

# Minutes

## Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 7:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting/Hangout Meets/In Person

The Town of Oxford Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:32 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. 7/21/21 Regular Meeting**

##### **MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to table approving the 7/21/21 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 ayes. Motion carries.

##### **DISCUSSION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen stated at the Regular Meeting on 7/21/21, he made a motion to include four volunteers for Motion Number 3, Firefighter Tax abatement Policy Change Request, and he would like to be sure it is captured in the minutes. Former minutes need to be amended. Clerk, Shannon-lee Scott Hicks agreed to make adjustments.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Tax Refunds**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$6,531.79 as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 8/11/21 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 ayes. Motion carries.

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

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following funding requests for the Oxford Middle School as presented and recommended by the Oxford School Building Committee in their letter dated 7/12/21:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Staff Furnishing Request | Not to exceed \$8,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|

Funds will be taken from the approved building project which is currently under budget. This was seconded by Heather Haney. 3 Nays. Motion does Not carry.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Oxford Middle School Building Committee Chairman Bob Slie explained this money would be for filing cabinets, files especially for Special Ed and special files. First Selectman George Temple stated the main issue is if we should be bonding this. It seems to be more of an expense that could be taken out of the Board of Education budget instead of a capital expense. First Selectman Temple asked if there is a reason why the committee didn't feel that way. Mr. Slie said the committee felt it should have been included with other ancillary items that were approved and included in the original project. First Selectman Temple asked why should they have. Mr. Slie explained while some people think smaller items shouldn't be included under FF&E, but you outfit the school the way you outfit it, and it is a piece of furniture and relatively large. Mr. Slie stated that normally it would have been included in the original project and then it would have gone through. Selectman Arnold Jensen asked why it wasn't included in the FF&E.

Mr. Slie replied that it was overlooked. Selectman Jensen stated he doesn't think this should be bonded and feels they are expense items. Selectman Heather Haney agreed for this particular item. First Selectman Temple stated we are not going to approve this one.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following funding requests for the Oxford Middle School as presented and recommended by the Oxford School Building Committee in their letter dated 7/12/21:

2. Musical Instruments	Not to exceed \$16,500.00
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Funds will be taken from the approved building project which is currently under budget. This was seconded by Heather Haney. 2 Ayes 1 Nay. A. Jensen. Motion carries.

**Discussion:**

First Selectman George Temple inquired what inventory is being stored there now. Chairman Bob Slie responded he had checked into it, there were some things, not just from the middle school, but from the entire district, from years ago; some were old, obsolete or broken that probably should have been discarded. It was gone through, and nothing there was usable, and not similar to what they had ordered, just old stuff. Selectman Arnold Jensen stated that his understanding is this a new music teacher, and that he teaches a different curriculum from the old music teacher and is requesting these instruments. So being a curriculum change, which the Board of Education is free to change as often as they would like, but then they need to fund it, it shouldn't be bonded. Selectman Heather Haney agreed. First Selectman Temple stated he kind of agreed yet disagreed. He feels it is very important for the education system to be able to use these instruments, and you don't want to lose a teacher due to lack of equipment needed. First Selectman Temple stated he certainly respects both of the other selectmen's positions, but if this isn't done now the kids may lose out on valuable education in the area of music. Selectman Haney agreed that the instruments are needed but asked why couldn't this expense come out of the Board of Education budget. First selectman Temple explained that this may be low on their priority with there already being some big-ticket items coming out of the budget. If this is not bonded and done now it won't be done at all. Mr. Slie explained that this is the example of when a teacher was not present when the decisions were being put into the plans, due to the former teacher leaving abruptly. And if they had been there, the items would have been added in, and more than likely been in the original plan from the start, and purchased without any issue.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Heather Haney moved to approve the following funding requests for the Oxford Middle School as presented and recommended by the Oxford School Building Committee in their letter dated 7/12/21:

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3. Facilities Equipment | Not to exceed \$42,000.00 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|

Funds will be taken from the approved building project which is currently under budget. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Chairman Bob Slie explained this is a similar situation of a new maintenance person, who had put together requests. First Selectman George Temple asked what the \$42,000 would include. Mr. Slie responded that this includes tractor, snowblowers, backpack blower to aid with snow removal and things not done through the contract. First Selectman Temple inquired if this equipment is for use for all of the schools. Mr. Slie said that they will be used for the whole complex. First Selectman Temple stated he thinks that this equipment is needed and supports this. Selectman Arnold Jensen also supports it.

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to approve the following funding requests for the Oxford Middle School as presented and recommended by the Oxford School Building Committee in their letter dated 7/12/21:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 4. Storage Addition for<br>Athletic Equipment | Estimated total cost of \$120,000.00 |
|---|--------------------------------------|

Funds will be taken from the approved building project which is currently under budget. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Chairman Bob Slie explained that this is basically for storage area located off the gym. In the end, the storage for the gym was inefficient for gym equipment and materials. Mr. Slie stated he personally went up there to make sure that none of the equipment was unnecessary or old equipment, and checked the quality of it. He stated that they really need the space there to maintain the equipment. We are not implying to put a shed in the back of the school. We built a very nice school, and it doesn't make sense to just throw a building out there that is hard to access and not in the proximity of the gym, that seems to be inappropriate. First Selectman George Temple said he agrees with this one hundred percent. This building would be part of the main building, designed by the original architect, so it will conform with the looks of the original building. It's just something that was simply overlooked when planning it, and agreed that the storage is needed. First

Selectman Temple also pointed out that we are \$3 million dollars under budget on this project. He then inquired to the status of the awnings. Mr. Slie responded that they are working on it now, and in the process of putting them up now. First Selectman Temple stated that he thinks they are doing a great job and Mr. Slie is doing a great job heading the committee, and he really did a great job looking after the towns interests as far as the costs are concerned. The storage space was just underestimated, and he is for this one hundred percent. Selectman Heather Haney and Selectman Arnold Jensen also agreed, it is actually a change to the structure to the building so it absolutely needs to be bonded.

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

**DISCUSSION:**

Scott Connuck, from East Point Energy, for the Oxford Energy Center, introduced himself. His company is developing a grid scale battery storage project on North Larkey Road, near the airport and the Eversource utility substation. This was presented in front of Planning & Zoning Commission but the project itself is in the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council. However, prior to them going before the Siting Council, Mr. Connuck wanted to bring this to the Oxford Board of Selectmen and potentially get endorsement for the project. Eventually they would also like to have a discussion about a modification to the tax schedule. Mr. Connuck explained essentially the project connects to Eversource and helps them manage electricity on the grid. The facility could store electricity during the night, when electricity is generally cheaper, and save it for a more valuable time like a hot afternoon in the summer. What the project looks like is similar to electrical infrastructure seen at a utility substation. It consists of metal, that look like shipping containers, that house the batteries, with wires, which run to the substation for Eversource to connect to them. The batteries offer several services to the grid. As mentioned, it will save electricity for better time usage, but it will also help reduce brownouts and blackouts, deal with frequency and current issues and make sure it's working as it is supposed to. It does not generate anything, it just borrows, stores and puts back at a better time. The space being used will be less than an acre in size. First Selectman George Temple asked if the batteries were DC. Mr. Connuck explained they were and there is an inverter to AC and back. First Selectman Temple inquired what the cells are made of. Mr. Connuck replied they are lithium-ion batteries. First Selectman Temple stated the reason he mentioned this is that if we are going to support this, we would want to get a demolition bond in case we get left with this battery storage facility. First Selectman Temple then asked who would reflate this. Mr. Connuck replied PURA and DEEP, but the regulatory agency is PURA. First Selectman Temple asked what was their inquiry about the taxes. Mr. Connuck explained there are many up-front taxes which would be detrimental to what they are trying to do so he wanted to ask about deferring some of it until later in the year. First Selectman Temple asked how much a project like this cost. Mr. Connuck said probably in the area of ten million dollars in capital equipment. Selectman Heather Haney asked if there is any risk of fire or

explosions. Mr. Connuck explained there are many different state and federal standards. The risks are very low and the batteries themselves are kept in metal containers each equipped with non-toxic fire suppression systems which are spaced out. If there is an issue with one container, it will not spread to others. Also, as a rule they provide firefighter guidance as well with these projects. First Selectman Temple inquired how many of these stations have been built. Mr. Connuck replied that the company is new, founded in 2018. One station has been built, and two will be under construction next year. The founders of the company worked in wind and solar prior to 2018 and built over a billion and a half of wind and solar projects. First Selectman Temple said he would like to take a look at one of these in action, and inquired as to how many are in Connecticut. Mr. Connuck said he doesn't know if there are any currently built in Connecticut, these projects really only started making economic sense in the past 4 or 5 years. Currently not many are built, but that will be different in the next few years. First Selectman Temple reiterated he would like to see one or two of these in action before making a decision. Mr. Connuck said there is one in New York City. Selectman Arnold Jensen asked the life expectancy of these facilities. Mr. Connuck said the answer is two parts: one, the life of the batteries is 8 – 12 years. Two, the life of the project is much longer, generally 30 or 40 years. He went on to explain that when one battery degrades below 80%, they are removed, recycled, and then new ones are put in. First Selectman Temple pointed out that on a 23-acre lot they are just using one acre. Mr. Connuck explained that there are a lot of wetlands on the property, so they are not able to use all of the property. They were contemplating a second project operating at a different voltage, but that's more conceptual at this point. Selectman Arnold Jensen asked who would be paying for this. Mr. Connuck replied that they are a privately owned company, so they will be paying for it. He stated that there is a market place for electricity in New England and they hope to be compensated by that. Also, the State of Connecticut has output goals for energy storage for 2030, so it is possible there will be some sort of incentive down the road; all the details haven't been worked out yet. Selectman Haney then asked in the event of a blackout what is the range. Mr. Connuck responded that it is about a two-hour duration battery, so upwards of two hours unless operating at a low capacity. First Selectman Temple inquired how often would they expect to be using electricity out of this. Mr. Connuck replied it would depend on the use cases, but it could easily be done once a day, every day, for a year or 150 to 200 times, depending how it is used. First Selectmen Temple reiterated that before they even talk about taxes, he wants to see a couple of these in operation and look into the concept a little bit more. He would definitely want a demolition bond, and he would like to look at the property. He then asked Mr. Connuck to please follow up and let them know the locations of the active stations. First Selectmen Temple commented that it is an interesting concept, sounds like the state wants to do it, but that he would like Mr. Connuck to follow up on his request and give the town an opportunity to get to know the business a little better. Mr. Connuck was instructed to send an email and follow up with Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa.

***No Action at This Time***

**4. Tarby Lane Improvements C.G.S. 8-24 Referral Request**

**DISCUSSION:**

Emily Jones, with Civil 1, on the behalf of Clay Lacy Aviation stated that back in March they tried to get a similar approval for the southern end of Tarby Lane where it meets the Airport Access Road. At that point in time that was Phase 1. Phase 2 would have been the larger improvement for the corner of Christian Street and Julian Drive. This time Civil 1 is seeking to provide improvements to the termination end of Tarby Lane to access Site B where there is a large hangar and office building. This will replace the existing T-Hangars and apron. The pavement at the end of the road is in disrepair and the grading is not consistent with proposed grades. There is no proper turnaround at the end. So, they are proposing improvements for the last 115 feet of Tarby Lane and to create a proper turnaround with re-grading and resurfacing. They would include additional curbing and propose to add formal storm drainage in that portion of the road which they would connect to the storm drainage down on Christian Street. A proposed driveway is also in the plans that will provide relocated access to an existing parking area, driveway permits will be applied for. They are currently acquiring the necessary permits. First Selectman George Temple stated that he would definitely like them to speak with the town engineer to make sure all is done properly. He then asked who would be paying for all of this. Ms. Jones explained that Clay Lacy would be paying for all of this. First Selectman Temple said he would like to sit in on all of the discussions regarding this project. He feels this is a positive endeavor and wants to support it, as long as it is in line with the town engineering. First Selectman Temple said he would like Ms. Jones to present this to Town Engineer Bryan Nesteriak as soon as possible. First Selectman Temple stated he thinks it looks good but he just wants to make sure it is done correctly.

**5. Award Dutton Road Bridge Project Bid, Approve Contract and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to award the Replacement of Bridge No. 04913 Dutton Road Over Little River bid to Guerrera Construction Company of Oxford, in an amount of \$1,761,839.00, and to approve the contract, as presented and reviewed by Town Counsel, and authorize the First Selectman to sign said contract. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Helen Leung, Grant Writer Coordinator, stated that this is mandated by the State of Connecticut and is overseen by the CT DOT as well as their consultants CJM. The state funds the project are 80%, which includes the soft and hard costs. CJMs consultant fee is included in the fee. The DOT end is 80% on their end, and 20% on our end. This is

mandated; it's not our choice. First Selectman George Temple asked how much this would cost the town. Ms. Leung replied our cost would be \$48,000.00 for now which is just for their consultant portion. First Selectman Temple asked Finance Director Jim Hliva if there were any issues with this. Mr. Hliva stated there were none. By the time all is done it is going to cost the town about \$500,000.00 in total. Some is set aside but most construction will not start until the next budget year. First Selectman Temple stated that everything Guerrero does is top notch and we have to do what we have to do. Ms. Leung added that Guerrero was the lowest bidder.

**6. Oxford Ambulance Association Tax Abatement Policy Change Request**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the change to the Oxford Ambulance Association's Tax Abatement Policy amounts to the following:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Tax Abatement</u>
1	\$1000
2 – 4	\$1500
5 or more	\$2000

as in accordance with Connecticut General Statute §12-81w and as presented and requested by the Oxford Ambulance Director. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Madelene Taggart, Director of Oxford Ambulance Association, stated that it was very difficult to meet the criteria. Over the last 20 years, it was dwindling as to how many made the abatement because they didn't have many town residents. She explained that with these new criteria they hope to attract new members. First Selectman George Temple pointed out that if someone doesn't have property, they aren't going to get paid. The Ambulance Association will get the same treatment as the Fire Department. If legislature allows to us give more, we will.



**7. Award HVAC Bid, Approve Contract and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to award the Town HVAC bid to B.P. Heating & Cooling, LLC of Oxford, for a total amount of \$23,100.00, and to approve the Commercial Maintenance Agreement and authorize the First Selectman to sign. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

First Selectman George Temple stated that the HVAC system is out of date and we need someone to maintain it. Finance Director Jim Hliva explained that B.P. Heating, Brian Passerini, has been doing it for the last 8 years. We put it out to bid again this year, and he held his price firm and was the low bid. Selectman Heather Haney said she has known Brian for a long time and he does an outstanding job.

**8. Funding for Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary Trails – Discussion with Possible Action**

**DISCUSSION:**

Joe Lanier, accompanied by several students as well, stated that this year the Board of Finance removed all of their funding without any explanation as to why. They have received funding since 2010. Every year they have asked for an increase in funds but never received an increase. Mr. Lanier has been able to bring in \$265,00.00 through his own efforts. He has been able to support the trails by working with the former grant writer. Mr. Lanier pointed to the Youth Conservation Corp members in the audience and explained that they have put in over 15,000 hours since the high school was built. He explained they built an asset for the town, and this past year they had tons of users to this property. The reason they are at this meeting tonight is because they want an explanation as to why they lost all of their funding. Mr. Lanier explained he had calculated the cost per resident with the amount of funding they were asking; they would be asking for \$0.94 per resident. So, clearly money doesn't seem to be the reason. First Selectman George Temple asked how many hours of work are required prior to a Corp member being hired. Mr. Lanier stated that all kids put in 50 volunteer hours before they are hired. First Selectman Temple said it is positive having all the kids out there working on these trails. His only concern is with the biking and hiking being on the same trails and feels that there should be some split up of timing on the trails for the safety of everyone. Mr. Lanier expressed more concern for dogs being walked off leash, despite having a leash law that is not being enforced. First Selectman Temple stated that it is time to sit down and go over all the things that can potentially come up and find solutions. He added we will do what we have to do and stated he is all for this cause. He would like to sit down and have a talk about building a trail that is usable and safe. Mr. Lanier responded that he appreciates the support. Selectman Heather Haney commented on the students and how they have beautified Oxford, making the trails beautiful for everyone to enjoy. They

worked incredibly hard. She expressed how grateful the Board of Selectmen are for them and their work and thanked them. First Selectman Temple asked the amount requested in the budget. Mr. Lanier stated they requested \$20,000.00. They used to get \$12,000.00 a year, but now they need another adult on the trail. Parks & Recreation Director Kyra Nesteriak explained that trail maintenance costs are also a consideration. Selectman Arnold Jensen pointed out that the \$12,000.00 given every year, for the past 10 years, they are now looking at almost doubling that amount. Mr. Lanier pointed out that this is due to the increased mileage of the trail system. It originally was only 3 miles of trails, now they have 14 miles of trails.

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to restore funding of \$20,000.00 to Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary Trails, which will include trail maintenance and materials. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**9. Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary Trail Maintenance Responsibility – Discussion with Possible Action**

**MOTION:**

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

**10. Hire Youth Conservation Corp**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Elena Ruthman and Ryan Durkin to the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency Youth Conservation Corp as presented and recommended by the OCCIWA in their letter dated 7/27/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

First Selectman George Temple welcomed the new hires, Ryan Durkin was present.

**11. Trinity Solar/Colin Nash Peddler's Permit**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Peddler's Permit for Trinity Solar/Colin Nash 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.

**DISCUSSION:**

Colin Nash commented he will not be in Oxford every day. First Selectman George Temple said that with Covid going on this may be a challenge. Mr. Nash replied that he has been doing this in Milford and Shelton for a month and it has been going well, some people just speak through windows. First Selectman Temple asked how he was doing in those towns. Mr. Nash responded it is an exciting challenge. He has helped his parents and several others. The Selectman wished him luck.

**12. Lots 3 and 4 Hidden Valley Estates Land Conveyance – Approve Transfer of Property**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to *table* this matter. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**13. Hire Part-Time Library Page**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Alexandria Magera as a Part-Time Library Page at a pay rate of \$13.00 per hour and a start date of August 19, 2021; as presented and recommended by the Director of Municipal Library/Media Operations. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Robbie Costigan, Director of Municipal Library/Media Operations, stated that she currently has three Pages whom are all college students. All three are going back to school so there will only one available on Saturdays. She needs a Page to shelf books as needed. Ms. Magera has worked with Parks and Recreation and she is a good worker.

**14. Community Support Committee Application for Oxford Grange's Operation Steps & Spruce – Approve**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support Committee's Application for the Oxford Grange's Operation Steps & Spruce, in the amount of \$2,726.20, for the repair of the front stairs to ensure a safe entrance and the removal of the spruce tree which is in danger of falling; as approved by the Community Support Committee at their meeting held on 8/9/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Nays. Motion does not carry.

**DISCUSSION:**

First Selectman George Temple stated that he cannot support this. It is a private matter, and the committee has their own money available to use for this matter. It is a private operation. Selectman Heather Haney stated she is sorry to say, despite good memories had there, she agreed with the First Selectmen.

**15. Assistant Senior Director/Secretary Revised Job Description and Wage Scale**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the revised job description for the Assistant Senior Director/Secretary (Attachment A), as presented and as approved by the United Public Service Employees Union. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**MOTION**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following wage scale for the Assistant Senior Director/Secretary at 40 hours per week as presented and as approved by the United Public Service Employees Union:

Step 3 \$30.11 per hour  
Step 2 \$28.23 per hour  
Step 1 \$26.45 per hour

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to add to the motion that this position will not receive a General Wage Increase, as determined through union contract negotiations for the fiscal year 2021-2022. This was seconded by First Selectmen George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Selectman Heather Haney asked if there will be no wage increase for the first year. Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa confirmed there will be no increase until the second year. Selectman Haney asked what would the second-year wage increase be. Mrs. Rosa replied whatever is approved in the contract after negotiations. Finance Director Jim Hliva added that no new successor contract has been approved as of yet.

**6. Employee Wage Increases**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve a wage increase for Custodian Tyler Hicks from \$19.57 per hour to \$24.57 per hour as presented and recommended by the Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman in her letter dated 8/5/21. This was seconded by Selectmen Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

First Selectman George Temple commented that what Mr. Hicks does is reducing the necessity of having a janitorial service at the Police Department and Public Works. Finance Director Jim Hliva stated that he has been discussing this with the Mrs. Rosa and feels that this raise is in line with the starting pay for a bottom step for a Board of Education custodian. Mr. Hicks has been with the town for several years and also does facilities maintenance. Selectman Heather Haney stated that she agrees that Tyler does an amazing job. Selectman Arnold Jensen agreed it is deserved. Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa added that Mr. Hicks plays an important role here, and if he doesn't know how to do something he figures it out and comes back with a solution. And he has saved the town money.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve a wage increase for Animal Control Officer Jason McLain from \$20.82 per hour to \$25.82 per hour as presented and recommended by the Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman in her letter dated 8/5/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney.

**DISCUSSION:**

First Selectman George Temple commented that Mr. McLain does an amazing job. He is on call every weekend and he does it cheerfully. People in town really like him, and in this town, there are a lot of dog lovers. Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa pointed out that Animal Control Officers in surrounding towns make more an hour.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve a wage increase for Finance Clerk Scott Flaherty from \$18.73 per hour to \$20.68 per hour as presented and recommended by the Finance Director in his letter dated 8/2/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Finance Director Jim Hliva stated that was in the budget. It was in for \$22.00 an hour but Mr. Flaherty has gone through two major functions of the job; accounts payable and payroll. Mr. Hliva recommends that he be brought up from probationary pay, which is \$18.73, to \$20.68 as he is now doing accounts payable. Once Scott starts doing the payroll, he will be recommending that he be brought up to \$22.97 an hour. First Selectman George Temple stated that Mr. Hliva can do that automatically when it comes to that time. Mr. Hliva stated that Mr. Flaherty is doing excellent. If he completes his daily tasks early or has a free moment, he always finds other work to.

**17. FY 2020 – 2021 Transfer Request**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the FY 2020 – 2021 transfer requests (Attachment B) as presented by the Finance Director in his letter dated August 13, 2021. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Finance Director Jim Hliva stated that this is all the year-end transfers. With these transfers approved, the books can then be closed out for the year. There will be still \$6,700.00 in the contingency account.

**18. Report of First Selectman**

- 1) Wednesday, August 25, 2021 Town Hall will be closed for the afternoon from 1pm-5pm for a party down at Jackson Cove honoring those employees who retired during the pandemic and were unable to have a proper send-off.
- 2) August 27, 2021 Fireworks at the high school!! This event will begin at 5pm. Bobby Wheeler will be playing. The Hurricanes will be performing. There will be a Pep Rally for the kids, food trucks. There may also be booths for the Democratic and Republican candidates if anyone wants to meet them.
- 3) In regards to mask wearing, at this point there will be no change to the current policy we have in town.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 PM. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

21 AUG 26 PM 4:18  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks  
TOWN CLERK

Respectfully Submitted,

*Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks*

Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks  
Clerk, Board of Selectman