

Minutes

Board of Selectmen's

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:30 PM - Town Hall

The Board of Selectmen's meeting was held in the Main Meeting Room at Oxford Town Hall on April 3, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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. 3/18/24 Public Hearing Minutes

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/18/24 Public Hearing minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

2. 3/20/24 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the 3/20/24 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Amendment of Agenda

1. Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment Clarification

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment Clarification as Item #2 under Appointments. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion passed.

2. Land Purchase from Schreiber Estate for Open Space – Discuss with Possible Action.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add Land Purchase from Schreiber Estate for Open Space – Discuss with Possible Action as Item #6 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #7. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

3. Board of Education Appointment

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the agenda to add the appointment of a Board of Education member as Item #7 and move the Report of the First Selectman to Item #8. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Appointments

1. Housing Authority Appointments

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Denise Randall to the Oxford Housing Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/26. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated that Mrs. Randall is interested in this area and has done a great job being involved in the town in several different capacities. She has been involved in the Annual CT State Police Toy Drive and Town-Wide Clean Up and serves as the Secretary of the Conservation Commission. Mrs. Randall is very civic-minded and will do an excellent job at the Housing Authority.

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to appoint Sharon Davino to the Oxford Housing Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/24. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple thanked Ms. Davino for volunteering to be on the Housing Authority. Ms. Davino explained that she recently moved back to Oxford and is interested in getting involved with the town. Selectman McKane stated that he hopes both Mrs. Randall and Ms. Davino advocate for improvements in the maintenance crew at Crestview, as he feels the management should pay more attention to maintenance.

2. Planning & Zoning Commission Appointment Clarification

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to amend the Planning Zoning Commission Appointment at the 3/20/24 Board of Selectmen's meeting. The term for Diamond Rosa shall be effective immediately and expire on 11/18/25, not on 11/16/27. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

3. Board of Education Member Appointment

MOTION:

First Selectman Temple moved to approve the appointment of Joseph Iucci to the vacant position on the Board of Education vacated by Mrs. Shelly Castellet with a term to commence immediately and expire on 11/18/2025. This was seconded by Selectman Arnold Jensen. All 2 Ayes. Selectman David McKane Abstained.

First Selectman Temple explained that he interviewed three people for the position and was very impressed with all of them. However, he chose Mr. Iucci because he has a child in the school system and is also a police officer. Mr. Iucci is very knowledgeable about school security, which impressed Mr. Temple. School security is a significant concern for Mr. Temple, and Mr. Iucci genuinely cares about the school system and has some great ideas about procedures. Additionally, Mr. Temple expressed concern about the Board of Education's transparency and felt that they should be accountable for the money they spend.

New Business

1. Oxford Ambulance 2023 Tax Abatements – Approve

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the Oxford Ambulance 2023 Tax Abatements as presented (Attachment A). This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Discussion:

First Selectman Temple stated that the tax abatement list is low, with only eight people. Tax Collector Helen Leung explained that Madelene Taggart, Director of Ambulance, is having difficulty seeking volunteers.

2. Fair Housing Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the following Fair Housing Resolution and authorize the First Selectman to sign:

FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION TOWN OF OXFORD

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of Oxford is committed to upholding these laws and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Town of Oxford hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing, and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the chief executive officer of the Town of Oxford or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal, discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Oxford and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

3. Tax Refunds:

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$1,899.97, as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 4/1/24, and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Discussion: Tax Collector Helen Leung explained that there is nothing unusual about tax refunds. There are assessor adjustments and one overpayment.

4. Oxford Municipal Annex Building Roof Repair Project – Approve ARPA Funding

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve the use of ARPA funding for \$7,500.00 for the Oxford Municipal Annex Building Roof Repair Project, as outlined in the Proposal from Brian Guido Construction, LLC, dated 10/25/23. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Chairman of the ARPA Committee, Jeff Luff, has reported that the Annex building is experiencing multiple roof leaks. After a thorough inspection, Mr. Brian Guido, the contractor who previously replaced the roof on the Oxford Fire Department, has provided a quote to fix the areas of concern. The repairs also include fixing nail pops, loose shingles, gutters, and other roof repairs. Spending \$7,500.00 now will buy the town another five years before further repairs are needed.

5. Oxford Main Street Project Phase 1B – Approve Additional Funding to Continue Project

MOTION:

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to approve additional funding, in the amount of \$58,000.00 and to be taken from finance contingency, to continue the Oxford Main Street Project Phase 1B, as outlined by the Oxford Main Street Committee Chairman in his email dated 3/28/24. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Discussion: The town has been awarded a connectivity grant from the State of Connecticut. This grant is worth \$489,000.00 and will be used to create a sidewalk that connects the Town Hall to the Annex Building. The project's soft costs have been approved by the Board of Selectmen in 2022. So far, \$45,000.00 has been spent on drawings and engineering expenses. An additional \$58,000.00 is now required for Construction Administration.

6. Land Purchase from Schreiber Estate for Open Space – Discuss with Possible Action

Discussion:

Conservation Commission member Andy Ferrillo explained that former residents of the Town, David Schreiber and John Schreiber, who grew up on Schreiber Farm, are looking to sell their portion of the Schreiber property. The parcels total approximately 152 acres +/- acres on the Quaker Farms side, which has frontage on Quaker Farms Road and Cortland Place. They also own approximately 92.2 acres +/- on the westerly ridge line along Edmonds Road. This area has frontage on the the 8-Mile Brook. Seven acres is the corn fields and the brook. First Selectman Temple pointed out that the Quaker Farms side borders Southford Park.

The Schreiber brothers asked that if they sold this property to the Town as open space, they would be honored if the land could be dedicated to their parents, Thomas and Laura Schreiber, the original owners. The Schreibers would like the people to be able to enjoy their family land for passive recreation. The Selectman discussed the concern about the definition of "passive" pertaining to these parcels. Selectman McKane stated

that all vehicles/bicycles should be excluded. First Selectman Temple agreed and pointed out that this land would be strictly for hiking/walking trails and possible campsites. No ATVs/vehicles or bikes will be allowed.

MOTION:

First Selectman Temple made a motion to send the acquisition of land, which is part of the Schreiber Estate, from David Schreiber and John Schreiber to a Town meeting. The areas shall be used as passive recreation, excluding all vehicles, including bicycles and ATVs, with the exception of the 30-acre parcel and 7-acre parcel located on Edmond's Road, which this parcel of land will be named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Laura Schreiber. The purchase price is not to exceed \$1.1 million. Selectman David McKane seconded the motion. All Ayes. Motion passed.

- 30 +/- acres
- 7 +/- acres
- 55.2 +/- acres
- 61.2 +/- acres
- 15.8 +/- acres
- 37 +/- acres
- 38.8 +/- acres

7. Report of First Selectman

- Parks & Recreation's Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, March 23rd. Due to the rain, the hunt was held inside at Quaker Farms School. I had plans to take my wife to a play that day, so Selectman Jensen stepped in and attended the event. I hear it was well-attended, and the kids enjoyed themselves.
- Today, I met with Rob Crawford of RBC Bearing regarding a possible future expansion.
- Tomorrow, I will be attending the Dynamic Smiles Grand Opening at Quarry Walk.
- I will also attend Quaker Farms Fire Company's 75th Anniversary formal dinner dance event on Saturday. This should be a fun time.
- Also, the town's Reval will take place for the next 2 – 3 months. Representatives from eQuality Valuation Services, LLC will be going to residents' properties and taking pictures. They all will have proper identification, but should you have any questions, feel free to contact Tax Assessor Penny Mudgett. They will start this at the end of this week.

Audience of Citizens

Mrs. Amy Sarris, who resides at 120 Freeman Road, questioned the bidding process for the roof repair work at the Annex Building. First Selectman Temple clarified that since the cost of repairs was less than \$10,000.00, there was no requirement to invite bids. Mrs. Sarris inquired about the amount of land being cleared at the rear of the Annex Building. Mr. Jeff Luff, Chairman of the ARPA Funds Committee, explained that approximately 26 acres would be cleared over the next 38 months. Mrs. Sarris asked if there was a town-wide vote to clear the land, to which Mr. Luff confirmed that there was indeed a vote.

Adjournment

MOTION

Selectman Arnold Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. This was seconded by Selectman David McKane. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Rosa", written over the printed name "Kristyn Rosa".

Kristyn Rosa
Administrative Assistant
Office of the First Selectman

Attachment A

Oxford Ambulance Tax Abatement for 2024

Timothy Crouch	140 Chestnut Tree Hill Rd	\$2000
Ariella Bourdeau	92 Coppermine Rd	\$2000
Joseph Galla Jr	37 Freeman Rd	\$2000
Jeffrey Spear	31 Macintosh Dr	\$1500
Travis Taggart	106 Prokop Rd	\$1000
Gabriella Saad	40 Ancient Highway	\$1500
Danielle Rossi	123 Chestnut Tree Hill Rd	\$1500
Erin Satkowski	246 Quaker Farms Rd	\$1000

RECEIVED 4/9/2024
AT 9:15 am
Meredith T. Post
Asst TOWN CLERK