

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, January 17, 2018
7:30 PM - Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by First Selectman George Temple, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq., Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman Scott Flaherty, Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 1/3/18 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 1/3/18 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

None.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Oxford Main Street Project Committee Appointment

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Christin Kimball, of 178 Punkup Road, to the Oxford Main Street Project Committee; as presented and recommended by the Chairman in her letter dated 1/8/18. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is at the request of the committee. First Selectman Temple supports this. Selectman Scott Flaherty stated she will do a great job.

2. Parks & Recreation Commission Appointments

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to re-appoint Joyce Silberkleit, of 22 Middlefield Road, and Greg Baktis, of 55 Reality Road, and to appoint Jennifer Wolyniec, of 40 Silva Terrace, all to

the Parks & Recreation Commission with terms to commence immediately and expire 12/31/20; as presented and recommended by the Chairman in her letter dated 1/10/18. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple knows Ms. Silberkleit and Ms. Wolyniec and knows they will be very good on this commission. Selectman Scott Flaherty stated she is very dedicated. Selectman Jeff Haney knows them also.

3. Water Pollution Control Authority Re-Appointment

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to re-appoint Robert Farnum, of 16 Barry Road, to the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/20; as presented and recommended in their letter dated 1/8/18. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated that Robert Farnum brings a lot of knowledge to the Water Pollution Control Authority and was the person who was instrumental in the project on Towner for non-destructive testing that was done.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$3,920.82, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 1/16/18 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries

Discussion: Jim Hliva stated that these are all motor vehicles that people have gotten rid of or were leased vehicles. The Assessor processed them and gave these to the tax collector for refunds.

2. Public Works Capital & Non-Recurring Projects – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Public Works Capital & Non-Recurring Projects:

- The purchase of a 2017 Dodge Ram 5500 Regular Cab/Chassis 4X4, in an amount not to exceed \$45,500 approved at referendum from Capital Non-Recurring account as presented and requested by the Road Foreman in his letter dated 2/28/17.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to *withdraw* the motion.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Public Works Capital & Non-Recurring Project:

- The purchase of a 2017 Dodge Ram 5500 Regular Cab/Chassis 4X4, in an amount not to exceed \$47,000 of which \$45,500 to come from Capital Non-Recurring account and the balance will come from the Board of Finance Contingency account 5320-560-5320 as presented and requested by the Road Foreman in his letter dated 2/28/17. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple talked with Wayne regarding this matter, and feels we have to keep equipment up-to-date, and this is an important purchase.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Public Works Capital & Non-Recurring Project:

- The purchase of a new Fuel System at Public Works, in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.00, in order to replace the existing antiquated system; as presented and requested by the Road Foreman in his letter dated 2/28/17. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated that this is a requirement from DEEP, and we have an underground gas tank and need to get it out. If we do not do this, we will get in trouble with DEEP. Selectman Jeff Haney questioned about the survey cost and pump cost and noted that the site work cost is not known. This is for the system itself, and asked if it went out to bid. First Selectman George Temple stated that the Fire Marshall requested that it has to be placed further away from the building, and a retaining wall will have to be built. This is phase I of this project. The 2nd phase should cost over \$200,000. Selectman Jeff Haney stated that the site work should be done first and we do not know the cost of the whole job. First Selectman Temple stated that Selectman Jeff Haney made a good point, and he would rather vote for the whole thing.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to ***table*** the Motion until further information is known as to the estimate on the site work that has to be done. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion ***tabled***.

3. Purchase 2017 Ford Utility Police Interceptor All Wheel Drive Vehicle – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the purchase of a 2017 Ford Utility Police Interceptor All Wheel Drive vehicle, in an amount not to exceed \$42,760.99, for the Police Department as was presented and approved in their Capital Plan Budget for 2017 – 2018. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

Discussion: Sgt. Semosky stated that the Department is behind on buying Police vehicles. Three of the vehicles are over 9 years old and getting worn out. All of the vehicles are being used. These older vehicles do not have safety features. First Selectman Temple asked if any of the vehicles will be turned in. Sgt. Semosky stated no, that they would like to use the old vehicles for road jobs. First Selectman George Temple stated since they are not serviceable and not used for patrolling that it is good to use them for side jobs. The older vehicles also cost a lot for maintenance. Selectman Scott Flaherty had concerns over getting rid of the old vehicle but using them for construction is good. Selectman Jeff Haney stated that this sounds good.

4. FY 2017 – 2018 Transfer Requests

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the FY 2017 – 2018 transfer requests as presented by the Finance Director. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

Discussion: Jim Hliva stated that the first item is for the Tax Collector and the Assistant Tax Collector using her personal car to take classes for six months to get certified. The second item is for engineering fees paid by Garden Homes, and now we have to pay the engineering firm. The third is for engineering costs for sewers by the plaza by Rose's. The fourth item is for the Pomperaug Water Shed, which increased fees to \$5,000. We had given them \$2,000 already and it has increased to \$5,000 per year. The fifth item is for Inland/Wetlands at Rock House Hill Sanctuary. There are ash trees hanging over private property and would like to get the work done in the winter when the ground is frozen to avoid damage to the ground in the spring. The sixth item is for a heated temporary bathroom for four weeks for the ambulance and fire department in order to get their septic replaced. First Selectman George Temple stated this has to be done; it is a health issue and cannot compromise on this. It has to be both male and female facilities. They suspect it is the leach fields. First Selectman Temple told Scott Pelletier to go ahead with it and will go to the Board of Finance.

First Selectman Temple stated he went to look at the trees at Rock House Hill and this is a public safety hazard. First Selectman Temple stated that the Pomperaug Water Shed does supply water to some people in Oxford and feels that \$5,000 is our fair share, and it is a legitimate figure. Pomperaug was originally requesting \$20,000.

5. Purchase Property from Schreiber Farm for Open Space – Approve Purchase, Resolution and Authorize Board to Send Support Letter with Grant Application

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the purchase of 144 acres of Schreiber's Farm, identified as Town Assessors Map 4, Block 41, Lots 7, 3, 8 and 6, as Open Space, Approve the following Resolution and authorize the Board of Selectmen to send a Support Letter along with the grant application:

RESOLVED, that George R. Temple is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Oxford any required documentation and signatures for the application for the Schreiber Farm Open-Space Grant Application for the Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Program with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to acquire permanent interest in the land known as Schreiber Farm as described above and if awarded to execute and sign any documentation required for the award and to manage said land as open space land pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated this is very early in the process. Mr. Schreiber approached him and this would be purchased thru a State grant. This is 144 acres. First Selectman Temple understands that there is a pretty good chance that there is an endangered rabbit species on the property, and he would like to see this purchased thru the grant for open space. This is a nice piece of property. It has 2 ponds there, a trout stream goes thru it, and there is a camping area also. This will require a property description and appraisal which are being worked on now. The value for recreational use is considerable and there is a lot of wildlife and hiking trails there. It would be a nice addition to the town's open space portfolio, and it is one of the oldest farms in Oxford. Selectman Jeff Haney will listen to the rest of it as it comes up and asked if this is all through a grant. First Selectman Temple stated yes, we are here to apply to the State of Connecticut.

6. Hire Tax Assessor

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to hire Teresa Geremski, of 51 Avon Street in New Haven and current Acting Tax Assessor, as the Tax Assessor effective 1/18/18 with a probation period from 1/18/18 to 6/18/18 and at a pay rate of \$38.15 per hour. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that Teresa Geremski is the current tax assessor. She was appointed on August 16, 2017 as Acting Tax Assessor. She is doing a very good job and she deserves this and is an excellent choice. Selectman Jeff Haney questioned the time frame as Acting Tax Assessor. She has been doing the job for the last 5 months and feels under the circumstances, this employee should have her probationary period start at the August 16, 2017 date which would make it February 16, 2018, giving her the one month left of probation, and would like to make an amendment to this motion. Selectman Jeff Haney does not see why an employee who has been acting as the Tax Assessor for 5 months, adding 6 months, which would be a total of 11 months, being no statue on this as far as the union rules, it is not something that we can't do and she deserves this, and the probationary period is a stickler for him. He would like to change this one thing. First Selectman Temple stated that "acting" is not the same as

being the Tax Assessor. During this time of Acting Tax Assessor, we could have hired someone else. However, we were impressed with her abilities and we will make her the tax assessor, with that position comes a probationary period of 6 months. First Selectman Temple did not remember anyone ever not being hired after the 6 month probation. Selectman Scott Flaherty is torn on it and if someone else was hired as a Tax Assessor you don't have to be the Acting Assessor, and doesn't see why it can't be seen as probationary. First Selectman Temple stated that for the sake of continuity, keep it the way it is. Jim Hliva stated that Teresa Geremski has been in the position for 10 years as the Assistant Tax Assessor. Jim Hliva would like to clarify that if you change the probationary date, the increase in pay starts with the motion tonight. First Selectman Temple stated yes the pay starts with the motion tonight. When she was brought in she got a 10% increase as Step 2 over what she made as the Assistant Tax Assessor. Now this will bring her to Step 3 today. Jeff Haney stated that regardless of the probationary period, the rate starts today. The power of this decision belongs to the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman George Temple stated that maybe table it tonight and have the Town Attorney look at it. First Selectman Temple stated she is going to get the position.

Selectman Jeff Haney wants to *amend* this to say probationary period will be retroactive to 8/16/17. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 2 Ayes. 1 Nay by First Selectman George Temple. Motion carries.

7. Award Town of Oxford Electricity Bid

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to award the Town of Oxford Electricity Bid to Constellation Company for a 3 year contract at \$0.08566 (\$/kWh). This was seconded by Scott Flaherty.

Discussion: Jim Hliva stated that the electricity market is a commodity and changes minute to minute every day. As of last Monday, the 5 year contract had a price of \$0.082895 per kWh per year with Constellation Energy. Now the prices are up on the 5 year contract and are down on the 3 year contract. Jim Hliva is recommending going with a 3 year contract for \$0.08566(\$/kWh). Due to prices with all of the environmental regulations that the President is throwing out, the energy market will be in flux. It might be slightly different tomorrow morning. A suggestion was to make the motion to allow First Selectman George Temple to allow for the price of electricity not to exceed \$0.0897 (\$/kWh). Selectman Jeff Haney suggested not to go higher than the other bid. The other bid was 0.0976 (\$/kWh). Tomorrow we will get an exact price.

Selectman Jeff Haney *amended* the Motion to add the Bid to Constellation Company for a 3 year contract is not to exceed \$0.0976 (\$/kWh), and First Selectman George Temple will have the authority to approve the bid contract. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

8. Library Furniture Bid

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to award the Library Furniture Bid to W.B. Mason Interiors, with a total bid package of \$132,760.00 which includes all of the items listed in the bid specification, with the funding to be obtained from:

1. The Friends of the Oxford Library Organization donation in the amount of \$55,000.00
2. The Oxford Library Board of Directors budgeted bequest of \$65,000.00
3. The Oxford Library Building Committee budgeted amount of \$12,760.00

This was seconded by Scott Flaherty.

Discussion: George Mitchell, Chairman, stated that the dollar amounts were incorrect; the total is correct.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney *withdrew* the Motion on the table. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to award the Library Furniture Bid to W.B. Mason Interiors, with a total bid package of \$132,760.00 which includes all of the items listed in the bid specification, with the funding to be obtained from:

1. The Friends of the Oxford Library Organization donation in the amount of \$50,000.00
2. The Oxford Library Board of Directors budgeted bequest of \$65,000.00
3. The Oxford Library Building Committee budgeted amount of \$20,260.00

This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Mr. George Mitchell discussed that the original bond which included all donations stated that it cannot exceed \$3.5 million. These two donations will put it over, so we need to make an appropriation request for \$115,000 and will be an exchange of gifts. This is one more step to move forward. This will go to the Board of Finance and then to a Town meeting. The committee will give the town \$115,000 and then the town will give this amount to W.B. Mason. The furniture is very durable, high quality, natural wood conference tables, and Mr. Mitchell is very happy with this.

The Library will be complete by the end of February, and they project opening sometime by the end of March. The project is still within budget. First Selectman Temple asked if this furniture bid will fully furnish the Library. Yes, it will. The current library stacks will be put in the basement and the other furniture will be used elsewhere in Town Hall. We will need to go out to bid on moving costs. They did get an estimate from Joyce to get an idea how much it would cost (approximately \$14,000). First Selectman George Temple asked if we could use Public Works to help with the moving. Selectman Jeff Haney and George Mitchell gave their input. Staffing the Library will also be looked at. Jim Hliva complemented the Administrative Assistant for getting the staffing item going with one meeting held today, and another meeting is being set up for next week.

9. Report of First Selectman

1. First Selectman Temple reported that we received a grant for \$2,000 from Newtown Savings Bank for a defibrillator and wants everyone trained on it.
2. Friday there will be a Town Meeting at 2:00 PM at Center School, we will hold a Fire Safety Poster event and the posters will be displayed at Fritz's. Everyone is invited.
3. First Selectman Temple was planning on going to the Council on Mayor's in Washington, DC next week but is not able to attend now. He will be attending the CCM Convention in Washington, DC. This is a good place to get contacts and share problems.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Jack Kiley, 88 Bee Mountain Road, wanted to make the Board of Selectmen aware of a few things. Mr. Kiley discussed the general fund balance and the projected budget for July 1st. The taxes in Oxford have been very low and it went from 24.5 mills, last year we went to a 22.22 mill rate, and everything was taken from the general fund. We started with a surplus of \$16 million five years ago. The estimated budget is going to cost the town \$47 million. First Selectman Temple asked if Mr. Kiley was worried that we took the money from surplus to fund the tax decrease. Selectman Jeff Haney stated that we went up three and brought it down twice over the three years, that the mill rate went up and it decreased twice and wanted to correct Mr. Kiley that it was not 5 years. Mr. Kiley stated that there is an estimated \$5,775,000 that we will have to put into the general fund. This year's property tax is estimated for \$33 million. State grants are cut by \$1 million this year and another million next year. For 2018/2019 it is estimated that to run the town it will cost \$49 million. The costs are up. We need to maintain the bonding rate of \$4,920,000, and we are short right now \$2,571,000. Mr. Kiley hopes that the grand list will go up. Mr. Kiley stated that the items in this year's spending were not in the budget, i.e. medical expenses, a few part-timers that were not in the budget, a lot of money for vehicles (fire trucks) that we have to pay for, and this is without a new school.

Some of this money has to come from tax payers with a minimum of a 2 mill increase or as high as 4 mills. The Power Plant is good and we used \$5 million and paid for a fire truck, and \$250,000 went for a basement in the Library. Mr. Kiley asked this Board to really scrutinize all capital items coming thru.

~~Pat Cocchiarella, 137 Governors Hill Road~~ asked about the \$200,000 for site work, and questioned why our guys can't do some of that work. First Selectman George Temple stated we will, and we have to have this done for fire safety. Above ground tank is how to go; gas stations put them above ground. First Selectman George Temple stated we paid a lot of money at Quaker Farms School. First Selectman George Temple stated our guys can do some of the site work. We will take a careful look at all of this. Selectman Jeff Haney stated that above ground tanks are better and is the way to go. They are state-of-the art.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. This was seconded by Scott Flaherty. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski

Clerk, Board of Selectmen

18 JAN 22 PM 6:40
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Scott Flaherty
TOWN CLERK

To: Board of Finance

January 3, 2018

From: Finance Director

~~Re: 2017-2018 Transfer requests~~

Item #		Department	Account Number	Account		Amount
1	TO:	Tax Collector	5505-690	Mileage	\$	150.00
	FROM:	Tax Collector	5505-590	Education	\$	150.00
	Motion Seconded Vote Comments Comments					
2	To:	WPCA	5580-598	Engineering	\$	7,080.00
	From:	Finance	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$	7,080.00
	Motion Seconded Vote Comments					
3	To:	WPCA	5580-598	Engineering	\$	2,080.00
	From:	Finance	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$	2,080.00
	Motion Seconded Vote Comments					
4	To:	Pomperaug River Watershed	5248-535-180	Pomperaug River Water	\$	3,000.00
	From:	Finance	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$	3,000.00
	Motion Seconded Vote Comments					
5	To:	IWWC	5265-570-126	Trasil Maintenance	\$	7,350.00
	From:	Finance	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$	7,350.00
	Motion Seconded Vote Comments					



To: Board of Finance

January 3, 2018

From: Finance Director

Re:2017-2018 Transfer requests

Item #		Department	Account Number	Account		Amount
6	To:	Fire	5325-613	Facility Maintenance	\$	6,000.00
	From:	Finance	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$	6,000.00

Motion
Seconded
Vote
Comments