterio, 37 Cold Spring Drive, Oxford, CT, also a volunteer at the animal shelter, presented a letter stating her support of Cori Wlasuk and the Oxford Animal Shelter. (Attached)

Kristi Novin, 7 Kyle Court, Oxford, CT, also presented a letter (attached) and wanted equal time to speak regarding the animal shelter or read her statement. She stated that the people that were talked about at the last meeting did not speak out. First Selectman Temple stated it is out of the control of the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman George Temple thanked everyone for their support and asked everyone who has something to say regarding this matter that they speak with Sgt. Smolsky. Kristi Novin asked that all of the names of the people in the audience here in support of Cori Wlasuk and family and the Animal Shelter be on record along with their statements. (Attached)

Amy Cote, 42 Newgate Road, Oxford, CT submitted a request to the Board of Selectmen for the items and repairs to be done at the Oxford High School Track & Field. Quotes were received and the total amounts are reflected in the request which will allow Oxford to hold a full track and field event, and site work to be done by the bleachers. First Selectman George Temple will put in on the agenda for the next meeting which will be held on January 20, 2016, and will give the Board of Selectmen an opportunity to review it. Amy Cote stated that they are still waiting for the documentation for the bleacher estimate, but that the estimate is included in the request.

David McKane, 11 Tram Drive, Oxford, CT stated that Oxford High School is great and the fields are great, but he is amazed that it took 4 years and we still can't have a track meet. There was contingency money that was spent on bleachers for the football field and other things, and asked why this took so long. First Selectman George Temple stated that this money will be spent on pads and equipment, and also included is a building to house all of the equipment. All of this equipment is needed to hold a track meet. There was a joint meeting and we are getting it done and it was 3 years, not 4. We should have it done in time to have a track meet this year.

John Downs, 666 Roosevelt Drive, Oxford, CT. As the former Fire Commissioner, he is here to return his badge and plate, as requested by the First Selectman's office. Mr. Downs stated he is saddened that this commission has been done away with. All of the cooperation that was given by the Board of Selectmen, and when it came time to move it forward, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Chiefs and members of the Fire Dept. voted against it. Mr. Downs asked if the new format going forward is to have only one Audience of Citizens at this meeting. He suggested that the Board of Selectmen have it at the end of the meeting so if something is said

during the meeting, people can make their comments then, instead of waiting until the next meeting. First Selectman George Temple stated we will take his suggestion and put the Audience of Citizens at the end of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. American Youth Cheerleaders Recognition

First Selectman George Temple announced that the girls with the American Youth Cheerleaders went to Florida and won the National Title. The cheerleaders that were not present at the last meeting are being recognized tonight. This is quite an honor for Oxford, and everyone worked very hard to get this title. These girls are great and we are very proud of them. Each girl was presented a certificate. Marie Kasuba was acknowledged for being a great leader.

First Selectman George Temple called a five minute recess at 8:00 p.m.

First Selectman George Temple called the meeting back to order at 8:05 p.m.

2. Hire Don Houston as Labor Counsel – Approve Contract and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to retain Donald F. Houston, of Pullman & Comley, LLC in Bridgeport, as the Town of Oxford's Labor Counsel, approve the contract as presented and to authorize the First Selectman to sign said contract. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that Mr. Houston is our labor attorney and we have utilized him quite a lot. He is a very good lawyer and is very responsive, and is an excellent labor lawyer.

3. Hire Robert Costigan Temporary Animal Control Officer

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to hire Robert Costigan, of 300 Chestnut Tree Hill Road, as the Temporary Animal Control Officer at a pay rate of \$16.00 per hour, for up to 19 hours per week, and a start date of Monday, January 11, 2016. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple

Discussion: Mr. Costigan has extensive background in training animals, and this is strictly a temporary appointment. If we have him in place, we would like to get the Animal Shelter up and running again. First Selectman Temple stated that he would like

the input of the volunteers if we have to appoint someone. The Volunteers are very important to the organization.

Jeff Haney stated that after two and a half years of working with the people, feels this is not in the best interest of the animal shelter, and he is not inclined to vote on this motion.

Kathy Johnson stated she feels that the shelter is closed now and should stay that way.

First Selectman George Temple feels we put a lot of money and sweat into the animal shelter and the longer it stays closed the longer we lose, and that we can't have it open if the leadership is under suspicion.

1 Aye by First Selectman George Temple, 2 Opposed by Jeff Haney and Kathy Johnson. Motion fails.

4. Hire Police Officers

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to hire Thomas J. Gugliotti, Jr., of Oxford, and Jose Taverner, of Seymour, both as Oxford Police Officers, at a pay rate of \$28.59 per hour and CONTINGENT UPON the passage of all exams and training as set forth by the CT Police Officers Standards and Training; as recommended by the Chief of Police. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Sgt. Smolsky stated that we now have two very good candidates. One has been a Southbury officer for the last 28 years, and also a former Woodbury officer. He has known him for his entire career, and is D.A.R.E. certified. Jose Taverner was an Orange police officer for 20+ years and his credentials are outstanding. First Selectman Temple stated he was part of the interview process and both are very good investigators and he supports this 100%.

Jeff Haney stated if it is good with Sgt. Smolsky, he is good with it.

Kathy Johnson thanked First Selectman George Temple for hiring these two police officers and is delighted we are getting more officers for the town of Oxford.

5. Solid Waste/Recycling Permit Licenses – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Solid Waste/Recycling Permit License as approved by the Recycling Coordinator:

- Springer Sanitation, Inc., of 401 Old Woodbury Road, Southbury, CT 06488 (Solid Waste and Recycling)

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is a requirement every year.

6. **Assistance To Firefighter Grant Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Assistance To Firefighter Grant Resolution and to authorize the First Selectman to sign; as presented by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 1/4/16:

RESOLVED, that the Oxford Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that George R. Temple, as First Selectman of the Oxford Board of Selectmen, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Oxford Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

7. **STEAP Grant Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

MOTION:

Kathy Johnson moved to approve the following STEAP Grant Resolution and to authorize the First Selectman to sign; as presented by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 1/4/16:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford during Wednesday, November 19, 2014 meeting approves and adopts the following resolution:

1. Authorizes submission of the grant application for the 2016 STEAP program and is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the State Assistance imposed by Connecticut General Statutes 4-6g.

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Oxford in the amount of \$500,000 is hereby approved and that the Oxford First Selectman, George R. Temple is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, to provide such information, to execute and Assistance Agreement with the representative of the Town of Oxford.

This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated this grant will go a long way to making Tetlak Park a reality for the kids, with two girl's softball fields and an all-purpose field. This will be our athletics center for the town.

8. H&D Catering Peddler's Permit – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Peddler's Permit for H&D Catering, of 13 Douglas Drive, with the following restrictions as approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission on 1/4/16:

1. No selling at Posypanko Park on Babe Ruth's Opening Day (Date TBD)
2. No selling at the Oxford Food and Arts Fest on June 12, 2016 (unless a paid and approved vendor for that event).

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

9. Discuss establishing a date for a Referendum

Discussion: This is the tax agreement with CPV Towantic Energy and we have a letter from the Town Clerk stating that the town received over 500 signatures to have a referendum on the tax agreement with CPV Towantic Energy. The earliest that it can be done is Thursday, February 11, 2016. The purpose of a town meeting will be to ratify these dates. Since we live in New England an alternate date is set for February 16, 2016 due to inclement weather or a snow emergency on February 11, 2016. Kathy Johnson stated it was all over town asking for signatures, including the Oxford Greens.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to set a referendum date of February 11, 2016 for three agreements with CPV Towantic Energy: 1) a tax agreement, 2) a community agreement and 3) a development agreement all be put to a vote on Thursday, February 11, 2016. First Selectman George Temple be empowered to cancel this in case of severe inclement weather and to reschedule the vote for February 16, 2016. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes.

10. Report of First Selectman

On Sunday, there will be a banquet for the AYF children at the Crown Plaza in Southbury. Three years ago, we never had this. These kids are at the age of acquiring a lot of skills and this is a very positive program. This is what makes the town of Oxford better. Also all the volunteers here in support of the Animal Shelter. This is all good for Oxford. Marie Kasuba and Todd Romagna are to be congratulated for their work with this.

Last night First Selectman Temple went to the Housatonic/Lake Zoar Authority meeting to discuss a blue/green algae problem. They had to close Jackson Cove over Labor Day due to blue/green algae in the lake. This makes a toxic chemical in the water. First Selectman Temple stated he will try to expedite this and will talk to First Light and maybe see if they can lower the level in Lake Zoar to get movement in the lake to move the algae along. If the people that live near Lake Zoar could not throw leaves in the lake, or find more environmentally friendly fertilizer for their lawns, with no phosphorus, it may help with the cleanup of the lake. The town will make it a priority to clean any sand and salt on the roads surrounding the lake first.

Tomorrow is a ground-breaking at 1 p.m. The town is doing very well attracting business. We have several new places coming to town and will be probably doing a lot of building in the spring.

AMENDMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Kathy Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

16 JAN 12 PM 4:37
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Margaret A. West
TOWN CLERK