

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

7:30 PM - Town Hall

First Selectman George Temple called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman Heather Haney, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Kristyn Rosa.

Others Present: Land Use Counsel Attorney Kevin McSherry, Grant Writer Administrator Helen Leung.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 10/6/21 Regular Meeting

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 10/6/21 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

None.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Elderly Commission Re-Appointment

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint Susan DeScheen to the Elderly Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/24. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Selectman Heather Haney stated that Mrs. DeScheen is an asset to the commission and highly recommends her appointment.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Refunds

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$4,435.45, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 10/18/21, and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Grant Application for Vaill Property – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the submission of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Grant Application toward the purchase of the Vaill property located at 117 Good Hill Road, authorize the First Selectman to sign and hereby amend the Town's Capital Plan to include this purchase; all as presented and recommended by the Grant Writer Administrator in her letter dated 10/13/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple explained that by making this application the state will provide 40% of the purchase price. The balance would come from the Town's Land Acquisition Fund; which is a good use of these funds. It was stated that Grant Writer Administrator Helen Leung stated that she believes this is a wonderful opportunity for the town. First Selectman Temple stated that the appraisal cannot be made public at this time and pointed out that this is just the first step in the process.

3. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Grant Application for Rockhouse Adaptive Trail Network – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the submission of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Grant Application for the construction of the Rockhouse Adaptive Trail Network, authorize the First Selectman to sign and hereby amend the Town's Capital Plan to include this purchase; all as presented and recommended by the Grant Writer Administrator in her letter dated 10/13/21. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Grant Writer Administrator Helen Leung explained that the town saw an uptick in the use of our trails during COVID. However, it was mostly able-body users. The town is looking to develop more handicapped accessible trails. Will begin by developing a 1-mile trail that will be ADA compliant, with ADA compliant parking. Conservation Commissioner Joseph Lanier explained that this would be the first in the state.

First Selectman Temple has concerns about the trails being used by both bikes and handicapped hikers on same trails. First Selectman Temple thinks it is great that we have ADA trails available but the mixed use with bikes on same trails are a safety concern.

First Selectman George Temple stated that he does support this and thinks it is a great idea, but we need to tackle the safety concern. He will support this today but down the road, we need to figure out how to make these trails safe for handicapped hikers.

4. YCC Hiring Wage Clarification

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to clarify the motion made at the 10/6/21 Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding the hiring of the Youth Conservation Corp: The pay rate should be \$13.00 per hour, not \$12.00 per hour. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

5. Report of First Selectman:

Debate of all qualified candidates at Oxford Greens. First Selectman Temple stated so are that he will be there with Arnie and David McKane. So all qualified candidates will attend.

This weekend we have a football game at 6pm on Wolverine Field. First Seletman Temple said he will be there with Arnie.

Sunday is the Pancake breakfast at Riverside Fire Dept. First Selectman Temple said he will be attending and looking forward to it.

The Town received a report from Standard and Poors and it was fantastic. It said that the town's finances are phenomenal.

The Main St. sidewalk is being paid tomorrow. The sidewalk will be a great addition to the Town.

The Park and Rec Dept will be holding Tricker Trunk this year.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

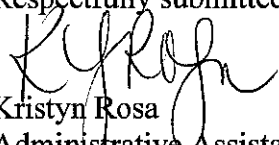
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Heather Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted by,


Kristyn Rosa
Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman

21 NOV 17 PM 4:49
TOWN OF OXFORD CT
Margaret A. Ullrich
TOWN CLERK