

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, October 1, 2014
7:30 PM - Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:38 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq, Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman David McKane, Joanne Pelton, Administrative Assistant

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 9/17/14 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 9/17/14 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Dave McKane with two corrections.

Correction #1: On page 5, 2nd paragraph, delete "sewer and water line relative to" since there is no sewer and water line there.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 9/17/14 Regular Meeting minutes as corrected. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Correction #2: On page 5, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence should read "Selectman Dave McKane stated ..." remove First Selectman Temple's name from the sentence.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 9/17/14 Regular Meeting minutes as corrected. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Board of Education – Appoint Michael Macchio

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Board of Education – Appoint Michael Macchio under Appointments. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. Non-Union Employee Raises – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Non-Union Employee Raises – Approve as Item #5 under New Business. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Disqualification. Dave McKane disqualified himself. Motion carries.

3. Part-Time Library Personnel Raises – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Part-Time Library Personnel Raises – Approve as Item #6 under New Business. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

4. 2014 Homeland Security Grant Blanket Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add 2014 Homeland Security Grant Blanket Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign as Item #7 under New Business and move Report of First Selectman as Item #8. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Board of Education – Appoint Michael Macchio

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Michael Macchio, of 25 Silano Drive, to the Board of Education with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/21/17. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Nay by Dave McKane. Motion carries. (Note: this appointment fills the recent vacancy of John Hatchell.)

Discussion: Mr. Macchio was involved in the past, and is filling a vacant seat. First Selectman George Temple discussed it with the Board of Education and thinks that Mr. Macchio is a good choice and supports this appointment.

Dave McKane stated Mr. Macchio was on the Board of Education with Rose McKinnon, who got rid of Superintendent Judy Palmer and he is opposed to the appointment.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA - APPOINTMENTS

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple made a motion to amend the agenda to add under Appointments, Robert Costigan to the Economic Development Commission. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

First Selectmen George Temple moved to appoint Robert Costigan to fill a vacancy on the Economic Development Commission. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated he will do a great job.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Kathy Johnson, 68 Dorman Road, saw the item on the Agenda regarding hiring a Zoning Enforcement Official, and asked if the Board was going to hire this person tonight or table this issue. First Selectman George Temple stated it is on the Agenda and does not know what will happen until it is discussed.

Jack Kiley, 88 Bee Mountain Road, stated that since the appointment goes to 2015, the amendment is wrong, and that he has to re-run next year. First Selectman George Temple stated he is filing a position up to 2017.

Harold Cosgrove, 66 Bee Mountain Road, stated he supports Stephen Macary, he is CAZEO approved individual and very qualified. He hopes First Selectman George Temple will support him and that the Planning & Zoning Commission did recommend him. First Selectman George Temple stated that when the town is hiring someone, their resume means one thing, and qualifications mean another. Mr. Cosgrove stated that hiring someone who is not CAZEO certified will cost the town a lot of money for the courses for certification. First Selectman George Temple stated this is too important of a position, and we have to make a correct decision, he takes this seriously, and he takes the recommendations seriously.

Pat Cocchiarella, 137 Governors Hill Road, stated he is a member of Planning & Zoning and he did interview the applicants. As a leader, you need to trust their recommendation, and this is the best for the Town, and best for the commission. First Selectman George Temple sat in on the meetings, and he would have liked to have all of the Board of Selectmen sit in on this meeting. Mr. Cocchiarella stated that to postpone this at this time, is a disservice, and wanted to add his input and feelings on this matter. First Selectman George Temple respects and likes his input and stated the Planning & Zoning Board has done an excellent job.

Ann Krane, 411 Mulligan Drive, stated that since the retiring of the Zoning Enforcement Official, the Planning & Zoning Commission recommended an excellent candidate who has 11 years' experience and is certified and trained. Ms. Krane understands that First Selectman Temple is not in agreement with the P&Z choice, because First Selectman George Temple is a personal friend of the candidate the Board wants to hire. She wanted to express her concern that this action is purely political.

Ms. Krane rejects this Board to this hiring, and hopes First Selectman Temple has a good reason. This Town needs a person who is ready and trained. First Selectman Temple stated to Ms. Krane not to make things up and that he is not related to any of them; it is too important of a position. First Selectman George Temple has not talked about the candidates qualifications. If the public has input, let it be accurate. Ms. Krane stated that if it is not true, please excuse her. First Selectman Temple excused her.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee – Update on Children’s Garden

Bob Owsiany gave a synopsis of where the committee is and the changes that have been made. The plans for the removal of asphalt have been changed, and there was no support for a community garden. The asphalt will stay and will serve as a means to access the gardens for everyone. The committee originally estimated they would need 125 yards of dirt, and actually needs 150 yards. He asked about getting the dirt down there, and the Oxford Public Works department will get it down to the site. The committee received some cost estimates for wood and hardware, which came to \$2800. They also were contacted by Eastern Water, who will provide the water line to the garden. Mr. Owsiany asked about the electric and stated the committee would like to have a meeting with Jeff Haney and the Board of Education to get input on getting the project going. The Science teacher at the Great Oak School is very involved and is looking at a curriculum for the project for the children. The next step for the committee would be to get quotes and to pass it on to the Board of Finance. The Board of Education has to vote on it, and whatever the Board of Education prefers is what will need to be done. The raised beds will be 12” in height.

First Selectman George Temple stated the community garden is a great idea and felt it might be an idea for Tetlak Park at a future date. First Selectman Temple thanked the committee for all the work they have done on this project and it is something the committee can be proud of. It will be a great teaching tool for the children to learn how to grow plants, vegetables, compost, learn canning, and since we have a farmers market in Oxford, they would be able to sell their vegetables, and apply what they have learned.

Dave McKane asked the reason for not getting rid of the blacktop. Mr. Owsiany stated it was a way to have easy access for everyone, including people with wheelchairs, and don’t have to worry about weeds. Also, the Board of Education does not want to remove it. Selectman McKane suggested consulting with someone about planting and drainage for the soil. Selectman McKane also asked who will be maintaining the garden in the summer when school is finished, and Mr. Owsiany stated there is a person in charge of training and she has 6 interns that need to do community service, so they will be doing this as their project.

Question was raised as to what type of lumber they will use, and Mr. Owsiany stated is will not be pressure treated. They did get some alternatives, such as douglas fir, or cedar, but cedar is very costly. Selectman Haney suggested using heavy retaining wall blocks. Mr. Haney felt that douglas fir lumber won’t hold up to the pressure of the dirt. Selectman McKane will give Mr. Owsiany some names of people to consult for alternatives.

2. Hire Board of Finance Part-Time Clerk

MOTION:

Dave McKane moved to hire Lynnette Steeves, of 110 Bowers Hill Road, as the Part-Time Board of Finance Clerk at a pay rate of \$15.05 per hour and a start date of Monday, October 6, 2014 as recommended by the Finance Director. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Question asked if the Board is hiring every board clerk at that rate. First Selectman George Temple said yes. Lynnette Steeves will do a good job.

3. Employee Tag Sale – Approve Use of Town Hall Parking Lot

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the use of the Town Hall parking lot for an Employee Tag Sale on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with a rain date of Sunday, October 19, 2014. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Joanne Pelton discussed that the employees wanted to do this and some of the people will be donating some of the proceeds to the Seymour Oxford Food Bank.

4. Hire Zoning Enforcement Official

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to table the hiring of the Zoning Enforcement Official. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes, 1 Abstention by Dave McKane. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated a lot of things came up, and he doesn't feel the Board of Selectmen did due diligence on this matter, and suggested the Board of Selectmen have a separate meeting to discuss this matter.

5. Non-Union Employee Raises – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve a 2.5% wage increase for all non-union employee's effective immediately. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Recusal by Dave McKane since his wife is a non-union employee. Motion carries.

Discussion: There was a 2.5% for the Union employees, and now we are doing it for the non-union employees. The rate will be retroactive.

6. **Part-Time Library Personnel Raises – Approve**

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following raises for the Part-Time Library personnel as requested and presented by the Library Director in her letter received on 9/29/14:

Marjorie Fitzgerald – increase to \$10.75 per hour

June McEnteer – increase to \$10.65 per hour

Joseph Correia – increase to \$10.50 per hour

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Dave McKane questioned the amount we are increasing it from. It is a \$1 increase since the last time the Library personnel had received a raise, they have not had an increase in 10 years, and this was approved in the budget. Selectman McKane asked for the reason if the Board of Finance passed these raises during the budget, why is it just being done now. The Library personnel have just asked now for it. These employees all work under 20 hours per week, and are all dedicated. Selectman McKane wishes it had come before us during the budget cycle instead of three months after the fact. He does agree with it and they do deserve it.

7. **2014 Homeland Security Grant Blanket Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following 2014 Homeland Security Grant Blanket Resolution for the 2014 Memorandum of Agreement for the FFY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program, Region 5 and authorize First Selectman to sign; as recommended and presented by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 9/30/14:

RESOLVED, that the Oxford Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate.

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 Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is a requirement for grants, and First Selectmen Temple recommends we sign this.

8. Report of First Selectman

First Selectman George Temple stated he received a resignation from Joe Rasberry from the Website Committee who will be moving out of state.

There will be a bridge inspection for the Stevenson Dam/Housatonic River bridge. First Selectman George Temple will be going to a meeting on this.

The Town purchased water bags for the Lily Park trees so they do not dry up in the summer.

The STEAP grant for Tetlak Park has been finalized. It is \$500,000 for three fields. This will help with the stress of all the different activities at the other fields. First Selectman Temple stated he would like to see a basketball court, beach volleyball court, a community garden and other items for the park in the future. Tetlak Park has great potential for the town, and is a real positive step in the right direction.

First Selectman George Temple is wearing pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Town Hall will participate in this event on October 22, and employees will wear their purchased T-shirts that day. First Selectman George Temple will be outside the Town Hall and will have someone throw ice water on him to support Breast Cancer. He was suggesting he will have two people throw ice water for a \$100 donation per person. Anyone wishing to witness this will need to pay a \$10 donation to stamp out breast cancer. Dave McKane gave his donation this evening of \$100 in his support of breast cancer and to throw ice water on First Selectman Temple.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

David Stocker, 144 Punkup Road, questioned Jeff Haney regarding Item 5 under new business as to why he didn't recuse himself since his wife works for the Town. Selectman Haney stated his wife is a Union employee not a non-Union employee. Mr. Stocker had a second comment regarding the Zoning Board Section 9-5 regarding land use hiring which changed effective October 1st, and that he would like the Board of Selectmen to take into consideration the Planning and Zoning's choice for the candidate, since if it was done before October 1st, it would have been the Planning & Zoning's choice.

Jessica Pennell, 17 Redwood Drive, questioned the fairness of the raises, and if any of these raises for the Library personnel reached \$15.05, since we hired someone for the Board of Finance for \$15.05. She stated that when she was clerk, she was at \$12 per hour, and when she left, the next person was hired at a higher rate. First Selectman George Temple stated that the clerks come out at night, and that if she had wanted that job, she could have taken it.

Tanya Carver, Moose Hill Road, expressed her concern regarding tabling the hiring of the Zoning Enforcement Official tonight, and that the office is in turmoil, and the person who is hired has to be knowledgeable and certified. First Selectman George Temple stated he wants a ZEO with confidence, competence and efficiency. The quicker the person is hired the better. Selectman Dave McKane stated he was prepared to act on this tonight.

John Downs, 666 Roosevelt Drive, questioned the Homeland Security Grant. First Selectman George Temple stated it was for what the Town does during any disaster, such as a hurricane, and that the town gets reimbursed for the hours that the firemen put in, or any other emergency management services and public protection during a disaster.

Mr. Downs also commented on the Stevenson Dam/Bridge and asked First Selectman Temple to find out what is going to be done. First Selectman George Temple asked Mr. Downs if he has any suggestions, to come in and give his input.

Mr. Downs also stated that in the interest of public safety, the utility poles on Coppermine Road before Freeman Road are on the edge of the road, and the road is very narrow in that area and these 2 poles should be removed. First Selectman Temple stated he will see what can be done about this with Northeast Utilities, and that he would like to take a look at that area. Mr. Downs stated that even at minimal speed, one can still collide with another vehicle.

Harold Cosgrove, 66 Bee Mountain Road asked about airport security. First Selectman Temple stated we do have coverage.

Kathy Johnson, 68 Dorman Road, stated she was campaigning at the Golf Course, and asked if there was a problem with outcropping of rocks on Christian Street and Towantic Hill heading toward Naugatuck. It was stated that citizens need to drive careful in these areas.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

14 OCT -6 PM 6:13
TOWN OF COBD, CT
George H. West
TOWN CLERK