

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 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 7:30 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Absent: None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 12/14/21 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 12/14/21 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. 1/5/22 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 1/5/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Economic Development Commission Appointments

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint Scott Halstead to the Economic Development Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/26. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Scott Halstead stated he enjoyed spending time on the Commission and looks forward to continuing to do so.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to re-appoint Daniel Wall to the Economic Development Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/25. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. 2 Ayes, 1 Abstention (D. McKane). Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple commented that Daniel Wall has much interest in the town and that he supports this decision. Selectman Arnold Jensen agreed.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to appoint Susan Kovacs to the Economic Development Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/26. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple stated Sue Kovacs will be an asset.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to re-appoint Victor Tomporowski to the Economic Development Commission as an Alternate with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/22. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple commented that Victor Tomporowski does a great job and is dedicated to Oxford; he supports this appointment.

2. Oxford Center Volunteer Fire Company 2022 Fire Police Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint John Deer as Oxford Center Volunteer Fire Company 2022 Fire Police as presented and recommended in their letter dated 1/3/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple stated that John Deer is a good guy, does a great job and is a very important part of our first response team.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$4,079.56, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 1/18/22 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion was had that everyone had a chance to review this.

2. Water Pollution Control Authority Emergency Funding Request – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve an emergency funding, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 to be taken from the General Fund Balance, for the emergency repair of the 10-inch force main on Towner Lane; as presented and recommended by the Water Pollution Control Authority in their letter dated 1/7/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion was had that this motion is in reference to a leak in the pipeline caused from corrosion that was not discovered when a review of the pipeline was done back in 2015. It is something that must be done and may need to be done again in the future, which is being examined and looked into. For now, the primary focus is to get this fixed; it needs to be done.

3. Agreement Between Guerrera Construction and Town of Oxford for Removal of Structures and Land Grading at Oxford Centralized School Located on Route 67 – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to table the matter of approving the Agreement Between Guerrera Construction and the Town of Oxford for the removal of structures and to level and grade land to store the crushed stone and other surplus materials at the Oxford Centralized School located on Route 67; all as described in their Agreement. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion was had to wait on this matter to see if this is indeed something that the town is interested in going forward with. All agreed.

4. Moose Hill Estates Dissolution of Subdivision and Bond Release – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Planning & Zoning Commission's Dissolution of Moose Hill Estates Subdivision and to approve the Performance and Soil & Erosion Bond release, in the amount of \$572,000.00; all as presented by the Planning & Zoning Commission in their letter dated 1/12/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion was had that this is a very old subdivision and should be dissolved as no work ever started on it. The town is protected on this matter.

5. Sullivan & Son Carpet, Inc. Proposal – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve Sullivan & Son Carpet, Inc. Proposal, in an amount not to exceed \$83,019.27, for the installation of carpet at the Oxford Town Hall and to authorize the First Selectman to sign said Proposal. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Kristyn Rosa stated that she and Finance Director Jim Hliva met with Sullivan & Sons to pick out the carpeting. They chose a medium quality carpet tiles which can easily be replaced as needed. Just a color is left to decide. Selectman Arnold Jensen inquired about the bids. Jim Hliva responded that they had put the RFP out twice. Between the two RFP's received five different bids ranging from Sullivan & Sons bid price up to \$274,000. He also added that the quality of the

carpet is the same as ones being used in Dicks Sporting goods, Kohls and Talbots; it is commercial quality.

6. Oxford Energy Center Endorsement – Discussion

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to table the matter of the Oxford Energy Center Endorsement at this time. This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion as to many unanswered questions involving this matter and several concerns. It was suggested to visit one of the active sights before any decisions are made.

7. FY 2021 – 2022 Transfer Requests

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following FY 2021 – 2022 transfer requests as presented by the Finance Director in his letter dated 1/18/22:

TO: Attorney	5535-672-207	Tax Appeal	\$20,110.55
FROM: Finance	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$20,110.55
TO: Dog Warden	5285-513-63	Asst Dog Warden	\$3,000.00
FROM: Finance	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$3,000.00
TO: Ambulance	5210-570-107	Bundled Billing	\$17,000.00
FROM: Finance	5320-560-5320	Contingency	\$17,000.00

This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION:

Jim Hliva, Finance Director, reviewed the items above.

8. Report of First Selectman

- Many thanks to the Firemen and the Administrative Assistant for the great job distributing the Covid-19 test kits very efficiently. Apologies for any difficulties had opening the little vials inside, they were quite tricky!
- There are more and more cases seeming to be popping up in regards to Covid-19. A meeting with Dr. Browne to see how we are doing and where we stand is in the works.

- The Police Forum will be next Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 6pm in-person and on zoom. First Selectman Temple requested that complaints should be brought forth privately, not in the forum.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Jack Kiley, 88 Bee Mountain Road, Board of Finance Chairman, pointed out that on the town's website there are boards and commissions that have fulfilled their duties and are no longer meeting or necessary. Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Kristyn Rosa responded that they are aware of that and this is being addressed; anything requiring Board of Selectman action will be taken care of at their next meeting.

Mr. Kiley also noted that anyone who does work in the Town of Oxford and gets paid in materials, these materials need to be monetized. One cannot just barter materials; a monetary amount must be applied to the materials and the town is responsible for reporting this. Things like top soil, stone etc. that can be done by truck loads, for example.

Mr. Kiley suggested that the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance sit down and come up with a Capital Budget Plan that could be adhered to and one that the town can afford. There are many buildings in need of maintenance and there are many projects that need to get done. First Selectman George Temple agreed that there are a lot of projects and concluded that they will be discussed.

Trish Babina, 27 Wedge Hill Road, stated she was here to introduce their group. They are the group that had arranged a meeting at St. Thomas Church a little while back in regards to the spending of the Covid-19 relief money. At that time, they were just a growing group. Now they are a bit more evolved and are to be known as "All in For Oxford". They are basically just trying to further the effort of keeping the citizens informed and connected with each other and to make sure that there is decision making and discussion for the common good of Oxford. First Selectman George Temple stated that he appreciated what they are doing and is going to duplicate the same effort, and that they have the Boards attention.

Peter Zbras, 26 Autumn Ridge Road, Planning & Zoning Commission Member, stated that the Oxford Energy Center company had come in front of the Planning & Zoning about two to three years back. The commission has a bunch of literature if the Board of Selectmen are interested. First Selectman George Temple explained that the company wants the Board of Selectmen's blessing to go ahead, which they are not prepared to do at this time. He reiterated that the Board wants to see this in person before making any decisions. First Selectman Temple went on to say that someone from Planning & Zoning should be there as well. Selectman David McKane asked if the Board of Selectmen and Planning & Zoning turn them down, could the Siting Council override those decisions. First selectman George Temple responded yes, they can but if the town says no, the Siting Counsel will take that decision into consideration. If the Siting Council had an affirmative voice from the Board of Selectmen, that would be one thing. But in fairness, the concept of this project is not very clear and it needs to be investigated more.

Mr. Zbras also stated his concern for the safety of traffic on Route 67 at the corner of Great Hill Road. Tucks, dump trucks, etc. are parking on the side of the Route 67 in front of the plaza. So, when someone is turning right off of Great Hill Road onto Route 67, and a truck is parked in front of the plaza, you cannot see any oncoming traffic until it's too late. This is happening in several other areas as well, and it is also ruining the landscape. First Selectman George Temple told Mr. Zbras to remind him about this later and they will speak with the officers.

Steve Brown, 8 Bonnie Lane, stated that he rises in favor of the mid-grade carpet and the proposal that was passed tonight. It is long overdue and despite how some are not fond of the stench of new carpet, they do not know of the aromas that loft through the halls on a regular day.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks
Clerk, Board of Selectman

22 JAN 26 AM 11:37
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks
TOWN CLERK