

Town Meeting

July 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:00 P.M. Assistant Town Clerk Linda McKane read the call. First Selectman George Temple nominated Joseph Matusovich for Moderator seconded by Wayne Johnson. Ann Krane nominated Brett Olbrys seconded by Linda Czaplinski. There being no other nominations a hand vote was taken.

Joseph Matusovich 35

Brett Olbrys 31

Joseph Matusovich won the nomination as moderator. Moderator Matusovich read the eligibility to vote at a Town Meeting found in section 3-2 of the Town Charter.

Selectman Dave McKane moved the question, Paula Guillet seconded.

ITEM 1

Shall the Town of Oxford approve the purchase of the Vaill property, located at 117 Good Hill Road, for the amount of \$645,000.00 as approved by the Board of Selectman on 7/5/23 and contingent upon receiving all the approvals from Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Attorney General and any other state agencies as may be required and stipulated by the grant.

Jack Kiley, 88 Bee Mountain Road, asked if the 645,000.00 grant will cover the whole cost of the property or will the town have to put some money into this.

First Selectman George Temple said there is a 20 per cent contribution from the town, which will come from the Land Use Fund. This was money left to us from Mariam Strong's estate for the purpose of purchasing open space.

Mary Ann Drayton Rogers, 95 Good Hill Road, questioned what will be the use of the property? What might be allowed and what might not be allowed and who will oversee the property and enforce any violations that might occur?

First Selectman George Temple responded that there will be hiking trails on the property and it will be for the use of the Boy Scouts for camping if they choose. This property is adjacent to the property that the town owns which borders Lake Zoar. It will be administered by the Board of Selectmen.

Paula Guillet, 175 Good Hill Road, wholeheartedly supports the purchase of this property. She read a statement of the benefits of the purchase of the Vaill property. The property will have access to hiking trails while protecting nature, wildlife, forests, waterways, natural resources, and our quality of life.

First Selectman George Temple stated at the request of the seller Jeanne Vaill we will call this property Vaill's Bunny Trail.

Peter Petrochko, 370 Quaker Farms Road, spoke in support of purchasing the Vaill property. The property will give us hiking trails and preserve nature for the wildlife.

There being no other comments or questions motion to close by Selectman Dave McKane, seconded by Wayne Johnson. Motion carried

Moderator Matusovich called for a Vote on Item 1. Motion Carried Unanimously.

ITEM 2

Shall the Town of Oxford approve update the Selectmen's salaries to \$22,959 with funding to be taken from General Fund Balance; as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 7/10/2023?

Brett Olbrys moved the question Kathy Johnson seconded

Ann Krane, 411 Mulligan Drive, would like to know the total amount of the items taken from the General Fund? Jim Hliva, Finance Director, responded about \$70,000. Ms. Krane stated that she is opposed to paying the Selectmen this stipend when other boards and commissions do not get a stipend.

Linda Czaplinski, 30 Freeman Road, is opposed to the items 2 through 7 and will be voting no for each. She states that the budget was passed by the voters of this town and we should not be increasing wages because we don't agree with the outcome.

David Stocker, 144 Punkup Road, is opposed to items 2 through 7.

Kathy Johnson, 68 Dorman Road, spoke in favor of items 2 through 7. As a former First Selectman it is an extremely hard Job. You are on call 24 hours a day seven days a week. It is a big responsibility. Mrs. Johnson stated that they deserve a salary just like everyone else.

Dick Burke, 447 Quaker Farms Road, strongly opposes the increases in pay.

Brett Olbrys, 17 Apple Drive, commented on section 2.4C and 3.5B of the Town Charter.

First Selectman George Temple moved to recess the Town Meeting at 7:35 P.M. to open the Selectmen's meeting and recess the Selectmen's meeting to continue with the Town Meeting. Selectman Dave McKane seconded.

Motion to Continue Town Meeting made by First Selectman George Temple seconded by Selectman Dave McKane.

Paula Guillet, 175 Good Hill Road, spoke in favor of the increases. The selectmen do more than attend 2 meetings a month.

Ellen Fox, 522 Traditions Court North, commented that working in the building she sees the Selectmen in the building working. They do more than attend two meetings per month. What the Selectmen do is a great service to the Town.

First Selectmen George Temple stated he supports the stipend for his fellow Selectmen. Mr. Temple stated, that in Oxford we have a First Selectman, Administrative Assistant, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Selectmen for a total of \$298,000. Seymour has a Selectwomen, Chief Administrator, Assistant Administrator, Project Co Ordinator, Human Resources, Treasurer, Tax Collector for a total of \$458,000.

Monroe has a First Selectman, First Officer, Human Resources, Clerks Town Treasurer for a total of \$359,000.

First Selectman George Temple stated you cannot compare Seymour with Oxford. Oxford has two Selectmen who sign checks and go through all the invoices. They check every invoice.

Wayne Johnson moved the question. Seconded by Linda Crowe. Motion carried Unanimously

Moderator Matusovich called for a Vote on Item 2

Yeas Carried, Item 2 Passed.

Item 3

Shall the Town of Oxford update the Treasurer's salary to 7,408.32 with funding to be taken from Finance Contingency; as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 7/10/23?

Selectman Dave McKane moved the question, Seconded by Tim Richards.

Ann Krane, 411 Mulligan Drive, opposed the increase.

Dave Stocker, 144 Punkup Road, spoke against the increase.

Selectman Dave McKane, 11 Tram Drive, spoke about the Charter. What we are doing tonight is legal.

Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers, 95 Good Hill Road, spoke against the salary increases and the fact that the raises are being done at a town meeting.

First Selectman George Temple responded that we are having the meeting because the Board of Finance reduced the salary figure that the Board of Selectmen approved in the budget. They have no authority to do so. We are here to correct their illegal action.

Linda Czaplinski, 30 Freeman Road, spoke against the process of the Town Meeting tonight.

Paula Guillet, 175 Good Hill Road, explained that the last increase for nonunion Town employees, appointed and elected, was April 2021 for July 2020.

Maura Satkowski moved the question, seconded Debbie Sherman. Motion carried Unanimously.

Moderator Matusovich called for a vote on Item 3.

Yeas carried, Item 3 passed.

Item 4

Shall the Town of Oxford update the Deputy Treasurer's salary to 2,300.00 with funding to be taken from General Fund Balance; as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 7/10/23?

Selectman Dave McKane moved the question, seconded by Wayne Johnson. Motion carried Unanimously.

First Selectman George Temple explained the Deputy Treasurer's duties. The Deputy Treasurer fills in for the Treasurer and also audits the Tax Department.

Brett Olbrys moved the question, seconded by Maura Satkowski. Motion carried Unanimously

Moderator Matusovich called for a vote on Item 4.

Yeas carried, Item 4 passed.

Item 5

Shall the Town of Oxford update the Administrative Assistant's salary to \$79,329.00 with funding to be taken from General Fund Balance; as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 7/10/23?

Selectman Dave McKane moved the question, Arnie Jensen seconded.

Kathy Johnson, 65 Dorman Road, spoke in favor of the increase. The Administrative Assistant is the heart of the Town and has to make sure everyone is working together.

Amy Sarris, 120 Freeman Road, supports the increases but was questioning if the pay hours were being adjusted now that the Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

First Selectman George Temple explained that the hours for the employees were never changed.

Kristyn Rosa explained some employees work 40 hours and others work 32 hours, everyone is working the same hours. The hours the Town Hall is open to the public was the only change.

Debbie Sherman moved the question, seconded by Maura Satkowski. Motion carried Unanimously

Moderator Matusovich called for a vote on item 5.

Yeas carried, Item 4 passed.

Item 6

Shall the Town of Oxford update the full-time non-union employee's salaries to:

FY 2020-2021 3% increase retroactive

FY 2022-2023 3% increase retroactive

With funding to be taken from General Fund Balance; as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 7/10/23?

Motion to amend Item 6 FY to change from 2020-2021 to FY2021-2022 Kathy Johnson moved to amend Selectman Arnie Jensen seconded. Amendment Passes.

Kathy Johnson moved seconded Debbie Sherman

Linda Czapinski, 30 Freeman Road, questioned the 3% increases.

George Temple responded the increases are 3% for 2021-2022 and 3% 2022-2023 .

Ann Krane, 411 Mulligan Drive, questioned the procedure of the Charter and Town Meeting.

First Selectman George Temple responded this is a legal meeting.

Jim Sanders, 43 Belinsky Circle, questioned if the retroactive increases will be for employees who worked during this time?

First Selectman George Temple responded that employees have to be here to receive the retro.

Debbie Sherman moved the question, seconded by Maura Satkowski.

Moderator Matusovich called for a vote on item 6.

Yeas carried, item 6 passed.

Item 7

Shall the Town of Oxford increase the part-time non-union employee's salaries 3% with funding to be taken from General Fund Balance; as approved by the Board of Selectmen on 7/10/23?

Selectman Dave McKane moved the question seconded by Wayne Johnson

Debbie Sherman moved the question to end discussion seconded by Maura Satkowski. Motion carried.

Moderator Matusovich called for a vote on Item 7.

Yeas carried, item 7 passed.

Kathy Johnson moved to adjourned the Town Meeting seconded by Maura Satkowski. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda J McKane. CCMC

Assistant Town Clerk

2023 JUL 31 P 5:26
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Linda J. McKane
TOWN CLERK