



TOWN OF OXFORD

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

First Selectman George Temple
Selectman Arnold Jensen
Selectman David McKane

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2022

5:00 P.M.

First Selectman opened the meeting at 5:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Acceptance of Minutes

1. 1/19/22 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 1/19/22 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. Motion carries. All 3 Ayes

2. 1/26/22 Special Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 1/26/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. Motion carries. All 3 Ayes.

Appointments

1. Elderly Commission Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Lyndon J. Mayers to the Elderly Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/24. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane.

Discussion: Mr. Mayers attended the meeting and explained he has been a resident of Oxford since 1985. He explained that he had recently lost his wife, and they were frequent visitors of the Senior Center. There are currently no males on the commission and he is interested in getting involved and would be a good fit for the commission. He is ready to do what he can to help the seniors. First Selectman George Temple asked if there was an opening available on the Commission. It could not be determined at that moment, so he suggests that the motion be tabled upon further research.

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to table the motion to appoint Lyndon J. Mayers to the Elderly Commission. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane.

Assistant Kristyn Rosa was able to determine there was a seat available on the Elderly commission for Mr. Mayer.

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove the motion from the table and appoint Lyndon J. Mayers to the Elderly Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/24. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. Motion carries. All 3 Ayes.

2. Board of Ethics Appointments

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Dennis Phillips to the Board of Ethics with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/25. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. Motion carries. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated that this appointment was recommended by Mr. Vernooy, whom we have a tremendous amount of respect for, so we take his recommendation.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Maria Osterholm to the Board of Ethics with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/24. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. Motion carries. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple stated that again Mr. Vernooy recommended this appointment, Mr. Vernooy stated that Maria had been a town resident for 18 years. She serves on the Oxford Land Trust and works very hard. First, Selectman Temple stated that he does not know her, but he trusts Mr. Vernooy's recommendation. Selectman McKane said that he does know her and also supports this recommendation.

New Business

1. Rockhouse Adaptive Trail Network's Archeological and Reconnaissance Survey Funding Request for Phase 1A Assessment – Approve Funding

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the funding request, in an amount not to exceed \$3,250.00 to be taken from Finance Contingency, for a professional archaeological assessment and reconnaissance survey to be completed as required by the State Historic Preservation Office for Phase 1A of the Rockhouse Adaptive Trail Network Grant; all as presented and recommended by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 1/25/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion:

Helen Leung, Grant writer, stated that this is a grant she submitted to DEEP Open Space and Water Shed Acquisition program in November. They have not decided yet, but they will stop if we do not do this survey. Selectman Jensen asked about how much money was applied for through the grant. Helen explained that the whole project is \$145,500.00. The grant will pay 80%, and the town match is \$29,100.00. Any money we spend on this will be applied to the match. First, Selectman Temple wanted to confirm

that this is only to determine if there are Indian artifacts in the way of the paths. Ms. Leung confirmed yes and stated that if they find artifacts, they will alter the path to avoid these areas. This is the same firm that did the archaeological study for the high school, and they are very familiar with the property. First Selectman Temple explained we have to follow the rules and if the grant is requesting this, we need to comply.

2. Oxford Main Street Project Phase 2 Funding Request – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve funding in the amount of \$93,000.00, to be taken from the general fund, for Oxford Main Street Project's Phase 2 for a sidewalk from Dutton Road to Quarry Walk, as part of the State of Connecticut's Shovel Ready projects, and to be distributed as follows:

Land survey with aerial photogrammetric contours: \$18,000.00

Preliminary design to determine layout/initial issues: \$25,000.00

DOT/COG comments and revisions: \$10,000.00

Finalize design/bid documents, specifications: \$20,000.00

Structural Engineer for bridge abutments: \$20,000.00

This was seconded by Selectman McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries

Discussion: Jeff Luff, Economic Development Coordinator, stated that this money has to be allocated to take care of the soft cost to be shovel ready for this project, which is a State requirement when applying for a grant. Selectman Jensen asked who determined the costs estimates. Mr. Luff responded that the cost estimates came from Our Town Engineer, Bryan Nesteriak, and stated that each would have to go out to bid.

3. Electrical Permit Refund Request - Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Jensen moved to approve a refund, in the amount of \$476.00, for the Electrical Permit E-21-382 for 26 Oakwood Drive as the installation was canceled. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

4. Street Name Changes – Discussion with Possible Action

First Selectman Temple explained that when Silano Drive was constructed, the builder did not correctly plan the numbering of the property addresses. We have 2A, 2B, also 5, and 5-1. This is not the way the street should have been planned. Therefore, we need to correct this because it is causing problems. However, it will involve the entire road and will inconvenience the residents, but it fixes the problem once and for all. First, Selectman Temple stated that this information would be communicated to the residents even if he had to go door to door to explain the problem. While we are correcting the problem with the numbering, I would also like to change the street's name in honor of Chelsea Wheeler, who lived on this street. She had a rare disease, a very courageous little girl. She was an inspiration and made an impact on me. To me, it is a perfect name for the street. The builder who developed the road failed to install silt screens for the wetlands, resulting in many native trout and may or may not ever recover from that. They took shortcuts, and you do not do that. Therefore, I just wanted to start the discussion and give the heads up. I am sure we will receive some pushback, but we will communicate to the residents The final name of the street will be determined at a later date but some suggestions were Chelsea Wheeler Drive, Chelsea Wheeler Street, or Chelsea Wheeler Way.

5. Report of First Selectman:

First Selectman Temple explained that he received the memo from Penny Mudgett, Town Assessor that there will be a 4% raise in the grand list. That is a lot of money, which is good for the Town. I am very pleased with that.

First Selectman Temple stated, "It is budget season and I would like to take a close look at all the funding. In my opinion, there is a difference between being frugal and being cheap. I think we should be frugal. Cheap makes no sense. Any cuts that we make in people's budgets should be based on reality. It is up to the Board of Selectman, not the Board of Finance as to how the Town is going to go. We set the priorities and they find the money to fund it. I do not see any real big changes in the budget.

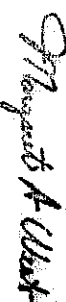
Adjournment:

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting a 4:45 PM. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,


Kristyn Rosa
Administrative Assistant

22 FEB 11 PM 3:11
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT

TOWN CLERK