

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 7:30 PM
Virtual Meeting/Hangout Meets/In Person

The Town of Oxford Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:30 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq., Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman Heather Haney (Virtually), Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman

Absent: None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 7/21/21 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 7/21/21 Regular Meeting minutes with the following correction:

Item #3 Fire Department's Tax Abatement Policy Change Request, the motion should read:

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the change to the Fire Department's Tax Abatement Policy amounts from \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 to \$1,000.00 and \$2,000.00 *for volunteers* as in accordance with Public Act No. 19-36 and as presented and requested by the Board of Chiefs in their letter dated 6/14/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 ayes. Motion carries.

This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

2. 8/18/21 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 7/21/21 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$7,626.57, as presented by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 8/31/21 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 2 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION

First Selectman George Temple stated he has already spoke to the Tax Collector in regards to this and that it was all set.

2. Lots 3 and 4 Hidden Valley Estates Land Conveyance – Approve Transfer of Property

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the transfer of property (17,539 square feet which is 0.40 acres) from the Town of Oxford to Edward Magera of Perkins Road as depicted on map titled Proposed Conveyance Plan for Lot 3 and 4 Hidden Valley Estates Ed Magera Perkins Road from D'Amico Associates dated 2/11/21; as presented and recommended by the Zoning Enforcement Official and Land Use Counsel. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION

First Selectman George Temple questioned Land Use Attorney Kevin McSherry if this matter would need a Town Meeting in order to do a property transfer. Attorney McSherry confirmed and recommended that this will go to a Town Meeting. The matter is that the Town of Oxford is on one side of the paper route, other side is Mr. Magera's property. However, Mr. Magera doesn't have access to his property. The road that was made for this route ended right before his property. But if the town relinquishes the property, he can have access to his property. The town has a sewer line that runs through this property, so a deed would be recorded that will give the town the rights to be able to service the sewer line as needed. Attorney McSheery will work with Attorney Jeff Tuccio, and Mr.

Magera to make sure this is done correctly and provide the proper protection for the town's rights. First Selectman George Temple says he will support this, provided they have the deed in hand before the town meeting, which will be before the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on September 15th.

MOTION

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the motion to state to approve the transfer of property (17,539 square feet which is 0.40 acres) from the Town of Oxford to Edward Magera of Perkins Road as depicted on map titled Proposed Conveyance Plan for Lot 3 and 4 Hidden Valley Estates Ed Magera Perkins Road from D'Amico Associates dated 2/11/21; as presented and recommended by the Zoning Enforcement Official and Land Use Counsel and send this matter to a Town Meeting. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

3. Hire Assistant Senior Director/Secretary

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Susan Kovacs as the Assistant Senior Director/Secretary at Step 1, as in accordance with the United Public Service Employees Union current contract and with no General Wage Increase for the first fiscal year, and a start date of Wednesday, September 1, 2021. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION

Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa stated that this was all set with the Union. The job description and the new wages were approved at the last meeting. Selectman Arnold Jensen inquired if the town did due diligence by advertising for it and posting it and asked if anything else was needed to be done. Mrs. Rosa explained that due diligence was done. The position was advertised, interviews were conducted and it was posted with the union a few times. Selectman Heather Haney stated she was satisfied with everything.

4. Hire Part-Time Library Page

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Kassidy Schiavi as a Part-Time Library Page at a pay rate of \$13.00 per hour and a start date of Thursday, September 2, 2021. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

DISCUSSION:

Director of Municipal Library/Media Operations Robbie Costigan stated that the library had lost two Pages two weeks ago in lieu of them returning to college. At the last Board of Selectmen's meeting one Page was hired and replaced, now this would be the replacement for the second Page. Ms. Schiavi is just beginning college and has a flexible schedule. She can work the hours needed and is a long-time library patron. She has worked programs with the library and is a member of several book clubs. She is well known. Selectman Arnold Jensen asked if this was already in the budget. Mrs. Costigan responded that it was.

5. FY 2020 – 2021 Annual Report – Approve

First Selectman George Temple moved to not remove this motion from the table at this time.

6. Report of First Selectman

911 Ceremony will be Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 12 Noon.

The public is invited. This is done on Thursday due to 9/11 landing on Saturday this year, and this ceremony is also largely for the employees as well, so this gives the opportunity for all to get together in remembrance. This day will be Oxford's commemoration of this awful event, and also the awful event which we are still going through, this should stand as a reminder of the constant threat this country has been going through since 9/11.

Going over Bond Rating

We are going to be in really good shape when all is done. This was a much longer process than expected but First Selectman Temple stated it is going to have a favorable impact on our Standard & Poor's rating. Which whom has recently complimented on how we are properly managed, which encompasses the entire finance department, and Jim Hliva. First Selectman Temple stated he is very happy about that, and in ten years in office there has been a good rating and their position is excellent. He went on to say that a good bond rating will help for a good interest rate, which will save the town a lot of money.

The town also recently got the 1.8 million from federal government for the Covid 19 stimulus plan, and right now we are limited as to what we can spend that money on, but there are two very large big ticket item projects in mind. The heating and cooling in the old middle school, and the new Oxford Police station in the old Center school, which would need renovations, such as holding cells and storage areas, evidence lockers and things of this nature. These are things, First Selectman Temple, stated, that he would like to spend the stimulus money on, but he is open to conversation with Selectman Heather Haney and Selectman Arnold Jensen to see what their opinions are on the best way to spend the money, depending on what is allowed in the parameters of the plan. But this

could really be a one-time shot deal for the town of Oxford to really change the narrative, which First Selectman Temple stated he is really looking forward to.

Masks

As of now, First Selectman Temple stated he has no intentions of changing the mask policies currently in place-if you can show proof of vaccination, you do not need to wear your mask, otherwise, you must wear your mask. We are seeing an uptick again in the covid positive tests, so we will see how that pans out. He went on that he continues to meet on a regular basis with a committee and Dr. Browne of Griffin Hospital to advise how we are doing. Today First Selectman Temple had the opportunity to speak with mayor of Derby and Wolcott and they are using the same procedures as us.

For clarification, the town mask policy is a **town wide** policy, we need consistency and that is why the policy in place, it is not to the discrepancy or fault of supervisors.

As far as the school children wearing masks, we have no choice in that nor does the BOE. Whether we agree does not matter, this is state mandated. Regardless of the origins, circumstances and conspiracies of Covid the fact of the matter is that it is real, it is here, and we have to deal with it the best that we can. Including listening to the advice of several people in the health field.

School is back in

First Selectmen George Temple stated now that school is back in session, he will be making his annual rounds of visiting the schools. With school back in session, this also brings about the concern of traffic issues, speeding, and stop sign obedience, so at the behest of the first selectmen there will be more police presence.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Attorney Gail E. McTaggart, of Secor, Cassidy & McPartland, P.C., who represents C & M Homes, Inc. spoke in regards to Moose Hill Estates, a 7-lot subdivision located at 47 Moose Hill Road. This subdivision was approved in 2007 and expired in December, 2016. A bond posted and a road was deeded to the town. C&M Homes is looking to undo the subdivision. The owner is still paying on the bond, which he pays a premium on every year to develop a road that can't be developed in the expired subdivision. Attorney McTaggart spoke with Town Counsel and Land Use Counsel and it was stated that an 8-24 referral would be necessary from the Board of Selectmen and also from the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Land Use Attorney Kevin McSheery stated first the Planning & Zoning Commission would need the 8-24 referral from the Board of Selectmen to allow the commission to act. Attorney McSherry then explained that the Planning & Zoning Commission would then have to recommend the 8-24 back to the Board of Selectmen for acceptance. Finally, a Town Meeting would be necessary. Attorney McTaggart stated she is looking to be placed on the Board of Selectmen agenda to get the referral from the Planning & Zoning


Commission for approval of the reconveyance of the proposed Roslyn Lane and all easements deeded to and held by the Town in conjunction with Moose Hill Estate Subdivision in order to terminate the subdivision and return the property to a single lot which would be entirely owned by C&M Homes, Inc. Once this is complete, the Board of Selectmen and the Planning & Zoning Commission can then terminate bond and notify Ion Bank to terminate the Letter of Credit. First Selectman Temple requested the Attorney McSheery to draw up the motion. Once Planning & Zoning Commission approves it, the Board of Selectmen can review it. The property owner would need to be at that meeting to answer any questions the board may have. This matter will be placed on the Board of Selectmen agenda for September 15, 2021.

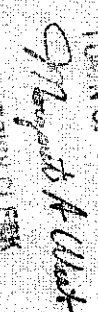
ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney, 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted,


Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks
Clerk, Board of Selectman

21 SEP -8 AM 11:57
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT

TOWN CLERK