

# Minutes

## Board of Selectmen's

### Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 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 7:34 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq., Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman David McKane, Kristyn Rosa, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**1. 2/22/22 Special Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 2/22/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. First Selectman George Temple abstained. 2 Ayes. Motion carries.

**2. 2/28/22 Special Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 2/28/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. First Selectman George Temple abstained. 2 Ayes. Motion carries.

**3. 3/2/22 Special Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/2/22 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**4. 3/2/22 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/2/22 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**1. Riverside Fire Company, Inc. Additional 2022 Fire Police**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Rick Schaer as a 2022 Fire Police for Riverside Fire Company as presented and recommended in their letter dated 3/8/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries,

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Tax Refunds**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$10,227.74, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 3/1/22 and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Discussion was had that this was previously tabled due to more information was required on two of the larger items, which has been received.

**2. Civil 1 Proposal for Center School Park – Approve and Authorize Submittal**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the quote from Civil 1 Engineers, in the amount of \$9,900.00 to be taken from the ARPA funding, for the engineering plans for the regrading of the proposed Center School Park and authorize the submittal of the application and plans for the Land Use permitting process. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. 2 Ayes, 1 Nay (D. McKane). Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Jeff Luff, Economic Development Director explained that exact plans will be had and this will be monitored by Jeff himself, Town Engineer Brian Nesteriak and Civil 1. Discussion was had that this is step one, getting the space cleared and opening up the area between town hall and the new town building as well as opening up the pond access. Selectman David McKane expressed his concerns and confirmed that he does not support this.

**3. Water Pollution Control Towner Lane Force Main, Nafis & Young Engineers Proposal – Approve and Authorize the First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to table this matter at this time. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**MOTION:**

First Selectman George Temple moved to approve the proposal from Nafis & Young dated 2/24/22, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.00 (\$35,000.00 for engineering and bidding documents for the construction of the force main and \$5,000.00 for the approvals of an 8-24 referral and wetlands permits), for the repair of the Towner Lane Force Main; as approved and recommended by the Water Pollution Control Authority Chairman in his letter dated 2/28/22 and to send this matter to the Board of Finance for their consideration to fund this item by the Board of Finance Contingency. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

It was discussed which avenue this will need to be funded, and how it may not be an emergency to do right now, but it is deteriorating and is going to break again. It is best to be prepared to do it.

4. **First Amendment to Joint Agreement Between Oxford Ambulance Association, Town of Oxford, Griffin Hospital and Valley Medical Emergency Services – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the First Amendment to Joint Agreement Between the Oxford Ambulance Association, Town of Oxford, Griffin Hospital and Valley Medical Emergency Services and to authorize the First Selectman to sign said Agreement. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

5. **Community Support Committee Application for Riverside Fire Company Refrigerator – Approve**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support Committee's application for Riverside Fire Company for the replacement of their refrigerator in the amount of \$3,198.04; as presented and approved by the Community Support Committee at their meeting held on 3/10/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Vincent Recine of the Riverside Fire Company discussed how the refrigerator is unserviceable and how it is necessary for their events. He went on to state that they did indeed shop around and the one presented is in stock and available for pickup; it has a two-year warranty.

6. **Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Program Consultant for Housing Rehabilitation Program – Award Bid and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to award the Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Program Consultant for Housing Rehabilitation Program to A&E Service Group, LLC, for an hourly rate of \$75-\$120, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the contract; as presented and recommended by the Grant Administrator & Writer in her letter dated 3/14/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

Helen Leung, Grant Writer, explained that of the three applicants A&E Service Group, LLC has over thirty years of experience, and specifically with this program. First

Selectman George Temple expressed his thanks to Mrs. Leung and stated that she did a good job on this.

**7. Lawn & Fields Maintenance Contract – Award Bid**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to award the Town's Lawn & Athletics Fields Maintenance Contract to Nature's Edge in an amount not to exceed \$292,900.00 for a one-year contract with the option for two additional years; as presented and recommended by the Oxford Parks & Recreation Commission in their letter dated 3/10/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

It was discussed that this was the best choice, despite being the higher bid. Nature's Edge has great reviews of the work they have done for the town, which they have done for the past three years. They are a local business which is always nice to be able to support. The lower bidders had some extra costs in their contracts that were not clear, and with costs of transportation, fuel and equipment inevitably going up this is the best most secure choice.

**8. Hire Senior Assessor's Clerk**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to hire Kevin Murowsky as the Senior Assessor's Clerk at a pay rate of \$25.25 per hour (Step 1) for 32 hours per week with a start date of 3/7/22. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION:**

It was discussed that Mr. Murowsky was absolutely the best applicant of all that were interviewed. He had the most qualifications and is willing to go out in the field which is a great help to the town assessor. He was previously certified to be an assessor. Although the certification has lapsed, he has already begun the process for recertification. All who were present for the interviews, it agreed Mr. Murowsky was the best choice.

**9. Report of First Selectman**

- Oxford Library received \$10,000 from the American Library Association and Rescue plan. Huge congratulations to Robbi Costigan, the Director of Municipal Library/Media Operations, for all the great work that she does, now and during Covid times. With the efforts put in by her and her staff they were able to keep in the forefront. Operating short staffed for almost two years and still keeping operating expenses down.

- The Ukrainian flag is hung at the old Center School to support Ukraine during this crisis. It is there for many reasons, some personal even. Despite some criticisms, we are not Anti-Russian but pro-American with compassion for all peoples.
- The digital fingerprint machine that the town was going to have to pay \$10,000 for is being given to the town as part of a grant through the State Police.

### AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Stephen C. Brown, of 8 Bonnie Lane, presented a plan to support and help the recovery of the local family farms in Oxford and to address food insecurity as a lingering impact from the pandemic. Mr. Brown's request was to allocate the amount of \$50,000.00 of the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Oxford family farms and local food banks. The monies would be used to recover from lost sales, as well as to assist them in increasing local customer engagement through technological enhancement/upgrades and through direct or indirect participation with the food banks. Mr. Brown went on to explain how the monies could be allocated and the details of how the plan would lay out, involving grants and shares. The three main goals are to help the local farms as mentioned above, help Oxford residents, who are food insecure, to have access to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as to strengthen the Oxford agricultural community as a whole; ensuring continued service to Oxford and the health of its townsfolk.

John Downs, of 666 Roosevelt Drive, pointed out that the cell tower looks worse than ever, despite his letters to have it addressed. First Selectman George Temple made plans to go to the site and assess what can be done to resolve this.

### ADJOURNMENT

#### MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks*

Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks  
Clerk, Board of Selectman

Board Of Selectman Regular Meeting – March 15, 2022

22 MAR 23 PM 12:41  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
Shannon-Lee Scott Hicks  
TOWN CLERK