

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 7:30 PM
In Person and Google Meets

The Town of Oxford Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:37 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. 6/30/21 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 6/30/21 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Hawley Road Reconstruction Project Contract – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Hawley Road Reconstruction Project Contract – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign as Item #9 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #10. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Tax Refunds**

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$2,596.97, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 7/15/21 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple spoke with Ashley Schremmer, Town Tax Collector, on this matter and it is nothing out of the ordinary.

2. **Oxford School Building Committee Change Order Funding Requests for Oxford Middle School**

DISCUSSION:

Bob Slie, Oxford School Building Committee Chairman reviewed the requests with the Board. He explained that there was a different music teacher at the time of construction with different musical instrument needs. Now there is a new teacher with new needs. It was brought to the First Selectman's attention that there are instruments in storage. First Selectman George Temple would like Selectman Arnold Jensen to speak with the new music director to get more details on the number of instruments being requested. He would like Selectman Jensen to take inventory of the musical instruments currently in storage in order to determine if more instruments are necessary. Chairman Bob Slie explained the need for more storage for the sports equipment. First Selectman Temple's concerns were that constructing the extra storage area would cause a delay in the closing out of the project and time is of the essence due to the current low interest rates. Selectman Jensen will speak with Finance Director and Bond Council to determine if the project could be closed out with the intent to build and still receive the low interest rates. Selectman Heather Haney stated she would like some time to work out the proper way to get this done before any decision is made.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple Moved to **table** this matter. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. **Fire Department's Tax Abatement Policy Change Request**

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the change to the Fire Department's Tax Abatement Policy amounts from \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 to \$1,000.00 and \$2,000.00 as in

accordance with Public Act No. 19-36 and as presented and requested by the Board of Chiefs in their letter dated 6/14/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple recommended we do this. This act has been in place for many years, it just has been amended. This is a just a small token that the town does to show our gratitude for the dedication of our Ambulance and Fire Department and the countless hours they freely give amidst the known risks. First Selectman George Temple stated he supports this. Selectman Arnold Jensen inquired to Scott Pelletier, Fire Chief, since the amount is being doubled, is it possible to bump up the criteria? Is that a big commitment? Scott Pelletier explained that yes, it is a big commitment. There is quite a bit to this. First Selectman George Temple asks Chief Scott Pelletier, on average how many hours does one person put in, roughly, Scott Pelletier explained at least a couple thousand hours. The Board expressed gratitude for the Department and its service to the town.

4. Advertisement for Bid for Woodruff Hill Sanitary Sewage Pump Station at E. Commerce Drive – Authorize

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Advertisement for Bid for Woodruff Hill Sanitary Sewage Pump Station at E. Commerce Drive and authorize the First Selectman to sign. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION:

Scott Halstead – WPCA – stated that this is necessary to sell the lot. You cannot develop it without the pump station. They have a grant in place, money was allocated through the Towantic energy plant, and the remainder will be offset from the sale of the land. First Selectman George Temple reiterated that you will not be able to develop Commerce Drive without this pump station. Selectman Arnold Jensen asked, how many lots does this open up, Scott Halstead replied it opens up about 9 lots.

5. Southwestern Advantage Peddler's Permit Application

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Peddler's Permit for Southwestern Advantage CONTINGENT UPON the submittal of an up-to-date insurance declaration and with the following stipulations:

- The Oxford Police Department must be notified daily, or each day you are soliciting, of the area in town where you will be soliciting along with the hours.

- No soliciting in neighborhoods where it clearly states “No Soliciting” such as, but not limited to, Oxford Green, Meadowbrook Estates, River Bend Estates.
- All peddlers must have identification badges.
- No soliciting on Sundays or Holidays.

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

6. Oxford Energy Center Project on North Larkey Road – Review and Discussion with Possible Action

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to **table** this discussion. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

First Selectman George Temple stated they will review this when the representatives are present.

7. Assistant Senior Director/Secretary Revised Job Description

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to **table** this matter. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Selectman Heather Haney objected to certain details of this motion and would like to have further discussion on this matter.

8. Part-Time Employees Wage Increases

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve wage increases for the Part-Time employees as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

9. Hawley Road Reconstruction Project Contract – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Hawley Road Reconstruction Project Contract, as reviewed and approved by Town Counsel, and authorize the First Selectman to sign. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple stated this is a long time coming. This allows the work to be done in the summer rather than the winter months. Meghan Miller, of B&B Engineering confirmed that yes, winter season is from December to the end of March. First Selectman George Temple states that's fair, and we should have a lot of work being done in the summer.

10. **Report of First Selectman**

Eversource is going to be doing testing, kind of an audit, inspection of lines etc., at nights via a car with yellow flashers driving around from 8/2 to 8/5. So do not be alarmed if you see a vehicle driving slowly those times with yellow flashers.

Oxfords Fireworks will be Friday August 27th at Oxford High School, First Selectman George Temple stated. He met with the superintendent, everyone is on board, there will be food trucks, possibly a petting zoo. The Hurricanes may do a show, and a multi-sport pep rally is in the works. Quaker Farms will be selling fried dough. Everyone is entitled to be there. More town wide events are in the planning.

Also, reminder, Covid has not disappeared yet, it is encouraged that anyone get the vaccine whom hasn't already done so.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Sidewalk Project

Helen Leung, Grant Writer, explained, this is **Phase 1** of the Oxford main street project, which will be a sidewalk from the preserve to Dutton Road. Potentially to be completed in 5-6 weeks. This is part of a larger project stated First Selectman George Temple. Helen Leung confirms, yes, it is. **Phase 2** will be from Dutton Road to Quarry Walk, **Phase 3** Quarry Walk to Seymour, then **Phase 4** across the street to the Bridal Trail in Southbury. First Selectman George Temple inquired about across the street, besides trees being cleared. Helen Leung replied the company they are using just removed diseased and invasive species of trees. The company awarded the contract, Grasso are only building the beginning part of the nature preserve. Opening up the front only, going from the street to the beginning part of the trail on the inside, and then the sidewalk to Dutton Road. The contract with Grasso is for \$342,760.00 The Grant is for \$398,200.00 so there will be over \$50,000 left over. They did apply for another grant but were denied because the funding for that grant had been cut for more than 50%. One of the other reasons they weren't awarded the Grant was due to the Grant funded for this Phase 1 project were not yet done, so once that is finished, they will re-apply. Selectman Arnold Jensen asked if this project includes lighting, Helen Leung replied yes, lights and benches. Things may be in the works for either bricks or placards for the benches down the road. Right now, the goal is to get the project completed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. This was seconded by Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

21 JUL 28 PM 3:03
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Margaret A. West
TOWN CLERK

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks

Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks
Clerk, Board of Selectman

Board of Selectman Regular Meeting – July 21, 2021