

**Minutes  
Board of Selectmen's  
Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
7:30 PM - Town Hall**

The Board of Selectmen's meeting was held in the Main Meeting Room at Oxford Town Hall on January 17, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Attendance:**

First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Arnold Jensen, Selectman David McKane, Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**1. 1/03/24 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 1/03/24 Special Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**1. Cultural Arts Commission Appointment**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to re-appoint Adriene Radcliffe to the Cultural Arts Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/26. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

**Discussion:**

First Selectman Temple stated that Adriene does a great job, and he supports this appointment.

**2. Housing Authority Appointment**

**MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Mary Jane Calladio to the Housing Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/2026. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple explained that Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa recommended a new appointment to the Housing Authority. Mrs. Rosa had discussed the Authority's need for more members with Ms. Calladio, a Crestview Senior Housing apartments resident who expressed her interest in getting more involved in the town. Mrs. Rosa believed Ms. Calladio would be a valuable addition to the Authority.

Mr. Temple mentioned that Ms. Calladio is a Republican and has recently been appointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals and nominated to join the Oxford Republican Town Committee. Mr. Temple supports this appointment and welcomes Ms. Calladio to the Housing Authority.

First Selectman Temple also emphasized the importance of having Democratic representation on the Authority and encouraged interested individuals to submit an appointment request.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Honor Molly Clifford for CIAC All-State Swim and Dive, Academic All-State Honors.**

The Oxford High School's swim team senior, Molly Clifford, was awarded a certificate and a Town of Oxford coin by the Board of Selectmen to acknowledge her exceptional achievements. She received both the CIAC All-State Swim and Dive and Academic All-State Honors. During the presentation, First Selectman Temple expressed how proud they were of Molly's outstanding accomplishments and how much they value her as an Oxford resident. Molly, keep up the great work!

### **2. Tax Refunds**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$10,993.30, as presented by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 1/16/24, and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple asked both Selectmen if they had any questions about the tax refunds. Selectmen Arnold Jensen and David McKane confirmed they reviewed the refunds and found them satisfactory. Selectman Arnold Jensen expressed his satisfaction with the explanation provided by Tax Collector Helen Leung prior to the meeting and stated that he had no further questions.

### **3. FY 2023 – 2024 Transfer Requests**

#### **MOTION:**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the FY 2023 – 2024 transfer requests (Attachment A) as presented by the Finance Director in his letter dated 1/16/24. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

#### **Discussion:**

First Selectman Temple asked Finance Director Jim Hliva for an explanation of the transfers. Mr. Hliva explained that the transfers were items that were not budgeted or budgeted incorrectly up to the current operations. Mr. Hliva provided an example of the first transfer for Bundle Billing. He explained that the Oxford Ambulance is facing a problem with paying Bundle Billing due to budget cuts made by the Board of Finance. During the budget process, the line item for Budget Billing was reduced from \$34,000.00 to \$17,000.00. Madelene Taggart, the Director of Oxford Ambulance, was asked by the Board of Finance to negotiate with Griffin Hospital to pay the remaining 50%. Unfortunately, the hospital refused, which puts Ms. Taggart in a difficult situation because, without bundle billing, residents will have to pay \$800 for paramedic service. First Selectman Temple expressed concern that some people might not call for an ambulance due to unaffordable fees.

Selectman Arnold Jensen pointed out that the most significant transfer is for the sewer line repairs on Towner Lane, which is for emergency repairs. He also mentioned that another significant transfer is for the engineering of the Chestnut Tree Hill Road Grant, which required spending \$46,000 on engineering, but the Town received an \$8 million grant.

Finance Director Jim Hliva explained that if the Board of Selectmen approves the transfers tonight, they would all be forwarded to the Board of Finance for approval.

First Selectman Temple and Selectman Arnold Jensen stated they are in full support of the transfers and strongly urge the Board of Finance to endorse them as well.

#### **4. Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee – Town Annex Building Improvements Discussion**

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to *table* this matter. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

### **5. Report of First Selectman**

First Selectman Temple stated that he attended the Riverside Fire Department's Holiday Party on Saturday. There was great food, especially the cupcakes. It was nice to spend time with a great group of people!

A Blood Drive was held today at the Municipal Annex Building, and there was a great turnout. However, there is a nationwide shortage of blood. The Town of Oxford is doing everything it can to support the American Red Cross Blood Drives, but First Selectman Temple urges everyone who is able to donate to do so.

Good news for the residents of the town of Oxford! The 2023 Grand List has just been completed, and it's gone up by 2.4% from last year! It's always great to see growth and progress in our community.

Don't forget that the deadline for supplemental taxes is coming up on February 1st. To avoid late fees, make sure to pay before the due date.

We have had a lot of rain and snow lately. The Center Fire House has flooded due to the heavy rain. However, the Public Works department has been doing an excellent job cleaning up the affected areas in town and has also been assisting with the flood at Center. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of the team of workers!

First Selectman Temple explained that we are having this flooding issue with Kirks Pond because the Firehouse was built in wetlands back in the day. Selectman David McKane stated that when they rebuilt Kirk's pond, it was engineered incorrectly. It should have been made higher to avoid this flooding issue.

Exciting news! Oxford will be hosting the Cal Ripken National Playoffs this year at Posypanko Park in July. This event will bring national recognition to the town. Mr. Temple has assured us that he will work with the police department to ensure smooth parking logistics during the event.

Several Oxford police officers and a New Canaan detective will be honored at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. They will be recognized for their professionalism and good work in diffusing a terrible situation that arose, thanks to the excellent work of our police officers and the CT State Police SWAT team. We are fortunate to have well-trained and experienced officers in town. First Selectman Temple faced criticism for not issuing a Code Red to warn residents during the situation. He decided against it because it could have caused unnecessary panic among the residents, and some curious people might have been tempted to visit the site, which could have made the situation worse. The police handled the situation well, and the outcome was positive.

### **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

Amy Sarris, a resident of 120 Freeman Road, spoke before the Board of Selectmen on November 15th to address her concerns about funding school projects in the 2016 facilities studies. She pointed out that millions of dollars in projects still needed to be completed. However, when Ms. Sarris reviewed the meeting minutes, she found that they contained an error—the minutes stated that the money had already been spent on these projects, which was not what she had said. Ms. Sarris asked for guidance on how to update the minutes to reflect what she had said.

First Selectman Temple sought clarification from Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa about why the minutes were incorrect. Ms. Rosa was unsure and said that she would need to investigate. Mr. Temple apologized to Ms. Sarris for the error and thanked her for bringing it to his attention. He promised to make the necessary corrections to the minutes. Ms. Sarris agreed to email Ms. Rosa with the corrections needed to update the minutes and ensure they accurately reflected what was discussed during the meeting.

### ADJOURNMENT

### MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane, All 3 Ayes Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Kristyn Rosa*

Kristyn Rosa  
Administrative Assistant  
Office of the First Selectman

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