

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2023
7:30 PM - Town Hall

First Selectman George R. Temple opened the meeting at 7:32 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George R. Temple, Selectman Dave McKane, Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa.

Absent: Selectman Arnold Jensen.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 6/7/23 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the 6/7/23 Regular Meeting minutes with the following amendments:

Page 6, Item #13, first motion, second to last sentence should read: All 2 Ayes (D. McKane did not vote).

Page 7, first paragraph, add to the end of the first paragraph: Selectman Dave McKane explained that if it wasn't for the Oxford Land Trust, the town would not have the Rockhouse Hill property or have the trails.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Hire Parks & Recreation Camp Counselor

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to amend the agenda to add Hire Parks & Recreation Camp Counselor as Item #10. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

2. Trinity Solar/Luis Figueroa Peddler's Permit

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to amend the agenda to add Trinity Solar/Luis Figueroa Peddler's Permit as Item #11 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #12. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. FY 2022 – 2023 Transfer Requests (Police)

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the following FY 2022 – 2023 transfer request:

TO: Police	5433-521-1000	Overtime	\$90,000.00
FROM: Finance	5530-670	Contingency	\$90,000.00

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

2. FY 2022 – 2023 Transfer Requests

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the FY 2022 – 2023 transfer requests (Attachment A) as presented by the Finance Director in his letter dated 6/20/23. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Director of Municipal Library/Media Operations Robbi Costigan explained that some of the library transfers were for part-time help. She had requested \$120,000.00 in the budget but only was approved for \$100,000.00 so she is taking money out of other line-items to cover the part-time help. Mrs. Costigan stated that she had also originally requested \$8,000.00 for telephone which includes fiber maintenance and internet access but only was approved for \$5,000.00 so she also needs to cover those costs.

3. ARPA Funding Request for Water Pollution Control Authority Update to Towner Lane Pump Station – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the ARPA funding request for the Water Pollution Control Authority, in the amount of \$500,000.00, for the upgrading of the Towner Lane Pump Station; as presented and approved by the Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee at their meeting held on 6/13/23. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Water Pollution Control Authority Maintenance Person Scott Halstead stated that this money was originally requested in the budget, but it was removed. This project is just going to go out to bid, but funding was needed prior to beginning the process. First Selectman Temple stated that the original amount requested was \$400,000.00. Mr. Halstead explained that after speaking with the Engineer and the ARPA Funding Committee it was determined to request the higher amount so they would not have to go back and request more funding. Funds that are not used will go back to the ARPA Funding Committee. First Selectman Temple explained that by approving this, the funding cannot exceed \$500,000.00. Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee Chairman Jeff Luff stated that this was a unanimous decision by the committee. Mr. Halstead asked if they can go out to bid once this is approved tonight. First Selectman Temple stated they could go out to bid.

4. ARPA Funding Request for Oxford Babe Ruth to Install Lighting at Posypanko Park –Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the ARPA funding request for Oxford Babe Ruth, in the amount of \$240,365.00, for the installation of lighting for the Posypanko Park ball field; as presented and approved by the Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee at their meeting held on 6/13/23. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: First Selectman stated that he discussed this with Babe Ruth members. This project will expand the town's ability to have more games and host tournaments. It is the hope of being able to do the same type of project for the girls' softball field at Tetlak Park. This project will still have to go through Planning & Zoning and Town Meeting. But it will ultimately be approved by the town.

5. ARPA Funding Request for Oxford Police Department for New Police Vehicles – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to *table* the ARPA funding request, in the amount of \$124,000.00, for the purchase of two new police vehicles. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

6. Hire Youth Conservation Corp Members

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to hire Sean Green, Mason Johannsen and Gillian Fernandes as Youth Conservation Corp Members with a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour and a start date of 6/21/23. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Youth Conservation Corp Director Joe Lanier introduced Mr. Green and Mr. Johannsen who were in attendance. A round of applause was given and both Selectmen congratulated the newly hired members.

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to hire MaKayla Longley, Zachary Ort, Nathan Ryzak, and Lucas Delfino as Youth Conservation Corp Members with a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour and a start date of 7/6/23. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. Motion carried.

Discussion: Youth Conservation Corp Director Joe Lanier introduced who were in attendance. A round of applause was given to the members in attendance. A round of applause was given and both Selectmen congratulated the newly hired members.

First Selectman Temple thanked all Youth Conservation Corp Members for the hours they contribute to the trails.

MOTION:

First Selectman Temple moved to take a five-minute recess. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

7. Town Hall Rear Entrance Sidewalk Replacement Project – Discuss with Possible Action

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the funding, in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00 to be taken from LoCIP, for the replacement of the rear entrance sidewalk at Town Hall and to amend the Capital Plan for this project. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Facilities Manager George Renzoni spoke with the Building Official. As the sidewalk is existing, it is not in violation of any codes. Once the sidewalk is modified it would have to be brought up to code. The plan is to make the sidewalk 6-feet wide with a 5-foot rest platform. It will have a rumble strip where it meets the parking lot and it will have a hand rail; all ADA compliant. First Selectman Temple stated that the sidewalk is not overly handicapped inducive right now so what has to be done, should be done to make it more accessible. Plus, the sidewalk is cracking and heaving and the railing is the original railing. And now we have the back doors which are handicap accessible. The building is for everyone. Selectman McKane stated that it sounds like its all or nothing and nothing is not the way to go. First Selectman Temple pointed out that people have fallen on the sidewalk so it is time to address this issue. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting.

8. Town Solar Project – Discuss with Possible Action

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to *table* this matter. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

9. Establish Rockhouse Hills Trails Advisory Board and Appoint Members

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to establish the Open Space Trails Advisory Board and approve the following Charge:

Open Space Trails Advisory Board

The Open Space Trails Advisory Board shall consist of five members. Two members from the Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency, two from the Oxford Land Trust and one from neither committee.

The Open Space Trails Advisory Board shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding time, allocation and other administrative criterion of town-owned open space properties and trails.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated this is a vague charge but it is strictly an advisory board. The Board of Selectmen will make all final decisions. The Selectmen will be seeking advice. We have had a period of time where we construct the trails at Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary and VonWettberg property and the town has been very successful with that; the Youth Conservation Corp Members have been very involved with that. There is a possibility that there is conflict with bikers and hikers. First Selectman Temple went on to say that it is town property and encourages people to utilize the trails and enjoy themselves. However, as First Selectman he is responsible for the health, safety and welfare of the town's residents; which he takes very seriously. So, if a problem or conflict does arise, he wants to be notified. It is more or less a question of usage. The town is in the process of acquiring more property and he would like to see more trails; maybe some dedicated to just hiking. Everyone has to work together towards a favorable resolution and if that is not possible then the Board of Selectmen will have to take action. The Board of Selectmen welcome the knowledge and opinions of the members who are appointed to this board. First Selectman Temple plans on going up there to just talk to people using the trails; hikers and bikers. He values their opinions as well. He wanted it to be known that he is not saying that either side is not concerned for the health, safety and welfare of the people using the trails because he knows they are. He wants to make sure that the town is also preserving what we have. He wants everyone to work together. First Selectman Temple explained that he is working out of a lack of knowledge but would like to get the knowledge, which is what this advisory board will do. He would like this board to start thinking about both sides. Selectman McKane stated that the Youth Conservation Corp does a tremendous job. He explained that he feels there can be trails designated for mountain biking and trails designated for hiking; making everyone happy.

First Selectman Temple stated that there is town property across from Quaker Farms School that is wetlands. He explained that he would like Mr. Lanier and the Youth Conservation Corp construct wooden walkways which would showcase the wetlands and inform and preserve the eco system in that area, in the state and along the east coast. This would give the smaller children a chance to walk the area and get informed, as well as older kids with an interest in science. First Selectman thanked Mr. Lanier and the Youth Conservation Corp for all their hard and dedicated work.

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to appoint the following as members to the Open Space Trails Advisory Board:

Joe Lanier, Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency Member
Brian Smith, Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency Member
Margaret Elliot, Oxford Land Trust
Wayne Johnson, Oxford Land Trust
Jim Hliva, Member At Large

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple explained that these meetings will be public meetings; everyone will have a voice not just the appointed members. He would like to get as much information and opinions as possible. He thanked the Oxford Land Trust and the Youth Conservation Corp for all the work they do.

10. Hire Parks & Recreation Camp Counselor

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to hire Erich Scalo as a Parks & Recreation Camp Counselor for Teen Travel as presented and requested by the Parks & Recreation Director in her letter dated 6/20/23. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: Parks & Recreation Director Kyra Nesteriak stated that one of the counselors notified her that they were not able to accept the position, so Teen Travel was short one counselor. Mr. Scalo worked for the department two years ago and was able to accept the position.

11. Trinity Solar/Luis Figueroa Peddler's Permit

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the Trinity Solar Peddler's Permit for Luis Figueroa 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.
- Must have an identification badge.
- No soliciting on Sunday's or Holiday's.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple pointed out the reason Sundays and holidays are prohibited is that in the past one person was peddling on the 4th of July and he stopped at a house where a party was going on. The peddler ended up joining the party eating and drinking, but no one knew who he was. When approached and asked who he was, he explained he was there to sell windows. The police were called and had to intervene so we now want to avoid such a situation.

12. Report of First Selectman

- First Selectman Temple attended both the Middle School Graduation Ceremony and the High School Graduation Ceremony; both were great. Everyone had a good time and everything went off very well. The Superintendent made a good call by not having the high school graduation during a monsoon. The next day was a perfect day with perfect weather. He pointed out that when he first got elected, these graduates were in kindergarten. Now they have graduated and he is still where he was.
- Officer Matt Cosmos and his wife Emily now have the bragging rights as the winners of the hopefully first of many Cornhole Tournaments in memory of Officer Dennis D'Archangelo. The event was a lot of fun and well attended, despite the rain! Money was raised for Officer D'Archangelo's son who will be starting college. The event was held at Jackson's Cove.
- The Juneteenth Celebration at Quarry Walk was exciting and well-attended. This was First Selectman Temple's first Juneteenth celebration and he got educated. He thanked the event organizers and Tom Haynes for hosting the event. The Waterbury Philharmonic was there and played a fantastic tribute to Billie Holiday. There was a poet and speakers, including himself and the Selectwoman of Seymour which was her birthday.
- Our new Senior Services Director Sandra Arbur starts on Monday. Sandra brings experience and enthusiasm and the First Selectman is looking forward to her connecting with the seniors and staff. Ms. Arbur currently works at Oxford Greens and runs the Ridge Club. She is well liked at Oxford Greens and she will be a great fit for the Senior Center. She is smart and has a great personality. There will be a Welcome event at the Senior Center at 11:30 AM on Monday with coffee and donuts. All are invited to come and welcome Sandra.
- Please keep in mind that the Board of Selectmen will only meet once in July and once in August. We will meet the third week of each month.
- The Quaker Farms Carnival is scheduled for Wednesday, July 19th to Saturday, July 22nd from 6 PM to 10:30 PM at the high school. Fireworks will be Wednesday and Friday, with rain dates of Thursday and Saturday. This is something we all look forward to every year.

- There will be another Cheer for Oxford event at the high school, no exact date yet. This event will be in the fall and there will also be fireworks at this event. Additionally, there

will be a Pep Rally for all sports and pony rides too. First Selectman Temple is attempting to get the Hurricane's to play.

- First Selectman Temple reminded neighboring residents of Town Hall that blasting continues at the Municipal Annex Building (Old Center School). The outbuildings have been removed and the property is being leveled. He pointed out that this is no cost to the town as the contractor is receiving all the fill. Eventually, we would like to put in a basketball court, tennis court, things of that nature.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Mr. Joe Lanier thanked the First Selectman Temple for including the Youth Conservation Corp students to participate in the Open Space Trails Advisory Board meetings regarding the trails. Mr. Lanier explained that it makes sense to have the students attend the meetings as they are the ones building the trails. First Selectman Temple encourages the kids to get involved and be heard.

Selectman McKane pointed out that the Oxford Land Trust has 4 acres adjacent to the town-owned property across from Quaker Farms School. First Selectman Temple is excited to see this property be developed as a teaching tool. Wetlands is not entirely understood by everyone; the type of soil wetlands is, what vegetation grows in wetlands, etc.

First Selectman Temple explained that the board can meet whenever they want. The meetings can be flexible but do need to be posted and filed with the Town Clerk. The public is welcome at all the meetings and the minutes of the meetings can be brief.

Laurie Johnstone of the Oxford Land Trust, stated that she would like to see things remain as they are. The trails are very therapeutic. She pointed out that the high school has a Mountain Biking Club and they are out riding the trails to help manage stress. The kids are learning to do fun and they are very careful with the hikers on the trails. First Selectman Temple stated that during a snow storm awhile back where we got 30-inches of snow, Public Works was out plowing, he was up all night with Public Works and trucks were breaking down. A resident called during this storm and asked if Public Works was going to plow the parking area at Rockhouse Hill so people could get into use the trails. The resident stated that there are many people who have snowshoes and this weather is perfect for that. So, the First Selectman called Public Works and asked them to plow the area so the snowshoers could get to the trails. First Selectman Temple explained that he encourages all types of use of the trails but, he also must keep safety as one of his major concerns.

Carl Mason of Perkins Road commented how wonderful Rockhouse Hill is. He had met Mr. Lanier out on the trails awhile back, along with some of the kids. He was totally amazed that the kids were the ones working on the trails. He met all walks of life on the trails, some nice some

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not so nice. Its open space and a beautiful place. He spends a lot of time in the woods. He is an active member of Quaker Farms Fire Department. He wanted to express his appreciation and gratitude to all involved with the trails and open space.

A member of the Youth Conservation Corp and a Mountain Biking Club Member wanted to state that the Mountain Biking Club Members are not idiots. They are conscientious of the people around them. He would like to see the trails stay for the entire community, and not just for hikers or not just for mountain bikers. Everyone can have the space together and not fight over restrictions. First Selectman Temple agreed that it needs to be a shared responsibility.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carried.

Subject to approval

Respectfully submitted by,



Kelly M. Weymer
Secretary to the First Selectman

2023 JUL -6 P 4:29
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
TOWN CLERK

Attachment A

To: Board of Finance

June 20, 2023

From: Finance Director

Re:2022-2023 Transfer requests

Item #		Department	Account Number	Account	Amount
1	TO:	library	5390-517-84	Wages Part Time	\$ 7,500.00
	FROM:	library	5390-515-80	Wages Adult Services Lib	\$ 7,500.00
	Motion				
	Seconded				
	Vote				
	Comments				
2	TO:	Library	5390-775	Telephone	\$ 1,096.82
	FROM:	Library	5390-552	Computer Software	\$ 1,096.82
	Motion				
	Seconded				
	Vote				
	Comments				
3	TO:	Library	5390-775	Telephone	\$ 1,743.30
	FROM:	Library	5390-680	Magazines	\$ 1,743.30
	Motion				
	Seconded				
	Vote				
	Comments				
4	TO:	Library	5390-775	Telephone	\$ 900.00
	FROM:	Library	5390-595	Electricity	\$ 900.00
	Motion				
	Seconded				
	Vote				
	Comments				
5	TO:	Library	5390-690	Mileage	\$ 75.00
	FROM:	Library	5390-585	Dues	\$ 75.00
	Motion				
	Seconded				
	Vote				
	Comments				

received
6/26/23

To: Board of Finance

June 20, 2023

From: Finance Director

Re:2022-2023 Transfer requests

Item #		Department	Account Number	Account		Amount
6	TO:	Library	5390-798	Waste Removal	\$	88.00
	FROM:	Library	5390-585	Dues	\$	88.00
	Motion Seconded Vote Comments					
7	TO:	Library	5390-799	Water	\$	300.00
	FROM:	Library	5390-595	Electricity	\$	300.00
	Motion Seconded Vote Comments					