

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 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 7:31 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq., Selectman Arnold Jensen (Virtually), Selectman Dave McKane, Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman.

Absent: None

First Selectman George Temple welcomed Selectman Dave McKane.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 10/20/21 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to *table* the acceptance of the 10/20/21 Regular Meeting minutes. This was seconded by Dave McKane. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Riverside Fire Company 2022 Fire Chief Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to amend the agenda to add Riverside Fire Company 2022 Fire Chief Appointment as Item #4 under Appointments. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

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

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to amend the agenda to add Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Grant Resolution for Vaill Property – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign as Item #5 and move all Items down. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries

3. Re-Appointment Land Use Counsel

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to amend the agenda to add Re-Appoint Land Use Counsel as Item #15 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #16. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

4. Air Temp Mechanical Services Letter of Intent – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to amend the agenda to add Air Temp Mechanical Services Letter of Intent – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign and act upon the matter first. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. 3 Ayes. Motion carries

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple explained that this is the Letter of Intent which needs to be approved in order for the electric heat pump equipment modernization demonstration to be discussed with Eversource. Eversource will not talk to them without this Letter of Intent. It states that the town is interested in providing an HVAC system for the middle school. This does not bind the town to anything. Approval will be a collective decision of the board that will be made down the road.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to allow the First Selectman to sign the Air Temp Mechanical Services Letter of Intent dated 11/5/2021 which will give Air Temp permission to negotiate with Eversource on behalf of the Town of Oxford and to discuss incentives and grants to reduce costs for the town. This was seconded by Selectman McKane. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen expressed some concerns, with which were discussed. It was reiterated that by signing the Letter of Intent it does not bind the town to anything in anyway.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Housing Authority Re-Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to re-appoint Peter Aiksnoras to the Housing Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/25. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. Oxford Center Fire Company 2022 Chief Re-Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to re-appoint Scott Pelletier as Oxford Center Fire Company's 2022 Fire Chief as they presented in their letter dated 10/24/21. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. Water Pollution Control Authority Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to appoint Christopher DeAngelis to the Water Pollution Control Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/22; as presented and recommended in their letter dated 11/5/21. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

4. Riverside Fire Company 2022 Fire Chief Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to appoint Edwin Hellauer as Riverside Fire Company 2022 Fire Chief as presented in their letter dated 11/2/21. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$4,098.39 as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 11/10/21 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. **American Rescue Plan Humanities Grant for Libraries Application – Approve Submittal and Authorize Director of Municipal Library/Media Operations to Sign**

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the submittal of the American Rescue Plan Humanities Grant for Libraries Application by the Director of Municipal Library/Media Operations and authorize the Director of Municipal Library/Media Operations to sign said application; all as presented and recommended in her letter dated 11/10/21. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Robbie Costigan, Director of Municipal of Library/Media Operations, stated that this is for a grant from the American Rescue Plan Humanities Grant for Libraries. She continued to say that this is a federal grant. There are 200 recipients that are awarded \$10,000.00 each. If awarded this grant, it will be used to send out a postcard to every Oxford resident to survey what their needs are post COVID-19. Based upon their responses, the library will implement new humanities programs, sustain existing ones, and market programs as well. Postage for this will cost about \$2,500.00 for over 4,000 homes, with no cost to the town.

3. **Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Hazardous Mitigation Plan Update 2021 – 2026 Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the following Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Hazardous Mitigation Plan Update 2021 – 2026 Resolution and authorize the First Selectman to sign:

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE, 2021-2026

WHEREAS, the Town of Oxford has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those natural hazards profiled in the plan (e.g., *flooding, high wind, thunderstorms, winter storms, earthquakes, droughts, dam failure, and wildfires*), resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Oxford Board of Selectmen approved the previous version of the Plan in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oxford and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2021-2026 under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, public and committee meetings were held and public input was sought in 2020 and 2021 regarding the development and review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2021-2026; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedure for Oxford; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact Oxford, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make Oxford eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Selectmen:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Oxford;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021 by the Board of Selectmen of Oxford, Connecticut

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature and the corporate seal of Oxford this _____ day of _____, 2021.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes, Motion carries.

4. Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant Blanket Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the following Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant Blanket *Resolution* and authorize the First Selectman to sign; as presented by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 11/14/21:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that George R. Temple, as First Selectman of Oxford Board of Selectmen, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Oxford Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he/she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Helen Leung, Grant Writer, explained this just authorizes the First Selectman George Temple to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Oxford

Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he considers to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents. This must be done every year.

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

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the following Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Grant Resolution for Vaill Property located at 117 Good Hill Road and authorize the First Selectman to sign, as presented by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 11/17/21:

RESOLVED,, that George R. Temple is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Oxford any required documentation and signatures for the application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to acquire permanent interest in the land known as the Vaill Property as described above and if awarded to execute and sign any documentation required for the award and to manage said land as open space land pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dave T. Schreiber Memorial Fund will provide the Town of Oxford's required matching funds to acquire permanent interest in the land known as the Vaill Property as described above.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Helen Leung, Grant Writer, stated that this resolution was to approve the use of Dave T. Schreiber Memorial Fund to pay for the Town of Oxford's matching funds. Mrs. Leung continued to state that once DEEP received the application they will decide what percentage the town will receive; they do not give a fixed number ahead of time. This percentage is between forty to sixty-five percent. First Selectman George Temple added that this is in reference to open space that borders a piece of the town's property which borders on Lake Zoar. Mrs. Leung explained that the property is 200 acres. First Selectman Temple stated that the plan for this property is for it to be trails, campsites and things of that nature. It is a beautiful piece of property, and so is the town's property, and it is right up by Jackson Cove. It is going to be really great for everybody. Selectman Arnold Jensen asked Mrs. Leung how much money comes out of the Memorial Fund. It was stated that 60% of the purchase price.

6. Trinity Solar/Constantinou Peddler's Permit – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the Peddler's Permit for Trinity Solar/Jonathan Constantinou with the following stipulations:

- The Oxford Police Department must be notified daily, or each day you are soliciting, of the area in town where you will be soliciting along with the hours.
- No soliciting in neighborhoods where it clearly states "No Soliciting" such as, but not limited to, Oxford Green, Meadowbrook Estates, River Bend Estates.
- All peddlers must have identification badges.
- No soliciting on Sundays or Holidays.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple stated that this is the standard requirements for solicitation.

7. Trinity Solar/Ardito Peddler's Permit – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the Peddler's Permit for Trinity Solar/James Ardito with the following stipulations:

- The Oxford Police Department must be notified daily, or each day you are soliciting, of the area in town where you will be soliciting along with the hours.
- No soliciting in neighborhoods where it clearly states "No Soliciting" such as, but not limited to, Oxford Green, Meadowbrook Estates, River Bend Estates.
- All peddlers must have identification badges.
- No soliciting on Sundays or Holidays.

This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple stated that this is boiler plate for requirements.

8. Cultural Arts Commission Budget – Re-Instate or Appropriate Funding

DISCUSSION:

Cynthia Soucy, Cultural Arts Commission Chairman, explained that this is a request for reinstatement of the Cultural Arts funding to the amount of \$6,4070.00.

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to *table* this matter at this time. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

9. FY 2021 – 2022 Transfer Requests

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to approve the FY 2021 – 2022 transfer requests (Attachment A) as presented by the Finance Director in his letter dated 11/17/21. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Jim Hliva, Finance Director, explained the items in Attachment A.

10. Designate Acting First Selectman

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to designate Arnold Jensen as the Acting First Selectman, in the absence of the sitting First Selectman, commencing immediately and expiring on 11/21/23. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 2 Ayes, Selectman Arnold Jensen abstained. Motion carries.

11. Re-Appointment Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to re-appoint Kristyn Rosa as the Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/21/23. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple stated he is very happy with the job Kristyn Rosa does.

12. Re-Appoint Town Counsel

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to re-appoint Attorney Kevin Condon, of Condon & Savitt, P.C., as Town Counsel with a term to commence immediately and expire 11/21/23 at a rate of \$180.00 per hour. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

13. Re-Appoint Town Engineer

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to re-appoint Brian Nesteriak P.E., L.S., of B&B Engineering in Seymour, as the Town Engineer, with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/21/23, at a pay rate of \$85.50 per hour. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

Brian Nesteriak, of B&B Engineering in Seymour, stated he is honored to be here.

14. Re-Appoint Land Use Engineer

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to re-appoint Jim Galligan, P.E., of Nafis & Young Engineers, Inc. in Northford, as the Land Use Engineer, with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/21/23, at a pay rate of \$85.00 per hour. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple exclaimed that he is very happy with the job they have been doing and had not seen any reason to make a change.

15. Re-Appointment Land Use Counsel

MOTION:

Selectman Dave McKane moved to re-appoint Attorney Kevin McSherry, of Naugatuck, as Land Use Counsel with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/21/23 at a pay rate of \$190.00 per hour. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

DISCUSSION:

First Selectman George Temple stated he is very impressed with the job that Attorney McSherry is doing.

16. Report of First Selectman

- Welcome Dave McKane and Arnold Jensen as well and congratulations to everyone newly and reelected.
- Last Saturday was Past Captain's Night which was held at Quaker Farms Fire Department. It was done very nicely. Congratulations to all the new officers at all of the fire departments.
- A Forum was had with the Oxford Police Sergeants regarding enforcement. Much conversation was had over the unfortunate incident at Market 32, which was traumatic for everyone. The Forum went very well and it was great to see the town show such a great interest in our police. As a town, we highly support our police and they know that. That is a great feeling and it is something to not take for granted these days.
- Parks & Recreation's Tree Lighting Ceremony will be Friday, December 3, 2021. Be sure to save the date!
- The town is doing really well with regards to COVID-19.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

- Mr. Peter Petrochko, of 370 Quaker Farms Road, stated he feels saving open space is crucial, and continued to stressed his view points of the benefits of that. He also stated that the letter for the grant application was being fine-tuned and will be submitted to Grant Writer Helen Leung. Mr. Petrochko thanked the board.
- Mr. Jim Sanders, of 43 Belinsky Circle, who is a member of the Oxford Land Trust and the founder of Oxford Connecticut Hiking, spoke in favor of the Vaill Property. He looks forward to working with the Land Trust to get trails going there.
- Mr. John Downs, of 666 Roosevelt Drive, wanted to point out that nothing has changed at the cell tower on Coppermine Road and it still looks like a dump.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Minutes subject to approval

Respectfully Submitted,



Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks
Clerk, Board of Selectman

21 NOV 24 AM 11:22
TOWN OF EXETER, CT
Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks
TOWN CLERK