

**Board of Selectmen's  
Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017**  
**7:30 PM - Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:31 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman Kathy Johnson, Joanne Pelton, Administrative Assistant.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**1. 2/14/17 Budget Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 2/14/17 Budget Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**2. 2/15/17 Budget Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 2/15/17 Budget Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**3. 2/21/17 Budget Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 2/21/17 Budget Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**4. 2/28/17 Budget Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 2/28/17 Budget Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**5. 3/1/17 Budget Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 3/1/17 Budget Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**6. 3/15/17 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 3/15/17 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**7. 3/23/17 Special Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 3/23/17 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

None.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**1. Northwest Regional Mental Health Board (CAC #20) – Appoint Kathy Johnson**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Kathy Johnson, of 68 Dorman Road, as the Northwest Regional Mental Health Board (CAC #20) Oxford Representative. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 disqualification by Kathy Johnson. Motion carries.

Discussion: This was First Selectman Temple's idea to appoint Kathy Johnson and knows she will do a great job on representing the town. Kathy Johnson thanked First Selectman Temple for thinking of her and stated she has been involved with mental health since her son suffered a brain injury in 1998 and she has suffered from severe depression. Kathy has a lot of empathy for people suffering from this disease. Jeff Haney asked about the resignation, and there is a resignation from M. Anderson on file with the Town Clerk.

**2. Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate – Re-Appoint Ed Rowland**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to re-appoint Edward Rowland, of 60 Towner Lane, as Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/17. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kathy Johnson thanked Ed Rowland for expressing an interest in serving on this Board and knows he has a love for this town and thanked him for coming to tonight's meeting to accept this. First Selectman George Temple stated we now have three Alternates to this committee: John Kerwin, Mckenzie Macchio, and Ed Rowland, and thanked Ed Rowland for serving on this Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Establish Town-Wide Rubbish Removal Study Committee, Approve Charge and Appoint Members**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to establish a Town- Wide Rubbish Removal Study Committee and approve the following Charge: To be created by our First Selectman.

First Selectman George Temple stated the charge: there will be three members to this committee and they will study data and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on the cost and feasibility for rubbish pickup.

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated he wants to have standard rubbish removal service for everyone in town and to figure out how much it will cost. It will be put out to bid and will include recycles. Containers are now plastic, lightweight, and easy to roll. It's a concern of the Board of Selectmen to see trash on the lawns. There are 2 advantages i.e., it is cheaper due to the town-wide bargaining power, and the health issue. Some people store rubbish in their garage. We do have a recycling area but it is not for rubbish. This will be paid for by taxes and those taxes will be a deductible for income tax. First Selectman Temple stated it will be a lot lower than what he is paying now.

All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to appoint the following to the Town- Wide Rubbish Removal Study Committee:

Wayne Watt, of 1 Toppenfjell Lane  
Walter Archer, of 145 Dorman Road  
Kevin Condon, of Laura Lane

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: We will be in good shape with this committee. It will need to go to a referendum and will give this to the Board of Finance for information only.

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to hire Robbi Costigan, of 300 Chestnut Tree Hill Road, as the Clerk for the Town- Wide Rubbish Removal Study Committee with a pay rate of \$15.05 per hour. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

**2. Rydas 4 Righteousness Christian Motorcycle Ministry's Annual Bike Blessing Unity Ride – Approve Oxford Route**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Oxford route for the Rydas 4 Righteousness Christian Motorcycle Ministry's Annual Bike Blessing Unity Ride as presented and requested in their letter dated on 3/13/17 and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Department of Transportation Permit. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated that there will not be any serving of alcohol on this ride. The town did check the route with Sgt. Semosky and does not see any reason to deny it.

**3. Fire Fighters Certified for Tax Abatement 2016 – Approve**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 2016 Fire Fighters Certified for Tax Abatements as presented and recommended by the Fire Chiefs in their letter dated 3/20/17. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is a small token of appreciation to the Fire Fighters, and they do a great job.

**4. Riverview Road – Accept, Reduce and Release Bonds**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to accept Riverview Road into the Town Road System and to reduce the \$235,000.00 Performance Bond to a \$23,500.00 Maintenance Bond, in a form reviewed and approved by Town Counsel, and to release the \$30,000.00 Soil & Erosion Bond as well as the \$35,000.00 Performance & Restoration Bond; all as presented and recommended by Town Engineer, Town Counsel and the Planning & Zoning Commission in their letter dated 3/17/17. Road acceptance is contingent upon all the above being reviewed and approved. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This was tabled since it needed to be reviewed by the Town Counsel. It has now been reviewed by Town Counsel. Jeff Haney asked if everything has been taken care of and that there is no problem excepting this. First Selectman Temple does not see any reason not to do this.

**5. Establish Plan of Conservation and Development Committee, Approve Charge and Appoint Members**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to establish a Plan of Conservation and Development Committee and approve the following Connecticut General Statute 8-23 charge:

*At least every ten years, the commission shall prepare or amend and shall adopt a plan of conservation and development of the municipality. Following adoption, the commission shall regularly review and maintain such plan. The commission may adopt such geographical, functional or other amendments to the plan or parts of the plan, in accordance with the provisions of this section as deems necessary. The commission may, at any time, prepare, amend and adopt plans for the redevelopment and improvement of districts or neighborhoods which, in its judgment, contain special problems or opportunities or show a trend toward lower land values.*

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is the commission now and not an ad-hoc committee anymore. The work done prior was in preparation for this, and it should be a lot easier now. It has the same committee members as before. It is a well-run committee per Kathy Johnson and representative for the entire town.

Kathy Johnson returned from recusal.

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to appoint the following members to the Plan of Conservation and Development Committee as noted by First Selectman George Temple:

Pat Cocchiarella, of 150 Governor's Hill Road  
Herman Schuler, of 125 Meadowbrook Road  
Robbi Costigan, of 300 Chestnut Tree Hill Road  
Tanya Carver, of 1 Old Moose Hill Road  
Kathleen O'Neil, of 433 Chestnut Tree Hill Road  
Kathy Johnson, of 68 Dorman Road  
Andrew McGeever, of 204 Flag Stick Road  
Brian Miller, Town Planner (Advisory Member)  
Steve Macary, Zoning Enforcement Official (Advisory Member)

Kathy Johnson recused herself.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 recusal by Kathy Johnson.

**6. Award Athletic Fields Maintenance Bid**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to award a one-year contract for the Athletic Fields Maintenance Bid to Cedar Ridge Nursery, of 97 Seth Den Road, for an amount of \$89,000.00 beginning April 1, 2017 and expiring on December 31, 2017. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This was the lowest bid, and we are going to award this. Any complaints will have to be addressed by the Parks & Recreation Department.

**7. Disband Committees & Commissions**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to disband the following committees/commissions as they have fulfilled their purposes:

- Animal Shelter Committee (last met in 2012)
- Animal Shelter Building Committee (last met in 2012 and shelter is completed)
- 2015 Charter Revision Commission (last met in 2015 and charter updated)
- Crestview Ridge Renovation Committee (established in 2008)

- New Oxford Playscape Planning & Building Committee (established in 2012 and Lily Park is completed)
- Oxford High School Diamond Project Committee (project completed)
- Route 67 Study Committee (established 2002)
- Website Committee (last met in 2014)

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: The Route 67 Study committee is now the "Main Street" Committee. First Selectman Temple stated to Joanne Pelton to have Kelly send letters to each committee thanking them for serving on these committees. These committees have all completed their projects.

## **8. Approve Tree Warden Salary**

### **MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Tree Warden salary of \$500.00 for the period of April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017 and to forward this matter to the Board of Finance. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson.

Discussion: The current salary budget was \$400 but was renegotiated to \$600.

### **MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to withdraw the motion to approve the Tree Warden Salary of \$500.00 for the period of April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017. Kathy Johnson withdrew her second to the motion.

### **MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Tree Warden salary of \$600.00 for the period of April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017 and to forward this matter to the Board of Finance. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: We have a lot of ash trees that are down, and have an additional problem with them due to the ash borer which is killing the ash trees and this supports the increase. Tree Warden, Leonard Beauprey will need to go to school to be certified by the State. First Selectman Temple stated to Jim Hliva to be sure the Board of Finance knows it is \$600.

**9. Approve Tree Warden Budget**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Tree Warden budget of \$12,000.00 for the period of April 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017 and to forward this matter to the Board of Finance. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: the former budget was \$60,000/year coverage. \$8,000 has already been spent. This will give an additional \$4000 from now until the end of the year. The cost is roughly \$800-\$1200 per tree. They use five different contractors. If the Tree Warden finds this is not working and it is a safety concern, he should advise the Board of Selectmen for use of emergency funds for the safety of the town.

**10. Hire Pre-Referendum Cost Estimator Firm for New School Building Project**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to hire a Pre-Referendum Cost Estimator Firm for the New School Building Project in the amount of \$8,000 for Downes Construction Company. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Robert Slie, Chairman of the Oxford School Building Committee, stated that the State requires this and it is another company going over everything and will go over the costs. The committee will be going to the State on Friday for a meeting on the grant process. Mr. Slie had four companies bid on this, and he has worked with this company before and they recommend them. First Selectman Temple asked Joanne Pelton to set up a special Board of Finance Meeting for this project. First Selectman Temple stated this will be a huge aid for this process. Kathy Johnson concurs with First Selectman Temple and the committee is really doing their due diligence and it is a very tight schedule, and wants to get this done.

**11. Report of First Selectman**

1. First Selectman Temple stated he went to Hartford to the Appropriation Committee and testified concerning the Governor's recommendation of cutting Oxford's tax by 76.1%. We did make an impact and made it clear that we are looking to get some of the money back that we sent up there. Oxford is #1 in the state for cuts in tax relief. We have an 89% cut in Education. We have an airport here and we get nothing for it. The State had agreed to reimburse us for taxes that we lost there. Our town is doing a good job, and this is the problem. Oxford is growing economically and by population. What drives economic development was discussed. The State cannot expect the towns to help with State pensions.

2. First Selectman Temple went to the play at Center School, and these kids did an excellent job and were great.

3. There was another death from opiate addiction, a 23 year old overdose. The High School has been criticized that there are drugs in the high school. Oxford did have a forum presented by the Valley Council on Drug Abuse. First Selectman Temple would like to reach the kids and get somebody who has done drugs to tell their story to the kids.
4. Oxford is 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 for wealthy towns.
5. A reminder that April is Town Clean-up Month.
6. The Quaker Farms Fire Department Carnival will be held beginning June 28, 2017. Save the date!

### **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

David Manning, 16 Oakwood Drive, asked if the street lights are new. First Selectman Temple stated yes; Eversource has a program that replaces old bulbs with new LED lights. Mr. Manning stated they were not very good, and were very intense lights and they could be replaced with a better quality light. The glare is very bad and should shine down on the road. First Selectman Temple will go and check the lights on Seth Den and get in touch with Eversource.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

17 APR 10 PM 6:09  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
*Margaret A. Clark*  
TOWN CLERK