

**Board of Selectmen's  
Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2015**  
**7:30 PM - Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Girl Scouts in attendance.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq., Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman David McKane, Joanne Pelton, Administrative Assistant

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**1. 3/3/15 Special Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 3/3/15 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes, 1 Abstention by David McKane (snow plowing). Motion carries.

**2. 3/4/15 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 3/4/15 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes, 1 Abstention by David McKane (snow plowing). Motion carries.

**AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

**1. Lawn Maintenance Contract – Award Bid**

**MOTION:**

David McKane moved to amend the agenda to add Lawn Maintenance Contract – Award Bid as Item #14 and move Report of First Selectman as Item #15. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**APPOINTMENTS**

None.

## AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Kathy Johnson, Dorman Road, Oxford. Kathy Johnson is pleased to see the Girl Scouts in the room and for them to see how democracy works. We lost \$1.8 million dollars that has been stolen from the town. She asked First Selectman to explain how could this happen. First Selectman George Temple will address this issue later under the Report of First Selectman.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **1. Girl Scout Day Proclamation – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

#### **MOTION:**

David McKane moved to approve the following Girl Scout Day Proclamation which marks the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States and to authorize the First Selectman to sign:

#### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, March 12, 2015, marks the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which began in 1912 when Savannah, GA native Juliette Gordon Low gathered 18 girls to provide them the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually;

**WHEREAS**, 1912 was also the year in which Girl Scouting started in the state of Connecticut;

**WHEREAS**, for more than 100 years, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence, and character who act to make the world a better place; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience helps girls discover themselves and their values, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place; and,

**WHEREAS**, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of different backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, Girl Scouts of Connecticut offers the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more than 38,000 girls in grades K-12 across the state of Connecticut; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, requires girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community, assess a need and design a solution, find the resources and support to make it happen, and complete the project;

**WHEREAS**, core programs around environmental stewardship, anti-bullying techniques, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and healthy living, help girls develop a solid foundation in leadership; and,

**WHEREAS**, today, more than 59 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae and 2.8 million girls and adult volunteers are active members;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, George R. Temple, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the First Selectman of the Town of Oxford do hereby applaud the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for more than 100 years of leadership and expertise as the voice for and of girls, proudly proclaim March 12, 2015, as Girl Scout Day.

This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

First Selectman George Temple presented this Proclamation to the Girl Scouts and stated the entire Board of Selectmen are very proud of these Girl Scouts and congratulated them, and asked the Girl Scouts to continue to do the good work that they do. A picture was taken of the Girl Scouts and the Board of Selectman. Girl Scouts present were Ainsley Novin (Troop 60113), Delaney Stachacz (Troop 60157), Ellie Gamauf (Troup 60148), Emma Friedman (Troop 690271), Rebecca Senior and Kayley Yap, (Troop 60526).

First Selectman George Temple moved to have a 5 minute recess at 7:38 p.m.

First Selectmen George Temple moved to reconvene the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

**2. The Quoka Family Recognition**

First Selectman George Temple read the recognition certificate for the Quoka Family from Oxford Paint & Hardware.

First Selectman George Temple stated that the Quoka Family sold their business to National Lumber, a Massachusetts company. The Board of Selectmen felt they needed to recognize the Quoka family for being outstanding corporate citizens here in Oxford. Their store was an institution in Oxford, and the Board would like to acknowledge all of their contributions to Oxford, their enthusiasm and public spirit, and would like to thank all three, Michael, John, and Al, for their unwavering support and numerous contributions to the town of Oxford and its residents. The Quoka family did not want their names published or wanted to be in the lime light. First Selectman George Temple will present this certificate to them tomorrow at the Oxford Paint & Hardware store.

**3. Great Oak Middle School Cheering Squad and Coaches Recognition**

*This matter will be on the April 1<sup>st</sup> agenda*

**4. Emergency Appropriation for Snow Removal – Approve and Possible Town Meeting**

David McKane recused himself from this matter.

The Board of Selectmen has no firm figures on this matter.

*This matter remains on the table.*

**5. Town Wide Cleanup Project – Approve Resolution and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Town Wide Cleanup Resolution and to authorize the First Selectman to sign:

## Resolution for Town Wide Cleanup Month

**WHEREAS**, the Oxford Conservation Commission Inland Wetlands Agency has declared from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> as Town Wide Cleanup Month, and;

**WHEREAS**, Town Wide Cleanup Month is celebrated annually to recommit to protect our flora and fauna and make Oxford a beautiful place to live, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford reaffirms its commitment to the goals and principles of Town Wide Cleanup Month in keeping with our goal to protect and make Oxford a beautiful place to live, and supports Town Wide Cleanup by:

1. Inviting and encouraging all citizens, businesses, organizations, schools, clubs, neighborhoods and families to participate in community Town Wide Cleanup activities, and
2. By providing support through participation of Town Departments.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oxford declare from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> as **Town Wide Cleanup Month** and authorizes the Public Works Department to remain open until 5:00 PM on the last two (2) Saturday's of April.

This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that this is very noteworthy that we pass this resolution. We have to clean up the town, and this is one way we can do something about it. We are looking at a Blight Ordinance for private property. The town has been doing this for years, and it raises consciousness about keeping the town clean, especially after this winter.

David McKane stated that it was the Oxford Land Trust that started this around 25 years ago and it is also in conjunction with Earth Day. On April 25, 2015, there will be a Hazardous Waste Pickup day at Quaker Farms School.

### **6. 2014 Grand List Tax Abatements – Approve**

#### **MOTION:**

Dave McKane moved to approve the following 2014 Grand List Tax Abatement Applications as presented and recommended by the Tax Assessor in her letter dated 3/4/15:

1. **BPSIS, LLC** 90 Donovan Rd., Real Estate assessment \$485,500. This qualifies for Real Estate Abatement Program A, Year 1, abatement of 25% on taxes.  
**Soiltesting, Inc.,** C/O James Deangelis, Personal Property is assessed at \$489,350. Prior Assessment was \$276,170, \$213,180 qualifies for Personal Property Abatement Program A, Year 1, abatement of 25% on taxes.
2. **Brennan Shebeen III, LLC** First Oxford house, 441 Oxford Rd., Real Estate additional Real Estate assessment \$159,300. This qualifies for Real Estate Abatement Program A, Year 1, abatement of 25% on taxes.

3. **CED PROPERTIES, LLC** 3 Fox Hollow Rd., Real Estate assessment \$1,264,400. This qualifies for Real Estate Abatement Program B, Year 3, abatement of 10% on taxes.  
  
**C E D Services Inc.** C/O Steven Meyer, Personal Property is assessed at \$159,790. This qualifies for Personal Property Abatement Program A, Year 3, abatement of 10% on taxes.
4. **CNK INVESTMENTS LLC** 2 Fox Hollow Road. Real Estate assessment \$1,121,100. This qualifies for Real Estate Abatement Program B, Year 3, abatement of 10% on taxes.  
  
**GEN-EL-MEC ASSOC., INC.** Personal Property as assessed at \$704,060. This qualifies for Personal Property Abatement Program B, Year 3, abatement of 20% on taxes.
5. **ENTREPOT-BUI LLC** 7 Fox Hollow Rd. Real Estate assessment \$1,818,200. This assessment reflects an addition of \$405,700 due to improvement to the property for 2012 Grand List which qualifies for Real Estate Abatement Program A, Year 3, abatement of 10% on taxes for the addition.
6. **SOMERSET REALTY GROUP INC** 327 Riggs St., Real Estate assessment of \$629,700. This qualifies for Real Estate Abatement Program B, Year 3, abatement of 10% on taxes.
7. **TOWER BUSINESS PARK** 106 Willenbrock Rd., Real Estate assessment \$785,500. This qualifies for Real Estate Abatement Program B, Year 2, abatement of 20% on taxes.
8. **WFS PROPERTIES, LLC** 91 Willenbrock Rd. #B-1, Real Estate assessment \$314,400. This qualifies for Real Estate Abatement Program A, Year 3, abatement of 10% on taxes.

This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

#### 7. **Award Street Sweeping Bid**

##### **MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to award the Street Sweeping bid to CSS Industries, of 129 Market Street in New Haven, at \$308.75 per mile as recommended by the Road Foreman. This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries

Discussion: This was bided out. It will take a long time to sweep the streets since there is a lot of sand and salt that happens over the winter. It is for the safety of our town and to make Oxford look beautiful that this needs to be done.

#### 8. **Award Pavement Marking Bid**

##### **MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to award the Pavement Marking bid to Atlantic Pavement Markings, of 15 Industrial Road in Prospect, at \$180.00 per mile as recommended by the Road Foreman. This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is a very good figure. First Selectman George Temple stated he support this.

9. **Award Catch Basin Cleaning Bid**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to award the Catch Basin Cleaning bid to HI-Tech Sweeping, of 551 Broad Street in Bristol, at \$28.50 per basin as recommended by the Road Foreman. This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that the town is working on a grant that will get a vacuum machine that will be regionalized with other towns. Oxford is working with Southbury, Seymour, and Beacon Falls on this grant and it will save the towns a considerable amount of money over the years if they purchase this machine. First Selectman George Temple would like to get a roller also. He has talked with the various Mayors and Selectmen in other towns and they are in favor of this also.

10. **Approve Use of Town Hall Parking Lot for Car Show Fundraiser**

**MOTION:**

David McKane moved to approve the use of the Town Hall parking lot between the hours of 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Saturday, July 25, 2015 (rain date of July 26, 2015) for spectator parking during a Car Cruise Fundraiser event which is being held at the Oxford Center Firehouse. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: The town did this event last year, and it is a big help to the Firemen. The town is not using the parking lot during those hours. David McKane stated it is a fun day and there are a lot of things to do at this event. First Selectman George Temple stated there will be a parade in May to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oxford Center Volunteer Fire Co.

11. **Oxford Ambulance Members 2014 Volunteer Tax Abatements – Approve**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Oxford Ambulance Members 2014 Volunteer Tax Abatements as presented and requested by the Director in his letter received on 3/16/15:

Jason Schwartz	19 Silano Drive	\$500
Travis Taggart	106 Prokop Road	\$500
Kevin Schevlin	56 Tram Drive	\$500
Michael Aiello	76 Old Country Road	\$1000
Max Brown	8 O'Neil Road	\$1000
Lee Ives	29 Chestnut Tree Ext.	\$500
Gary McEwen	2 Aurora Drive	\$1000
Michele McEwen	2 Aurora Drive	\$500
Chris Barnes	139 Hogsback Road	\$500
Mitch Mako	34 Charter oak Drive	\$500
Jessica Hagstrom	27 Greenbriar Road	\$500
April Brooks	70 O'Neil Road	\$500

This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries

**12. Tax Refunds**

**MOTION:**

David McKane moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$5,786.57, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter received on 3/16/15 and authorize two signatures. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: The majority of these are overpayments for real estate taxes and \$27 is for motor vehicles.

**13. Hire Children's Librarian**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to hire Sara Martone, of 390 Townsend Avenue in New Haven, as the Children's Librarian at a pay rate of \$18.18 per hour and a start date of Monday, April 6, 2015. This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: The Library Board interviewed all of the candidates and got it down to the last two candidates. Both were excellent candidates. First Selectman George Temple interviewed the last two candidates with the Librarian. This candidate is getting her Masters from Syracuse, and she genuinely cares about children and has a lot of great ideas for the children and on how the library will fit in with the community.

Jeff Haney asked if this was a union or non-union position, and asked about the pay rate. This position is a union position, and it is the 1<sup>st</sup> step on the union pay scale.

**14. Lawn Maintenance Contract – Award Bid**

**MOTION:**

David McKane moved to award the Lawn Maintenance Contract bid to Cedar Ridge Nursery, of 97 Seth Den Road, in the amount of \$84,480.00 (\$52,200 for Basic Lawn Maintenance for all common properties and \$32,280 for Field Maintenance), as presented, for a period of one year (April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016). This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

It was noted that an additional \$3,000 - \$5,000 be added to each of the above budgets in order to allow for unforeseen expenses such as replacing washed away clay on the infields, repairing and or replacing grass destroyed by vandalism, filling in of sink holes, additional infield preparations, etc.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple spoke with Debbie Gatto and stated part of it will be changed when Tetlak Park gets finished. This contract did go out to bid and was done properly. The bid will be more next year since there will be more fields to mow.

## **15. Report of First Selectman**

This Friday, March 20, 2015, there will be a play at Oxford High School, "Fiddler On The Roof" performed by students. These kids do a great job and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Citing Council is winding up next week in regard to the Power Plant. First Selectman George Temple believes there will be a vote on May 11, 2015.

Next week they will be finalizing negotiations with the Power Plant and the Masonicare facility. With regards to Masonicare, Oxford will be getting more than any other town. It will be a \$130 million facility located by Oxford Greens and Towantic Hill.

First Selectman George Temple had a discussion with a fuel cell company that is totally green and would like to be located near the power plant. This will add a tremendous amount of tax money for the town. They were very impressed with Oxford and would like to locate here and there are no emissions from the fuel cells, but it does use 50,000 gallons per day of water. The company is hoping to share the water with the power plant. First Selectman George Temple stated this is very exciting technology.

First Selectman George Temple stated that the town is negotiating with a Solar Energy company on a proposal to reduce electrical bills in Oxford. They would like to use the old dump site, and will be close to the Power Plant.

The Fuel Cell Company and the Solar Energy Company are in the preliminary planning stage, and will have to go through Planning & Zoning.

First Selectman George Temple addressed the issue of the \$1.8 million that was stolen. First Selectman George Temple stated that it was not town money and that he had nothing to do with appointing that attorney that stole that money. Mirium Strong hired him as her lawyer. When First Selectman George Temple asked about receiving the money, he always got an invasive answer. He insisted on having a hearing and they had two weeks to come up with the money. They stated they had land to sell, an Oppenheimer Fund that had to be disbursed, and a scholarship fund had to be set up. After the two weeks, it was known the money was gone. First Selectman George Temple stated some things you have no control over. First Selectman George Temple stated that if it was the town's attorney, we could have fired him, but it wasn't. The Town's attorney did look into this matter. If he was First Selectman when this will got probated, he would have insisted on a bond. The person that wrote the will stated that "no bond will be required" and then he stole the money. There is a very good man who was the former probate judge in Ansonia in charge of recouping the money. It is a feeling of helplessness, and the town had no control over it. Oxford was just a beneficiary.



The State Police is increasing the amount of their cost for the towns. Oxford lost one officer since he was hurt. The people in the town will have to decide what we are going to do as far as police protection and which way we want to go. We will need to set up a committee and hold meetings. We have a lot of retired police in town and need to get their input. It costs us \$120,000 per year for a State Trooper, and they are quality people. We are trying to hire officers, but we really would like someone that is experienced. We hired one officer approximately 6 months ago and he is excellent.

### AMENDMENTS

None.

### AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Kathy Johnson, Dorman Road, Oxford, asked a question on the Police Officers and asked if the Legislative decision was made; if not approved, maybe we won't have this issue. Ms. Johnson also asked the question on the \$1.8 million loss, how something like this could happen and how can he get away with this. She stated this was a huge tragedy for the town, and asked for more explanation. Ms. Johnson asked First Selectman George Temple, "how much money do you think we will get?"

First Selectman George Temple stated that the court appointed executor Judge Hoyle, and he will work with the town. First Selectman Temple does have some suggestions and did discuss these with Judge Hoyle. Some of the money can be recovered from a fund which lawyers have that protect clients that have been wronged. First Selectman George Temple stated it was Miriam Strong's money, she chose the lawyer, and we had nothing to say except that we were a beneficiary, a "residual beneficiary" as was the Board of Education for a scholarship fund (50%), the Library (25%) and open space (25%) of the residual money. If there are other questions, First Selectman Temple stated to Ms. Johnson to stop by and see him.

Harold Cosgrove, Bee Mountain Road, Oxford, asked if the town gets any preference for dispersion versus an individual. Legatees get specifically awarded a percentage. Whatever is left over after that is done, then the residuary goes next. First Selectman George Temple stated whomever Miriam Strong stated in her will first get it first, and that was not the town.

Ann Krane, 411 Mulligan Drive, asked if Attorney Clark was the Executor of the estate, and is there a money trail? First Selectman George Temple stated we are working on this. First Selectman Temple stated that Attorney Clark was co-executor and he has nothing in his name, and the State Police are looking into everything. Everything is in Attorney Clark's wife's name. The Police are looking at purchases even if it was in his wife's name.

David McKane asked a question about being bonded, why didn't the Probate Judge insist that it be bonded. This happened before we were regionalized, and the will stated no bond will be required. Probate courts usually adhere to that. Mr. McKane also made the request as a citizen and a Selectman, that in the negotiations with Masonicare that a conservation easement or something be placed on Towantic Pond so that the people in town who use this pond can continue to use it. Mr. McKane stated that he is hoping it gets the consideration that it deserves. Mr. McKane also stated he has some

concerns regarding the grant for the equipment specifically for the catch basins. This is a summer long project just in Oxford, and to share it with 3 or 4 other towns, it will cost us more money than what it is costing us for the outside vendor. It is a very expensive machine and it will cost a lot to run and it is a pain to operate this equipment. First Selectman George Temple stated he thought it was costing \$160,000 for the machine, and he will look into the cost of everything.

Peter Zbras questioned if the \$1.8 million dollar amount was for the library itself. First Selectman George Temple stated no, the scholarship had \$1.6 million in it and everything will have to be readjusted with Judge Hoyle.

A question was asked regarding the Golf Courses and Open Land issue – First Selectman George Temple stated nothing has happened with this item. First Selectman George Temple testified against all of the golf courses in CT being designated as open space and towns would have to tax them as open space. The way that golf courses are laid out, they make awful open space, they are strips of land, not open space. This is a way that owners of private clubs could save tax money.

Kathy Johnson, Dorman Road, Oxford, asked if the amount of tax revenue the Power Plant was going to generate was \$6 million and is this a true figure and if we have a contract. First Selectman George Temple advised yes we do have a contract and it is \$7 million. Ms. Johnson stated she is in favor of the Fuel Cell Company up there. First Selectman George Temple stated if this goes through, it will be the biggest fuel cell company in Connecticut. Ms. Johnson also stated that she loves the children and wants the fields in this town, but the town needs to lower the taxes, and we need to look at how the Board of Finance spends.

Tanya Carver spoke on behalf of the Planning & Zoning Commission, and stated they had a meeting on February 25, 2015, and they were recommending using the Land Use attorney for the next phase of Glendale, which will be built next month, and to be sure the affordable housing will be built and that it is administered properly. First Selectman George Temple wanted to be sure Planning & Zoning doesn't allow Glendale to put the Affordable housing at the end of their project, and then state they won't have enough money for this phase.

Ms. Carver stated we have the Oxford Town Center being done, and they feel the need for one person to handle land use only. The Commission did recommend asking Attorney Pete Olson. He is currently working on items for Inland/Wetlands. They did speak with Peter Olsen and that he does have an open letter with the town and will charge \$190 per hour when it is a big application, but he will do miscellaneous calls at no more than 4 hours per month. If we use less than four hours, he will bill us for just those hours under 4 hours. If we use 5 hours a month, he will bill us for 4 hours. She wanted to bring it up to the Board of Selectmen's attention.

## ADJOURNMENT

### MOTION:

David McKane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 P.M. This was seconded by Jeff Haney.  
All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

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MARCH 19 2015  
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