

Town Meeting  
December 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM. First Selectman George R Temple (FSGT) Introduced Selectmen Johnson and Haney. Town Clerk Margaret A West read the call a return of posting. Jim Hliva moved to nominate August Palmer, seconded. There being no other nominations FSGT called for a vote.

Nomination Carried: Unanimous

Moderator Palmer read the eligibility to vote at a town meeting, found the town charter.

David Yish: Moose Hill Rd moved item 1, seconded:

Item 1: Shall the Town of Oxford approve funding in the amount of \$152,000, to be taken from the General Fund Balance, for the Oxford High School Diamond Project as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 9/2/15 and the Board of Finance on 11/23/15.

Discussion:

Stephen Brown read from a prepared statement. See Addendum A.

First Selectman Temple explained the health and safety conditions that need to be corrected. He further commented he supports this project.

Bob DeBisschop called for an amendment on the motion to specify what the \$152,000 is earmarked for per the Board of Finance approval: \$97,000 for the dug out, \$55,000 for the irrigation to be completed by qualified bidders and contractor, seconded:

Discussion on the Amendment ensued regarding the bids and the process.

Amendment carried: Few nays

Discussion on the main motion with amendment:

John Gramesty 52 Reality Rd is concerned that this amendment would hold up the entire project. He further explained that this has been 2 years in the making.

John Gramsety moved to reconsider the amendment, seconded:

Ken Chudoba of 27 Ancient Hwy explained that the Diamond Committee worked very hard on this, we worked with contractors, got estimates and presented the numbers. This will be going backwards.

Amy Cote commented that the call says \$152,000 the Board of Finance was specific as to how the funds are spent.

Ken Chudoba explained that a lot of work went into this project, the committee got the best proposals, we don't need to go backwards.

Jack Kiley BOF Chairman explained that the original project was for \$225,000. It was decide to do it in steps, with the dug outs and irrigation first. In the spring the rest of the project will be completed.

Selectman Haney asked how this amendment would hold up the process?

Ken Chudoba explained that the bids are already done.

There being no other comments or questions the moderator called for a vote to reconsider the amendment.

Motion Carried: few nays.

Bob DeBisshop moved to amend the main motion to read \$97,000 for dug outs, \$55,000 for irrigation, seconded: Dave Yish accepts this as a friendly amendment:

Discussion ensued regarding the project and the friendly amendment.

Amy Cote moved the question, seconded; Motion Carried: Unanimous

The moderator then called for a vote on the main motion with the friendly amendment:

Motion Carried: Unanimous

Joann Briganti 20 Middlefield Rd moved Item 2, seconded:

Item 2: Shall the Town of Oxford approve funding in the amount of \$60,000.00 to be taken from the General Fund Balance, for the Board of Education Facility Study as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 10/22/15 and the Board of Finance on 11/23/15.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple explained that there was committee an appointed in 2008. This project should be breaking ground now, by having this Facility Study would add many more years, and we need the school now. The site is picked and the work should be started. I do not agree with another committee; let's just get the steel in the ground.

Selectman Johnson commented that everyone in this room agrees we need a new school; everyone wants their child to go to a new school. If the Board of Education supports this than we should have this study done.

Dave Yish 40 Moose Hill Rd commented that he is in strong support of a Facility Study Committee, explaining that it is a different world now; the other report is over 7 years old. He urged everyone to support the study.

Amy Cote asked to support this study, she further commented that the BOE has the RFP's done and are ready to go.

First Selectman Temple commented that the BOE had in the 5 year plan to remodel center school. If you want this then lets just build it, this study will add years to getting a new school.

Jack Greer 44 Pisgah Rd asked what was being done right now for the kids at center school; there are immediate issues that need to be addressed.

Moderator called a point of order; Center School's immediate concerns are not on the agenda.

Selectman Johnson moved the question, seconded.

Motion Carried: Unanimous

The moderator then called for a vote on the main motion:

Motion Carried: few nays

Amy Cote moved, seconded Item3


Item 3: Shall the Town of Oxford approve funding in the amount of \$25,000 to be taken from the Capital and Non Recurring Account, for the Fire Department's CTI Voter Monitoring System as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 11/18/15 and the Board of Finance on 11/23/15?

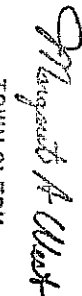
No discussion: The moderator called for a vote:

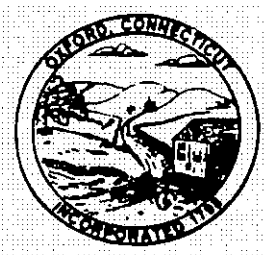
Motion Carried: unanimous

Motion to Adjourn, seconded: Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Margaret A West  
Town Clerk

15 DEC 15 AM 10:12  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
  
TOWN CLERK



## TOWN OF OXFORD

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

### RETURN OF POSTING

I, George R. Temple, First Selectman of the Town of Oxford, hereby certify that I caused a copy of the foregoing Notice of the Special Town Meeting, bearing the written signatures of two members of the Board of Selectmen, to be posted on the public signpost in the Town on Thursday, November 24, 2015 and that I caused a copy of said Notice to be published in the Republican-American, a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Oxford, in its issue of December 2, 2015.

Dated: December 8, 2015

*George R. Temple, Esq.*  
First Selectman

**I am in support of the OHS Diamond Project proposal and the spending of town funds to complete it. While I don't necessarily believe that our kids need fancy facilities to do well or that we have to compete with other towns to prove that our athletics are worthy, I am convinced that the safety concerns regarding the ballfields at OHS are sufficient to require action. The safety of our students, parents and visitors is a prudent reason to spend town money. Whether on the ball fields of OHS or in the aging outbuildings of Center School, the health and safety of our children rank near the top of the responsibilities entrusted to town leadership. It is my expectation as a parent, town resident, taxpayer and public official of this town that – collectively we prioritize our spending of town monies consistent with our expressed commitment to safety as a guiding principle for action. I encourage those gathered here to give this question and those proceeding it positive consideration.**

**Stephen C. Brown**

**8 Bonnie Lane**