

## Budget Town Meeting

May 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple, Margaret A West-Mainor read the call and return of posting, Anne Krane nominated Brett Obeys, Seconded as Moderator. There being no other nominations FS Temple called for a vote: Nomination Carried: Unanimous

The Moderator then read the eligibility to vote at a town meeting found in the Oxford Town Charter.

Kathy Johnson moved Item 1, Seconded:

ITEM 1 Shall the Town of Oxford approve the Town's Municipal Annual Budget for Fiscal Year

2023-2024?

Adoption of Item 1, after consideration and/or amendment, shall be by a vote at a Town

Meeting by Referendum on Thursday, May 11, 2023 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at

Quaker Farms School located at 30 Great Oak Road. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

### Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple thanked everyone for coming out and explained that he did not support this budget. The town has 8.1 million dollar in surplus. This budget has a .85 mill rate increase. There will be amendments made here to take capital projects out and have them funded in a different manner, as suggested to the Board of Finance. They all can be done and bonded later. We also need to address school security which was not addressed by the BOE or BOF. Town Hall needs sidewalks and the HVAC at Great Oak has to be done. Town of Oxford needs a stable mill rate to attract industry and business. This is the first time in 10 years I have disagreed with the BOF. We have AA rating and we have a surplus, we need this budget to pass. We can fund these projects another way.

Jack Kiley Chairman Board of Finance; explained we had an increase in the grand list, we have 8 million in surplus, and we have not had a tax increase in few years. We need to finish the pump station project. Bonding is like a credit card, buy now pay later. We do have a double AA bond rating. I was promised ARPA funds and didn't get them. Our mill rate has been 24 mill for 10 years

Herman Schuler moved to reduce GOES Bathrooms from 120,000 to 0, seconded.

Discussion: Dick Burke Quaker Farms Rd commented that he did not have problem with this as long as it gets done.

Gary Hylinsky 171 Hogback Rd: Asked why this was being done.

Herman Schuler responded that the mill rate will go down.

Jim Olson: Nancy Lynn Lane: Asked if this was false view:

Jack Kiley: Explained it means we pay for it later.

First Selectman Temple It's my intent to get the projects done, and pay for it down the road.

Anne Krane 411 Mulligan Dr asked if there was any grant monies available.

Herman Schuler explained that he is chairman of the GOME Committee that the bathrooms were not part of phase 1 and they need to be done whether we pay now or later, borrowing the money is the better way to do it. The amount here is not enough.

Dr Miller 21 Hogsback Road explained that the bathrooms need work and will be done before school starts.

First Selectman Temple commented that they will get done, but this is not enough money.

Wayne Watt moved the Question, seconded

Motion failed:

Comments continued regarding bonding.

Selectman Dave McKane commented that if these items stay in the budget there is no guarantee the budget will pass, it may fail.

Ann Krane asked if we can use the 8 million surplus

First Selectman Temple commented: yes

Discussion ensued

Kathleen Dennen 793 Oxford Rd Board of Finance, explained that she was part of the walk through for phase 1 and the upgrades of bathroom was part of the 1.4 million.

Herman Schuler explained the bathrooms were never part of phase 1

There being no other comments or questions the moderator called for vote on the amendment

Motion failed: Yes 42 no 58

Herman Schuler moved to reduce GOES Roof from 150,000 to 0, Seconded.

There being no comments or questions the Moderator called for a vote on the amendment.

Motion passed Yes 52 No 50

Dana Flach moved the question seconded: Discussion ensued: The moderator called for the Town Attorney to clarify whether this is Roberts Rules.

Town Attorney Kevin Condon confirmed this is Roberts Rules and he can call for a vote.

Voice Vote: Motion Failed

Herman Schuler moved to reduce Oxford High School Pool Heater & Ventilation from 500,000 to 0, seconded.

Discussion: Ann Krane: 411 Mulligan Dr: Asked what this means;  
The moderator explained it will be removed from the budget.

There being no other comments or question the moderator called for a vote on the amendment:

Motion passed Yes 53 No 51

Herman Schuler moved to reduced GOES Driveway from 80,000 to 0, seconded:

Discussion: Bob Wheeler asked if this was the side or front parking lot.

Dr Miller answered it's for office parking.

There being no other comments or question; the moderator called for a vote on the amendment:

Motion passed voice vote/few nays

Herman Schuler moved to reduced Towner Lane Pump Station from 400,000 to 0, seconded.

First Selectman Temple explained that this will be done as soon as possible.

Jack Kiley BOF Chairman Explained there is urgency to get this project done.

Anne Krane asked if ARPA funds could be used.

First Selectman Temple explained he tried to negotiate with the BOF a plan to get these project done with an alternate plan. They were not interested.

Selectman McKane explained we can do these at Town Meeting rather than bonding.

Peter Calcandy 1051 Augusta Dr asked why the town has to pay for this when it is at the airport.

There being no other comments or questions the moderator called for a vote on the amendment:

Motion passed by voice vote

Herman Schuler moved to reduce the Deputy Fire Marshall Vehicle from 50,000 to 0, seconded

Discussion: Scott Pelleiter explained that this is for the Deputy Fire Marshalls to do inspections;

First Selectman Temple explained he is in favor of this and it will come from ARPA Funds.

Motion Passed by voice vote/Few Nays

Herman Schuler moved to reduce the PW oil water separator from 5000 to 0, seconded.

Motion Passed by voice vote/Nays

Moderator called for a vote to move Item 1 as amended

To Referendum

Motion Passed

Item 2, moved Herman Schuler, seconded:

Shall the Town of Oxford approve the Town's Board of Education Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024?

Adoption of Item 2, after consideration and/or amendment, shall be by a vote at a Town

Meeting by Referendum on Thursday, May 11, 2023 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at

Quaker Farms School located at 30 Great Oak Road. Absentee ballots will be available

from the Town Clerk's office.

James Olson moved to reduce the BOE to 32,897,629, seconded.

Motion Failed

Motion to move to Referendum:

Motion passed

Herman Schuler moved, seconded:

ITEM 3 Shall the Town of Oxford approve a levy for road projects for the benefit of the Reserve

Fund for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024?

Adoption of Item 3, after consideration and/or amendment, shall be by a vote at a Town

Meeting by Referendum on Thursday, May 11, 2023 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM at

Quaker Farms School located at 30 Great Oak Road. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

Motion to move to Referendum

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Moderator Adjourned to Referendum

May 11, 2023 6:00AM to 8:00PM

Votes Respectfully Submitted

  
Margaret A. West-Mainor

Oxford Town Clerk

2023 MAY -3 PM 4:29  
TOWN OF OXFORD  
CLERK  
MARGARET A. WEST-MAINOR