



TOWN OF OXFORD

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

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
7:30 PM – Virtual Meeting/Hangout Meets

The Town of Oxford Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:33 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq., Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman Heather Haney, Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman

Absent: None.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 2/19/21 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 2/19/21 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. 3/3/21 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/3/21 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. 3/3/21 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/3/21 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

None.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Great Oak Middle School Evaluation & Improvement Committee's Preliminary Expenditure Request

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the preliminary expenditure, in the amount not to exceed \$9,500.00, for the following:

1. Update and revise the Great Oak Middle School Building Asbestos Plan
2. Develop a conceptual mechanical plan that will replace the legacy classroom heating units with a new efficient system that will provide heating, air conditioning, compliant ventilation and humidity control
3. Determine the feasibility, i.e., capital investment versus operating cost savings, of using the "above ceiling spaces" to host a centralized system, install R49 insulation, replace all ceiling tiles and refurbish all legacy windows

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

Discussion: This motion is to allow a study. Herman Schuler, School Building Committee, explained that the request is to evaluate a heating system and replace current window units, and to determine if asbestos is present. The study will look at the entire project for long-term accommodations. George Renzoni, Facility Manager for the Oxford Public Schools, discussed that Mystic Air Quality Consultants, Inc., was in the building taking samples for testing. He indicated that details will not be available until the test results are received. Discussion among the Selectmen to wait for more conclusive information regarding costs prior to approving expenditures.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to table the motion to approve the preliminary expenditure, in the amount not to exceed \$9,500.00. The was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: None.

2. South Sidewalk expansion Project Notice to Proceed – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Notice to Proceed as well as the Agreement between the Town of Oxford and The Grasso Companies, LLC for the South Sidewalk Expansion Project and to authorize the First Selectman to sign both documents. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kathleen O’Neil, Oxford Grant Writer/Administrator, explained that the notice to proceed is a formal document for the grant, which will become part of the grant documentation kept on file. The document allows The Grasso Companies, LLC to start work on the project. Bryan Nesteriak, Principal of B & B Engineering, added that plans were developed through the State grant program, and that the work will begin on Monday. Construction costs are completely paid for through the grant. There was further discussion regarding the project sidewalk location and work to be constructed for the nature preserve.

3. Community Support Committee Application for Oxford Cultural Arts Commission’s Make Music Day Application – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support Committee’s Application for Oxford Cultural Arts Commission’s Make Music Day, in the amount of \$3,500.00 (\$1,000.00 to be used for a generator and \$2,500.00 to be used for sound and lighting equipment); as approved by the Community Support Committee at their meeting of 10/31/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney.

Discussion: Glen Schumitz, from the Community Support Committee, stated that the approval has been made to allow small gatherings for this national event. The balance left in the Community Support Fund, minus this expenditure, will be \$86,000.00. Discussion among the Board of Selectmen ensued, including questions regarding equipment already purchased by the Oxford Parks & Recreation and where the equipment will be stored.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to table the approval of this request pending more information. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

4. Establish a Water System Advisory Committee and Appoint Members

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to establish a Water System Advisory Committee and approve the following Charge:

Water system Advisory Committee Charge

Connecticut Water is establishing a Water system Advisory Committee (WSAC) related to the Heritage Village water system serving Southbury, Middlebury and Oxford to provide local input, communications and collaboration. This is specific to the towns served by the former Heritage Village Water Company which recently merged with Connecticut Water Company. It is to value the input of communities and organizations in the area to ensure that efforts are consistent with local and regional needs and to best coordinate water supply planning and water resource protection for the communities.

The advisory committee will include a representative from each three towns as well as a representative from the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, local health official, economic development officials and Heritage Village Master Association which has been identified as a key stakeholder.

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Jeff Luff, Oxford Economic Development Director, stated that three (3) people from each town will sit on the board to discuss water needs of the communities. Herman Schuler, School Building Committee, discussed areas in town that are serviced by the water system.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint the following to the Water System Advisory Committee:

First Selectman George Temple, Chief Elected Official
Jeff Luff, Economic Development Director
Neil Lustig, Pomperaug District Department of Health Director

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: All three individuals will serve the committee well.

5. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$24,104.32, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 3/15/21 and to

authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: The Board of Selectmen reviewed the refunds and have no further questions.

6. Town-Wide Cleanup

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Town Wide Cleanup Month Resolution as presented and requested by the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency:

WHEREAS, the Oxford Conservation Commission Inland Wetlands Agency has declared from April 1st through April 30th as Town Wide Cleanup Month; and

WHEREAS, Town Wide Cleanup Month is celebrated annually to recommit to protect our flora and fauna and make Oxford a beautiful place to live, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford reaffirms its commitment to the goals and principles of Town Wide Cleanup Month and in keeping with our goal to protect and make Oxford a beautiful place to live, and supports Town Wide Cleanup by:

1. Inviting and encouraging all citizens, businesses, organizations, schools, clubs, neighborhoods and families to participate in community Town Wide Cleanup activities; and
2. By providing support through participation of Town Departments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford declare from April 1st through April 30th as Town Wide Cleanup Month and authorizes the Public Works Department to remain open until 5:00 PM on the last two (2) Saturdays of April.

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This activity occurs every year. The Board of Selectmen, volunteers from town hall, the Oxford High School football team and local businesses also participate. Proper safety precautions will be taken during this event.

7. Report of First Selectman

1. **Covid-19 Vaccines.** The Town of Oxford is doing well with the scheduling of vaccinations. Oxford is seeing a decline in people with Covid-19. The second round of vaccinations will be administered this weekend.
2. **Oxford Town Hall Opening.** First Selectman George Temple will discuss the opening procedure from a part-time basis to full-time basis for the Oxford Town Hall with Dr. Browne, of Griffin Hospital. Opening will be based on State guidelines.

- 3. Easter Flowers.** The Oxford Center Fire House will sell Easter Flowers from Good Friday to Holy Saturday. Flowers will also be sold in the parking lot at Fritz's Snack Bar. The purchase of the flowers is a great way to show support for worthy causes.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary LoPresti", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mary LoPresti
Clerk, Board of Selectmen