

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
7:30 PM - Town Hall

First Selectman George Temple opened the meeting at 7:34 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Arnold Jenson, Selectman Dave McKane and Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman Kristyn Rosa.

Acceptance of Minutes

1. **2/7/24 Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jenson moved to approve the 2/7/24 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Amendment of Agenda

None.

Appointments

None.

New Business

1. **Honor Police Officers**

The Board of Selectmen honored several local police officers and the New Canaan Police Lieutenant, also an Oxford resident, for their exceptional teamwork in addressing a recent challenging incident.

Ct. State Police Resident Trooper Sergeant Roman Gray
Oxford Sergeant Anthony Cipriano
Oxford Officer Ryan Hooper
Oxford Officer Michael Dyki
Oxford Officer Matthew Cosmos
Oxford Officer Darren Pavlik
Oxford Officer Luke Ramirez
New Canaan Lt. John Milligan

First Selectman Temple expressed his sincere pride and gratitude for the officers' exceptional bravery and unwavering dedication during the recent incident. Their outstanding performance is a testament to their professionalism and commitment to ensuring the safety of our community.

2. Registrars of Voters Early Voting Expenses – Discuss with Possible Action

Discussion:

Registrars Linda Crowe and Ellen Fox explained the increased costs and that their office is incurring due to the new State requirements regarding Early Voting.

MOTION:

Selectman David McKane moved to provide the registrar with an additional \$7,300.00 to be taken from the Board of Finance Contingency. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

3. Oxford Babe Ruth Community Support Committee Application for Posypanko Park Concession Stand Improvements.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support Committee Application, in the amount of \$20,833.00, for Oxford Babe Ruth's Posypanko Park Concession Stand upgrade of the cooking hood and Ansel Fire Suppression, as approved by the Community Support Committee at their meeting held on 2/15/24. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Mr. Glen Schumitz explained that the fire suppression and exhaust systems in the concession stand at the Posypanko Park are original and need replacement. There is also electrical work that must be done. Mr Schumitz expressed that the committee unanimously voted to support this project.

4. Oxford Soccer League Community Support Committee Application for New Goals and Storage Shed

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Community Support Committee Application, in the amount of \$6,600.00, for Oxford Soccer League for new goals and storage shed, as approved by the Community Support Committee at their meeting held on 2/15/24. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Mr. Glen Schmitz, from the Community Support Committee, explained that the Oxford Soccer League had applied for funding in 2018 to purchase a shed and goals. Although their application was approved, the funds were never allocated to them. The league is now ready to purchase, so they have resubmitted the application.

5. Cultural Arts Commission Family Spring Fair Event – Discuss

Discussion:

Chairwoman Cynthia Soucy thanked the Selectmen for supporting the grants the Cultural Arts Commission received. Ms Soucy also thanked the former Grant Writer Helen Leung and current Grant Writer Karen Cooke for their assistance in writing the grant applications.

Commission member Adriene Radcliff and Destiny presented their ideas for a Family Spring Festival at the Oxford Town Hall grounds this May.

First Selectman Temple said he likes new ideas. He feels they should try it as it would be a fun family event. Selectman David McKane stated that they should be cautious not to plan it on a weekend when another event is scheduled. First Selectman Temple noted that running the festival with the Fishing Rodeo may be suitable. The commission members said they would not oppose that, but maybe next year. They would like to do it themselves this year since the date is quickly approaching.

6. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to remove this matter from the table. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$14,210.89, as presented by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 2/5/24, and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

All Selectmen had an opportunity to review the refunds and had no further questions.

7. Hire Board Clerks

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jenson moved to hire Mary Jane Calladio as a Board Clerk at a pay rate of \$17.05 per hour and a start date of Monday, February 26, 2024. This was seconded by Selectman Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion:

Administrative Assistant Kristyn Rosa mentioned that there are no recording clerks for the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. Ms. Calladio expressed interest in taking on this role. Ms. Calladio already serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals and works in the St. Thomas Church office. Mrs. Rosa is confident that Ms. Calladio will do a good job.

8. Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee – Town Annex Building Improvements Discussion

During the meeting, Chairman Jeff Luff and Vice Chairwoman Mary Beth Nelsen proposed some ideas to use the ARPA funds to enhance the Oxford Center Municipal Annex Building. However, First Selectman Temple requested more time to review these suggestions. He also asked for more specific and written numbers without making it too formal. Additionally, Mr. Temple suggested setting priorities for the project.

Mr. Temple stated that he appreciated the hard work of committee members but wanted to understand the numbers better before committing to the recommendations. Going forward, the Oxford Space and ARPA Funds Advisory Committee will act as the building committee for this project. Mr. Temple expressed his desire for the committee to continue working together and see the project through.

9. Report of First Selectman

- First Selectman Temple explained that tomorrow, the Board of Selectmen will meet with all department heads to review and discuss their proposed budgets. He stated that this allows us to make any necessary budget changes before the Board of Selectmen approves them at a regular meeting.
- First Selectman Temple stated that he and Economic Development Director Jeff Luff met with a plastic company looking to relocate to the Industrial Zone in Oxford. They would build a 75,000-square-foot – 100,000-square-foot facility employing approximately 160 employees.

Audience of Citizens:

Brett Olbrys, a resident of 17 Apple Drive, agrees that having a community center would benefit the town. However, he explained that the town would not lose the money if the Board of Selectmen decided not to proceed with tonight's ARPA fund proposal. The ARPA funds could be spent on other town projects apart from renovating the Annex building.

Mr. Peter Zbras of 26 Autumn Ridge Road informed the board that there is an excellent free program called STOP BLEED, which offers to send a volunteer to the schools to teach the students how to stop someone from bleeding in case of an accident. He believes that our students could greatly benefit from learning this life-saving technique.

Mr. Peter Zbras expressed his concern about a project to install audio-visual equipment in the main meeting room of Town Hall that he supported some time ago. He mentioned that the project still needs funding. First Selectman Temple acknowledged the issue and agreed that the acoustics in the room need to be addressed. To address the matter, Mr. Temple instructed Mr. Zbras to put the request on the agenda of the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Ms. Karen Delfino, who resides at 12 Autumn Ridge Road, explained that at the last meeting, it was stated that the Board of Education should have used its million-dollar surplus to replace the pool pack. Ms. Delfino wanted to clarify that the Board of Education can't use the surplus; they can only return it to the Town. First Selectman Temple stated that he fully agreed with her; they should have returned the money to the Town rather than spent it as they did.

Mrs. Delfino explained that she was coming to the Town as a concerned parent and expressed her concern that replacing the pool pack is critical.

First Selectman Temple said that the Board of Selectmen would work with the Board of Education when they present a valid and thought-out estimate for the replacement cost of the pool pack. Mrs. Delfino also mentioned that the Town has funds, such as the ARPA funds, that we could use towards repairs like the pool pack instead of putting money into a 70-year-old building.

Mr. Jeff Luff, Chairman of the Oxford Space & ARPA Funds Advisory Committee, explained to the audience that the ARPA funds given to the Town cannot be spent on funding any Board of Education projects. Mr. Luff said that the Board of Education received their own ARPA funds in the amount of \$553,000.00.

Amy Sarris, who lives at 120 Freeman Road, has raised concerns about two projects removed from the budget after a meeting she attended last spring. According to Ms. Sarris, she was under

the impression that the Roof at Great Oak Middle School and the Oxford High School pool pack would both be bonded.

First Selectman Temple explained the process and requirements for issuing bonds. Additionally, he reiterated what Capital Plan requests entail and outlined the process and requirements for moving a capital plan request forward.

Michelle Hite from 84 Old Church Road thanked the board for supporting the girls' Little League. Ms. Hite was also happy the board inquired about the conditions of the fields at Aggie Park, which need attention.

Ms. Hite also wanted to understand the community center's ultimate purpose and the yearly cost, as it may create a considerable expense for the upkeep. Ms Hite wanted to know if there will be an assessment of everything that needs to be done in Town to determine the best need for the ARPA funds.

First, Selectman Temple explained he had attended several community meetings to discuss the allocation of ARPA funds. While some of the proposed ideas were impractical, there were plenty of practical suggestions. Mr. Temple's vision is to create a recreational space for children interested in activities other than organized sports. He suggested that the space could be used for art, skateboarding, and cooking lessons, among other things.

Ms. Carole Cass, resident of 707 Championship Drive, expressed her support for a community center in the town, stating that it was much needed. First Selectman Temple thanked Ms. Cass for her input and observation.

Adjournment

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 PM. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristyn Rosa

Kristyn Rosa
Administrative Assistant
Office of the First Selectman

TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Amelia Hill
TOWN CLERK

2024 MAR -5 P 4:15