

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:38 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 7/2/14 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Dave McKane moved to approve the 7/2/14 Regular Meeting minutes with amendments that are listed below as presented. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Audience of Citizens, Page 2:

First sentence – 'Nancy Farnsworth', change to 'Nancy Farnum'.

Second to last sentence – 'Then that item went to the Parks and Recreation Department, and is seems...', the word 'is' should be changed to 'it'.

Item #1, Page 3:

First paragraph, second sentence – 'but David Keyser is here along with Mrs. O'Neil.'. Change to 'but the Grant Writer, Ms. O'Neil, is here.' Mr. Keyser was not at the meeting.

First paragraph, third sentence – 'Selectman George Temple would like to meet with Bill Burns on issues with Gordon..', add 'Housing Authority Chairman' before Bill Burns' name and replace 'Gordon' with 'the Building Official Gordon Gramolini'.

Item #3, Page 4:

Second Motion – 'Jeff Haney moved to hire James Baldwin..', change to 'Jeff Haney amended the motion to hire James Baldwin...'.
Third Motion – Remove

Item #5, Page 5:

Second Paragraph, second sentence – ‘DEP’ change to ‘DEEP’.

Item #7, Page 6:

First paragraph, second sentence – ‘Brian Francione..’ add ‘Fire Commission Chairman’ prior to name.

Item #8, Page 6:

Second Motion – ‘Dave McKane moved to amend the purchase of a new fire truck not to exceed..’, change to ‘Dave McKane moved to amend the **motion** to purchase a new fire truck **so as** not to exceed..’.

Item #11, Page 7:

Second paragraph – ‘Mrs. Farnsworth’ change to ‘Mrs. Farnum’.

Item #12, Page 7:

First paragraph, seventh sentence – ‘Peter Poulstan’ change to ‘Peter Polstein’.

First paragraph, eighth sentence – ‘Peter Poulstan’ change to ‘Peter Polstein’.

First paragraph, tenth sentence – ‘walk out of the meeting with an insurance policy.’, add at the end ‘for the firemen’.

First paragraph, eleventh sentence – ‘The firemen have to happy with it..’, change to ‘The firemen have to **be** happy with it..’

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Planning & Zoning Commission Morse Road Recommendation

MOTION:

Dave McKane moved to amend the agenda to add Planning & Zoning Commission Morse Road Recommendation as Item # 8 under New Business and move Report of First Selectman to Item #9. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS:

Dave McKane noted that Lisa Hellauer will not be serving on the Charter Revision Commission committee.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

Dave McKane stated he wanted to set the record straight regarding the issue on how the Public Works stored air conditioners. They were stored correctly and they operate perfectly fine. They did purchase two new air conditioners. He wanted to know who accused the Public Works Department of breaking the air conditioners. First Selectman Temple stated it was neither of the Registrar of Voters; it was an employee of the Board of Education. First Selectman Temple stated we will donate the air conditioners that are fine to the American Legion. He stated he didn't know how we can store something like air conditioners wrong.

Nil Guillet of Douglas Road, Oxford, wanted to know the status of his suggestion made a few months back regarding the Public Works Department. Mr. Guillet commented about the money being spent for this department and that they should be doing small projects around the town. He commented that the block wall on O'Neil Road looks terrible, and that the drain problem done on Jacks Hill is another project gone afoul. Mr. Guillet stated that the town needs a manager that is capable and knowledgeable to work for the Town. He also stated that he has done work for the town and his work has come out perfect. First Selectman George Temple stated he is very happy with the Public Works Department and the Public Works Director. First Selectman Temple stated to Mr. Guillet he can put his complaints in writing. Selectman Jeff Haney suggested to Mr. Guillet that there is a Roads Commission, and these items can be brought up at their meeting. Selectman Dave McKane stated everyone that went by when the work was being done on Jacks Hill gave him the "thumbs up" and everyone was satisfied with the project. Mr. Guillet left the meeting.

First Selectman George Temple called a five minute break at 7:53 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 7:59 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Certificate of Recognition for Chris Vankamerik

First Selectman George Temple acknowledged Chris Vankamerik for being named All-State, and for being a "star" in the All Star Game at Rentschler Field. Congratulations to Chris Vankamerik from all the Selectmen.

2. Proposed *Fire Commission Ordinance* – Discuss with Possible Action

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to remove this item from the table. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to repeal the current *Fire Commission Ordinance*. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the proposed *Fire Commission Ordinance*, as presented, and to forward this matter to a Public Hearing on Monday, August 18, 2014, at 7:00 PM, and then to a Town Meeting on Monday, August 18, 2014, at 7:30 PM. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated it will be up to the Town to see if it is approved or not approved. First Selectman Temple will not be here on August 18th and suggested it be done on Wednesday, August 20, 2014, at 7:00 PM, and then to a Town meeting on August 20, 2014, at 7:15 PM.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the motion to approve the proposed *Fire Commission Ordinance*, as presented, and to forward this matter to a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 7:00 PM and then to a Town Meeting on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 7:15 PM. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Nay by Dave McKane. Motion carries.

Discussion: Dave McKane has some concerns about it, and didn't want to personally leave it to chance.

3. Hire Police Officer

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to hire Matthew Cosmos, of 36 Aveline Avenue in Middlebury, as an Oxford Police Officer with a pay rate of \$21.76, and a start date of August 13, 2014, as deemed ready by Resident State Trooper Daniel Semosky subject to availability of equipment. This was seconded by Dave McKane for discussion. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Dave McKane stated he received Matthew Cosmos information five minutes before the meeting and he didn't have a chance to review the resume. First Selectman George Temple stated he did interview Matthew Cosmos and that he had went through the Chief of Police testing and a battery of tests and was successful. He stated we need an officer right away and Mr. Cosmos has worked in Farmington for two years, and thinks he will do a very good job. Resident State Trooper Daniel Semosky also recommended Matthew Cosmos for this position. Selectman Dave McKane asked why he left Farmington. It was stated that he was not picked up after his probationary period due to writing of reports. First Selectman George Temple stated he is unquestionably a good officer. Oxford's probationary period is one year.

4. Award 2015 Reval Bid

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to award the 2015 Reval bid to Vision Government Solutions for \$83,000.00. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This Company was recommended by the Tax Assessor, Eva Lintzner, and they have been used in the past. First Selectman George Temple stated that he doesn't think there will be very much of a change in value, and there are only a few companies that do this type of work.

5. Oxford Fire Department Tax Abatement Criteria Revision 2014.01 – Approve

MOTION:

Dave McKane moved to approve the proposed Oxford Fire Department Tax Abatement Criteria Revision 2014.01 as presented. This was seconded by Jeff Haney for discussion. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: There are younger guys in the Department that don't own anything, and will get a check instead of tax abatement since they don't own anything. These individuals have an option to take it off their taxes for people that own homes. If they pick the check they will get it each year unless something changes or they become a homeowner. This way is much fairer. Currently there are 45 people who qualify, and meet the number of scheduled drills and percentage of fire calls. This is a tax relief for their service. Some of the members are still in school and are not able to qualify. The amount is included in the 2014/2015 budget. Tax relief is \$23,700 per year. This might also encourage more participation by the younger guys to respond to calls.

Selectman Dave McKane recused himself from Items 6 and 7.

6. Ratification of AFSCME Local 818 Supervisor's Union Contract – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve/ratify the AFSCME Local 818 Supervisor's Union Contract, effective July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2017 and authorize the First Selectman to sign. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes, 1 recusal by Dave McKane. Motion carries.

7. Ratification of Teamsters Local Union No. 677 Contract – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve/ratify the Teamsters Local Union No. 677 Contract, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2018 and authorize the First Selectman to sign. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes, 1 Recusal by Dave McKane. Motion carries.

Dave McKane returned to the meeting.

8. Planning & Zoning Commission Morse Road Recommendation.

Dave McKane moved to table this item. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

9. Report of First Selectman

First Selectman George Temple announced he will go before the Parole Board and make a statement regarding our previous Tax Collector on Wednesday, August 13, 2014, at 9 am. She has been in jail for 1 year and nine months. Due to the impact it had on the town, if they decide to parole her, he will object to it. He owes it to the tax payers in Oxford. There are so many people upset over this. Betraying the public is very serious. Dave McKane is 100% with First Selectman Temple on this matter.

There was a presentation held last night by the Power Company at the Oxford High School, which went very well. They could be our #1 tax payer. It will generate over \$3 million per year. Once they break ground they will have to pay \$6.5 million. We have spent \$500,000 of that on sewers on Rt. 67. First Selectman Temple stated his major concern is to pass it on to the tax payers by reducing taxes.

The application for Oxford Center was discussed. This could be a very good project; First Selectman Temple does not agree with all of the housing involved, but he also does not get to vote on it. Planning & Zoning make this decision. The traffic on Rt. 67 was discussed, and thought that a great deal of it is Oxford people shopping in Seymour. If Oxford had its own grocery store, the residents can spend their money here instead of other towns.

Masonicare facility will be a pilot program and will need to negotiate and review the terms of their contract.

Oxford Greens is doing a lot of work. This also will be a good tax source.

First Selectman George Temple congratulated Scott Pelletier on the Antique Car Show Fund raiser. He had heard it was very successful and people had a great time.

CL&P is moving along with the power lines.

First Selectman Temple stated he understands we are making progress on a new Superintendent of Schools.

First Selectman George Temple asked if there were any other comments.

Dave McKane stated he is onboard as far as the Haynes project and correctly stated he is not in favor of the Power Plant, and always had concerns about the Power Plant. He would have liked to have taken the money upfront. He also

stated that this is not the same as what was originally approved; there is a significant increase.

With regards to the Masonicare acquisition of Towantic Pond, Dave McKane stated he would like them to donate the pond to the town. First Selectman George Temple stated it is in the mix for it.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Dave McKane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski

Clerk, Board of Selectmen

14 AUG 13 PM 4:41
TOWN OF STAFFORD, CT
Margaret A. West
TOWN CLERK