



**OXFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 20, 2009**

This regular meeting of the Oxford Economic Development Commission was held at S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall, Oxford, Connecticut.

**Members Present**

William Lund  
Peter Costabile  
John Kozloski  
Pat Blanko  
Robert Saracino

**Others Present**

Herman Schuler, OED Director  
Mike Russo, Valley Independent  
Tony Montanaro  
Joe Raspberry  
Brett Olbrys (arrived 7:40 pm)

Tom Kelly  
Gary Komar  
Heidi Lund, Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Lund called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**II. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS/CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no comments from those present.

**III. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Kozloski motioned to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2009 regular meeting. Mr. Costabile seconded. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Kozloski distributed an Appropriation Summary dated 7/1/09 to 10/19/09. The report showed YTD expenditures of \$15,506.08 against a budget of \$78,000 (19.9% of budget used). Mr. Kozloski noted that the adjustments to various line items that had previously been discussed have been made.

Ms. Blanko motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Costabile seconded. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. DISCUSSION WITH P&Z PETITIONING CANDIDATES**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RESOLUTION REGARDING CANDIDATES FOR PLANNING & ZONING AND SELECTMAN OFFICES**

No discussion with the petitioning candidates. No petitioning candidates were present.

Mr. Lund distributed copies of a proposed resolution. He prefaced the introduction of the resolution by speaking of the 34 years combined experience that the petitioning candidates offer. He also emphasized the professional, non-partisan working relationships that they and the other members of the current Planning & Zoning Commission have established within as well as

outside of the community. He then proceeded to read aloud the proposed resolution. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.

Mr. Costabile motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Mr. Kozloski seconded. The floor was opened to discussion.

Mr. Schuler spoke to the actions of Selectman Palmer, commenting on the disrespect that he and the RTC have shown to the current administration, the EDC, developers, landowners and business people by misrepresenting and disrupting efforts to move Oxford forward for political gain. He commented that Oxford is the fastest growing town in CT, due greatly in part to the reputation and professionalism of its P&Z Commission and Town Hall. He went on to outline some of the P&Z Commission's accomplishments. Mr. Schuler strongly encouraged the adoption of the resolution and the EDC's support of the petitioning candidates and the current administration.

Mr. Saracino expressed concern that such an action by the EDC would in itself be politicizing the Commission.

Mr. Schuler responded that Mr. Palmer politicized Oxford's economic development objectives with his actions after the last election and that this is an effort to try and break politics.

Mr. Saracino agreed that politics should be removed from economic development, but questioned the method and whether a resolution by the Commission is the proper vehicle and possibly outside of the Commission's charge.

Mr. Lund stated that the EDC's efforts are only as good as the support of the Town's land use boards. Therefore, the resolution is appropriate.

Mr. Costabile asked, if adopted, where does the resolution go to get out to the voters?

Mr. Schuler replied that it will be attached to a press release. He again emphasized the importance of having a board that doesn't worry about votes vs. the merits of a project. He praised the way Mr. Vizzo runs his board and stated "that's why people come to Oxford".

Mr. Kozloski added that he deals with many town boards in the state and agreed that Oxford has a good reputation. He commented that he will support anything to keep what's in place.

Mr. Saracino asked if Mr. Pianka had reviewed the resolution and offered any opinions/comments. Mr. Lund said that Mr. Pianka had received a copy of the resolution, but had not provided any comments.

Ms. Blanko expressed concern regarding whether the quotes contained in the resolution were factual. Mr. Lund responded that there were people at the table who witnessed the comments.

Mr. Schuler stated that the records show what happened. Mr. Costabile agreed that Mr. Palmer's voting record reflects it. Mr. Schuler continued to stress the need for professionalism. To present projects factually, not emotionally. For example the placement of "No Mining" signs around Town and the misrepresentation of an affordable housing incentive plan.

The State's affordable/incentive housing plan consists of 100's of pages and the State is moving toward mandating that towns have plans in place. Further, the State is looking toward awarding and deducting points from towns that are/are not in compliance with regulations. This may affect State money that is awarded. It is for the good of the Town to work toward compliance.

Discussion ended. Mr. Lund instructed members that they have the option of voting in favor of adopting the resolution, being opposed to adopting the resolution, or abstaining.

VOTE: In favor of adopting the resolution as presented were Mr. Lund, Mr. Costabile and Mr. Kozloski. Opposed were none. Ms. Blanko and Mr. Saracino abstained. The motioned carried.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Economic Development Director's Report**

Mr. Schuler reported on the following new and potential projects:

Marcus Dairy: There is a minor issue keeping the project from starting that is expected to be resolved soon. Marcus Dairy will bring 27,000 s.f. and numerous refrigeration trucks to the Town's tax roll. Marcus Dairy came to Oxford unsolicited, referred by Claris.

The Army Reserve is looking for a parcel of approximately 30 acres of land to establish an Army Reserve Training Center. The project would bring little/no tax revenue into Town. However, early discussions have included the Town complying in exchange for the completion of Airport Access Road to Benson Road in Middlebury.

### **2. Committee Updates**

. Marketing/Business Retention - Tabled

. Foreign-Trade Zone Advisory - Tabled

### **3. EDC Data Base**

Mr. Lund reported he has contacted KDI to discuss additions/modifications to the website and is waiting for a return call.

### **4. Economic Development Corporation**

Mr. Lund reported that he is working with Attorney Karen Fisher on the transfer of the Corporation's tax ID to the new name, Oxford Business Corporation, Inc. Once that is completed, a bank account can be opened and the OBC will be funded with the \$3,000 seed money that was approved. At that point objectives will be implemented.

### **5. Website**

Mr. Schuler brought up the Annual Newsletter that he and the Commission have mailed out in the past. He suggested putting the information out on the website vs. a paper mailing which would save roughly \$3,000 in costs. Discussion followed regarding how to generate traffic to the website/advertise the newsletter. Mr. Saracino suggested a postcard mailing promoting it (significant savings to mailing the entire newsletter). Ms. Blanko also suggested newspaper ads.

**Motion:** Mr. Saracino motioned to authorize Mr. Schuler to post the newsletter on the website and mail postcards to Town citizens to draw attention to the website. Ms. Blanko seconded. No discussion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Mr. Olbrys informed the Commission that he has the ability to track hits to the newsletter.

**6. EDC Ordinance**

Mr. Lund informed the Commission that the 20 day waiting period from the time the Ordinance was approved at Town Meeting has passed. The EDC is now operating under the Ordinance. The Ordinance provides for 2 alternate members of the Commission. These positions need to be filled. Mr. Lund asked current members to give thought to people to fill the openings and contact him with recommendations.

**7. Town Welcome Sign**

Mr. Lund will have the Town grant writer call Mr. Costabile. Ms. Blanko suggested advertising the Town's website on the future sign.

**8. Town-wide Tag Sale**

Mr. Saracino provided Mr. Lund with information on a Town-wide Tag Sale that was advertised for Woodbury. It was coordinated by the Town's Parks and Recreation Department. All agreed that Parks and Rec is the appropriate vehicle for such an event. Mr. Lund will speak with Debbie Gatto about the idea.

**9. Oxford Business Promotion**

Mr. Lund suggested that this is a good project for the Oxford Business Corporation, Inc. to undertake. All were in agreement.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS – None**

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

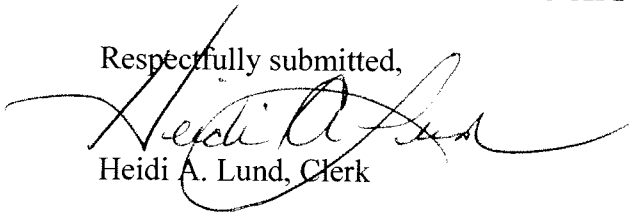
Ms. Blanko announced that the New York Times will be spotlighting Oxford in its Real Estate Section during the first week of November. She was not certain, but it will more than likely be in the newspaper's Sunday edition.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Costabile motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm. Ms. Blanko seconded. No discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi A. Lund, Clerk

09 OCT 22 AM 10:56  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
TOWN CLERK  
*Heidi A. Lund*

Attachment: OEDC Resolution Dated 10/20/09

**Economic Development Commission  
October 20, 2009 Meeting  
Resolution**

**Whereas:**

Newly elected Selectman Palmer after the first EDC meeting following the election of Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers and Dave McKane made the following statement:

“In the future you may see me voting against things that I should be in favor of because they (Drayton-Rogers & McKane) favor it”.

**Whereas:**

The Commission recognized that the statement, if acted upon, would deny support for worthy projects that would be brought forward by the Commission effectively implementing a political agenda that would place the needs of Mr. Palmer and the RTC ahead of the best interests of the town.

**Whereas:**

The record shows that he implemented this policy and opposed the sale of town owned lots and infrastructure improvements; opposed the sale of Lot 10 misrepresenting it as a mining operation instead of site work to build a 85,000sf building that will host new Oxford businesses; opposed the related airport project that will create 300 new town jobs, and egregiously misrepresented P&Z's grant funded effort to develop incentive housing regulations that will deterred future affordable housing applications under CGS 8-30g.

**Whereas:**

The RTC nominating process had the most experienced P&Z Commissioners, Vizzo, Hellauer and Tichy, removed from the ballot and allowed Mr. Palmer a ballot position that might result in a P&Z chairmanship.

**Finds:**

That Mr. Palmers actions opposed the work of the Oxford Economic Development Commission and the RTC's disposition of the most senior members of the Planning & Zoning Commission was not productive and recognizes that Commission action is required to preserve the economic development infrastructure that has made Oxford's economic development exemplary in the State.

**Therefore Resolves:**

To recommend to Oxford voters that they restore Vinnie Vizzo, Ed Hellauer, and Eric Tichy to the Planning & Zoning Commission through the municipal election process and recommends re-election of Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers and Dave McKane to the Board of Selectman.

**Oxford Economic Development Commission  
October 20, 2009**