

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

7:30 PM - Town Hall

First Selectman George Temple opened the meeting at 7:31 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 3/6/24 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/6/24 Regular Meeting minutes. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

2. 3/6/24 Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/6/24 Special Meeting (4:00 PM) minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

3. 3/6/24 Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/6/24 Special Meeting (6:00 PM) minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Affordable Housing Plan Services Agreement

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add the Affordable Housing Plan Services Agreement as Item #7 and move the Report of First Selectman to Item #8. This was seconded by This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Diamond Rosa to the Planning & Zoning Commission as a regular member with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/16/27. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ride For Hope Charity Motorcycle Ride – Approve Use of Roads

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the use of Route 67 and Route 188 through the Town of Oxford on Sunday, June 2, 2024, between 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM, for the 12th Annual Ride for Hope Charity Motorcycle Ride and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Application for Special Use Permit. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple stated that the event is held annually for a good cause and has never caused any issues. As such, all Selectman supported the request to use the roadways.

2. Municipal Agent – Amend Motion to Appoint for Two-Year Term

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to rescind the motion made on 10/4/23 regarding hiring a Municipal Agent. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple explained that Mrs. Arburr should have been appointed rather than hired. This is only a correction.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Sandra Arburr as the Municipal Agent with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/25 with an annual salary of \$11,000.00. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

3. Fire Fighters Certified 2023 Tax Abatements – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Fire Fighters 2023 Tax Abatements (Attachment A) as presented and recommended by the Board of Fire Chiefs in their letter dated 3/18/24. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple voiced his support for Fire Fighter Tax Abatements, stating that it is governed by State Statute.

4. Planning & Zoning Commission Appropriation Request for Audio/Visual Equipment – Review and Consider

Discussion/Review & Consider:

Mr. Peter Zbras, a Planning and Zoning Commission member, stressed the importance of installing audio/visual equipment in the town hall meeting room. Mr. Zbras explained that this equipment would enable the in-person and virtual audience to hear and see the vital information discussed during meetings.

Although Planning and Zoning requested funding for this project in the capital budget, Mr. Zbras requested that the Board of Selectmen consider funding the project from the current budget.

Furthermore, Mr. Zbras noted that the installation of the equipment is not only crucial for improving communication but also for safety reasons. Wires and extension cords run throughout the room, posing a tripping hazard.

First Selectman Temple agreed with Mr. Zbras and thanked him for his diligence and perseverance in seeing this project through. Mr. Temple suggests paying for this project out of the fund balance and starting the project as soon as possible. This matter will be sent to the Board of Finance for action.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the purchase of audio/visual equipment, in the amount of not to exceed \$35,000.00, to be taken from surplus as outlined in their Estimate No. 1115 dated 2/1/24, as presented and recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission in their letter dated 3/6/24. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance for action. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

5. Oxford Softball Little League Community Support Committee's Application for Improvements to Aggie Park Field

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Oxford Softball Little League Community Support Committee's application in the amount of \$22,240.00 for improvements to Agnes Tetlak Field; as approved at the Community Support Committee's meeting on 3/20/24.

This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

Glenn Schumitz, the Chairman of the Community Support Committee, recently explained that the Softball fields at Tetlak Park need some additional maintenance work. Due to weather conditions and the aging of the fields, the infields have sunk and now require some additional clay to be brought in so that the fields can be restored to their normal levels. All Selectmen have voiced their support for this request, as they believe these funds should be used for this purpose.

6. Financial Corrective Action Finding - Approve - Tabled

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to table the Financial Corrective Action Finding Reference #2021-01 as required by Public Act 23-197. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

7. Affordable Housing Plan Services Agreement

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the agreement with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for technical services related to creating the Town of Oxford's Affordable Housing Plan. The agreement entails \$13,000, with \$5,000 to be paid from the Selectman's current budget and the remaining \$8,000 from the Finance Contingency fund. The proposal will be sent to the Board of Finance for further action. This also authorizes the First Selectman to sign the Uniform Service Agreement. Selectman David McKane seconded the proposal, and it was approved unanimously. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carried.

Discussion:

During the meeting, First Selectman George Temple emphasized the need to hire a planner who can assist in creating an Affordable Housing Plan for the town. Selectman Arnold Jensen raised concerns regarding the payment timeline. He suggested that it should be associated with a work schedule so that the town is fully aware of what to expect before making any payment. Additionally, Mr. Jensen expressed his reservations about creating a survey, as he believes that the questions asked in the study can influence the answers.

8. Report of First Selectman

- Last week, we had the Annual Capital Plan Meeting.
- Kristyn and I attended the annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon at the Senior Center last Thursday. Mattei's catered the food, which was delicious. The event was well-attended.
- On Monday, we held a public hearing for the Chestnut Tree Hill Road reconstruction project. This meeting was just the beginning of many meetings and discussions about the project.
- The Parks and Recreation Department and Commission will hold its Annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday. The hunt starts at 11:00 a.m. for Pre-K and 11:30 a.m. for kindergarten, first, and second graders. Donations of non-perishable food items to our local food bank will be appreciated.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:

Mr. Josh Dykstra, who lives at 221 Park Road, and Mrs. Sarah Locke, who lives at 97 Bowers Hill Road, expressed their support for hiring a planner for the Affordable Housing Plan.

Mrs. Amy Sarris, residing at 120 Freeman Road, expressed her support for the 2024-2025 Board of Education budget. She hopes the Board of Selectmen will also support the budget and encourages them to do so.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 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

2024 MAR 22 A 11:22
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
David McKane