



TOWN OF OXFORD

S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall
486 Oxford Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478-1298

First Selectman George Temple

Selectman Arnold Jensen

Selectman David McKane

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

Thursday, February 28, 2023

Oxford Town Hall – 1:00 P.M.

First Selectman Temple opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Arnold Jensen, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Kristyn Rosa, Finance Director Jim Hliva

Absent: Selectman Dave McKane

Director of Public Works Wayne Watt presented the Public Works Department budget. Mr. Watt explained he was asking for another utility man. Originally there were 13 public works utility men positions. However, he is down to 12. Ideally, he would like to fill the open position that is already in the budget and hire one more, allowing the department to have 14 utility men on staff.

Selectman Jensen asked about the increase in the Public Works Secretary's salary. Mr. Watt explained the UPSEU union, which represents this position, had just settled their contract, and he adjusted the wages accordingly.

Parks and Recreation Director Kyra Nesteriak presented the Parks and Recreation budget. Selectman Jensen asked about the 20% increase in the part-time seasonal line item. Ms. Nesteriak explained that her budget includes the maintenance of the fields. She explained that the minimum wage increases to \$15.00 an hour starting June 1st. This impacts all lifeguards

and counselors, which is most of her staff. Selectman Jensen stated that this increase is only 7%, not 20%. Selectman Temple asked about camp fees. She explained that the counselors are paid out of the general fund, and the camp fees pay for the camp activities.

Selectman Jensen asked Ms. Nesteriak why the request for regular programs went from \$8,000.00 to \$20,000.00. She explained that First Selectman Temple asked her to take on the "Cheer For Oxford" event. Ms. Nesteriak feels the increase of \$12,000.00 is a very conservative amount. This covers fireworks, bands, pony rides, porta-potties, and hand-washing stations. This event does not generate any revenue. The food trucks are there for pure profit.

Facilities maintenance line item almost doubled from \$7,000.00 to \$12,000.00. Ms. Nesteriak explained this was due to the water bills. Eastern Water must service Posy Panko Park, Aggie Park, and Jackson Cove. At Posy Panko, Babe Ruth used to pay that bill. They didn't feel they should pay for it anymore because it is a Town building, and Parks and Rec also use it. Ms. Nesteriak disputed the fact that the Parks and Rec do not use the kitchen facilities. She also checked with Eastern water and found that all the maintenance and testing would cost the same, and splitting the bill didn't make a difference. The commission agreed to start paying the bill because it is a town facility and town property. Babe Ruth makes a lot of improvements on the fields for free. Ms. Nesteriak stated that it is a State requirement to test the water; Eastern Water also opens and closes the facilities yearly. First Selectman Temple indicated that it might be cheaper to put porta potties in.

Selectman Jensen stated that the contracted services line item went from \$7,000.00 to \$18,000.00. Ms. Nesteriak explained that the porta-potty price had increased. She also said that she went from 14 units to 17 units. The Three additional units are from Pop Warner. They were just doing it to be nice. No other league pays for porta potties, so we also started providing them to Pop Warner. Potties are available for eight months out of the year.

Fire Chief Scott Pelletier, Assistant Chief Dan Gramigna, and Assistant Chief Ed Hellauer presented the Fire/Civil Defense budgets.

First Selectman Temple explained that part of the increase in the Fire Department budget is the Fire Marshall/Fire Dept. Clerk and the other part is education.

Chief Pelletier explained that Marni is a huge asset to the Fire Departments. She spends half her time in the Fire Chiefs Department and half in the Fire Marshall Department. She has also been instrumental in helping to make the change over to the new Fire Department computer program. She is the one that knows the most about our current program.

Fire Chief Pelletier explained that the increase in training is due to the fact that we no longer have the Valley Fire School; they now have to travel for the required annual burn training. Traveling to the Annual burn is not working. People tend to avoid attending. Therefore, we hold the training here in Oxford. A company comes to us and provides a full training day of training.

They also bring in a trailer to perform a live burn. This meets our OSHA requirements and allows all firefighters to stay local for training.

The increase in facility maintenance was discussed. Chief Pelletier explained that in the past, the firefighters cleaned the firehouses. As the members are getting older, the time has come to have someone take care of that for us. They are hoping to pay an outside contractor to do the cleaning.

Sgt Roman Gray and Sgt Keith Buinasuskas presented the Oxford Police Department budget. Selectman Jensen inquired about the increase in the clerk line item. Sgt Gray explained that the work is increasing, and having a clerk in the office twice a week would be helpful.

Selectman Jensen asked Sgt Gray to explain the increase in overtime. He explained that there is Red Flag Law that they must follow, which is adding to the increase in overtime.

Sgt Gray also explained an increase in the system maintenance line item. This increase is because the modems had to be replaced in the police cars. This replacement was a requirement of the State.

State Trooper overtime line item increased due to the State Police union contract that was recently settled. In this new contract, the salaries of the State Police officers were increased.

The officers' education line item increased due to a new law. We are sending the officers to POST University to keep up with their certifications rather than paying for individual classes. In the long run, it will save the town money.

Animal Control Officer Jason McLain presented the budget. There were no significant increases in the budget this year.

Director of Library Services, Robbi Costigan, presented the Oxford Library's budget. Ms. Costigan explained that most of the increase is due to salaries. The UPSEU union contract was finally settled. The Circulation Librarian works 40 hours at the top step pay rate. The part-time line item increases due to the minimum wage increase from \$14.00 to \$15.00 per hour. Ms. Costigan is looking to hire a tech person this year. The telephone line item, which includes the internet, now fiber optic, was paid for through a grant. Unfortunately, the grant is no longer paying it.

Senior Center Director Heather Haney presented the Senior Center budget. First Selectman Temple asked about the \$500.00 for education. Ms. Haney explained that this was for CPR certification. She hires an outside company that comes to the Senior Center.


First Selectman Temple asked about the transportation drivers. He is concerned about having five drivers when the center is transporting less than ten trips daily. Ms. Haney explained that sometimes three drivers are on the road simultaneously. Therefore, at least three drivers are needed to be able to coordinate the schedules. Ms. Haney discussed some of the upcoming trips the center is holding this year and how the trips generate money.

Adjournment:

Selectman Arnold Jensen made a motion to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. First Selectman Temple seconded the motion. All 2 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,


Kristyn Rosa

TOWN OF OXFORD, CT

TOWN CLERK

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