

**Board of Selectmen's  
Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2015**  
**7:30 PM - Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George R. Temple, Esq., Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman David McKane, Joanne Pelton, Administrative Assistant

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**1. 6/17/15 Regular Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 6/17/15 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by David McKane with one correction. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Correction on Page 3 under Audience of Citizens, first paragraph it states "The town had to borrow from the general fund to pay the additional \$600,000 for snow removal." That amount was not to pay in total for snow removal. Jim Hliva stated it was for extras; snow removal was \$104,000. The \$600,000 was to lease purchase the two larger trucks.

**AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

None.

**APPOINTMENTS**

None.

**AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

John Downs, 666 Roosevelt Drive, asked the Board of Selectmen about the Fire Commission status. He also asked about the status of having a gate being put on the Cell Tower off Coppermine Road. First Selectman George Temple stated he had thought that item went to Planning & Zoning for their recommendations and they were to send them to us. Mr. Downs stated that whoever is taking care of the property at the Cell Tower is doing a terrible job in maintaining the property. This is Town owned property, and First Selectman George Temple asked Joanne Pelton to pass this information on. We will be discussing the Cell Towers tonight. First Selectman George Temple thanked Mr. Downs for his input.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Oxford High School Diamond Project Committee Update**

David McKane moved to table The Oxford High School Diamond Project. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: There is nobody present to discuss this matter.

### **2. Library Planning & Building Committee Update**

George Mitchell, Chair of the Oxford Library Building Committee, presented an update on the final recommendations from the Library Planning & Building Committee and asks for the Board of Selectmen's approval. The Committee is recommending building our own stand-alone building on the Great Oak Road property. It will be a 10,000 square foot facility for approximately \$3.5 million. The design features a modern, efficient, digital community learning environment. The target grand opening will be early 2017. Mr. Mitchell passed out a handout with detailed information and designs that show the different views from the front, back and sides of the new Library, along with the plan layout and an estimated building and operating costs for the new Library. Nothing has been finalized yet. Perk tests were done on the property, it does have utility access, the plan has a lot of windows to look out onto the property. Mr. Mitchell stated there are opportunities for cost reductions. The committee is proposing a 1 story ranch style building with two wings. It does have a plan for a full basement. The committee is asking to get the approval and put it on a referendum, and then they will get the specs and bids out. The Estimated Cost sheet does not have the donation in, which is still in the process of litigation. Right now, it will be fully funded by the town.

First Selectman George Temple asked if they will be looking for more employees with the new library. Yes, an additional full-time reference/Tech/weekend supervisor, ½ time teen Librarian, and 2 part-time clerks due to increased use were allotted in the draft of the estimated costs.

Selectman Jeff Haney stated that initially he thought they wanted to have rooms for meetings and seminars. He sees in this plan there are two rooms for this and asked if these satisfy this need. The committee originally started out with a 15,000 square foot building, and they did have to downsize it. If we would be able to finish off the basement, we may be able to put in an Auditorium there which could be used for talks or for meetings. There are also cubicle size rooms, which are planned to be used as tutoring space which can also hold a small group for a meeting. The last page of the handout outlines the analysis of the present and future areas of the Library.

George Mitchell did state that he would like to get approval for an amount not to exceed \$3.5 million. He still hopes there are other donations that the committee may be able to come up with to lower the amount for the town. He did not know what funds were available from the "Friends of the Library." First Selectman Temple made the suggestion to name this Library after Mariam Strong.

First Selectman George Temple stated the committee has been working on this project for 5-1/2 years, and feels we should at least put it out to the town and have a vote on it. Selectman McKane commented this will cost taxpayers a \$75 increase in their taxes which amounts to \$1.50 per week. Selectman McKane will not be on the Board of Selectmen, but is on the Library Building Committee. First Selectman George Temple stated he would like to have Jeff Haney on this committee also and still have Dave McKane involved in this project; and they both are valuable resources. Jim Hliva stated in order for a Bond to be issued, the committee would need to send a written request to the Selectmen; then there would need to be a joint meeting with the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman George Temple is for it, Jeff Haney and Dave McKane are also for it. Jack Kiley agrees what is going on here, and loves the idea that it will be built on Great Oak Road. Having supervision of all the children in one area is a big plus. If the Board of Selectmen sends the letter to the Board of Finance he will call a special meeting and he added that there are positive vibes from the Board of Finance and doesn't think there will be a problem getting it to referendum. First Selectman George Temple thanked the committee for all of its work. He stated he would like to get it done within two weeks. He will get together and have it ready by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Authorize / Approve Police Academy Attendee**

**MOTION**

David McKane moved to authorize Daniel DePalmer, of 252 Bluebird Drive in Naugatuck, to attend the State Police Academy as recommended by the Resident State Trooper and contingent upon on positive results of a required background check and suitability requirement investigation. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple would prefer to have someone that went through the Academy, but this kid is good and he recommends him.

**4. Quaker Farms School Roof Replacement Project Contract – Award Bid**

**MOTION:**

David McKane moved to award the Quaker Farms Roof Replacement Project Contract bid to New Britain Roofing Company, Inc., of 135 Day Street in Newington, Connecticut, for an amount not to exceed \$640,750.00, as recommended by Nafis & Young Engineers and the Oxford Schools Upgrade Committee in their letters dated 6/17/15. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: One bid was received from New Britain Roofing Company, Inc. They did have a discussion on the roofing shingles at the meeting. Selectman Haney would really like to have a different type of roof, but it needs to get done, and does not want the job held up any longer. This job has to start now. It was noted that the original figure was \$850,000 to get the job done.

**5. Cellular Tower Bids Discussion and Possible Action to Forward to Town Meeting**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to award the Telecommunication Tower Ground Leases be awarded to SBA Communication Corporation, in the amount of \$1,350,000, for 50 years and to authorize the First Selectman to sign the contracts subject to approval at Town Meeting. This was seconded by David McKane for discussion. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: David McKane asked if we can put in the contract what John Downs was asking to get done on the current cell tower. SBA is running the tower at the Public Works Department so it should be easy to make the changes to both sites. First Selectman George Temple stated it is a good deal, and he was not so sure if cell towers will be a thing in the future. The money can be used to pay for the new roof, to upgrade the fields at Oxford High School so that they are safe, the overage at the Tetlak Park fields can get done, and it does not cost the taxpayers money. David McKane asked if this money will go into the General Fund. Yes. It, will need to go through the Board of Selectman, then the Board of Finance, and then to a Town Meeting. First Selectman George Temple did not want it to just be put in the General Fund he would like to get these projects done, and asked if the Board of Finance would be OK with this.

Dave McKane suggested doing away with putting in any tennis courts at the Tetlak Park. First Selectman George Temple stated that there will be two girls' softball fields at Tetlak, an all-purpose soccer/flag football field, and then two more baseball fields. There was talk about a skate park, volleyball, and basketball area. John Downs asked what the revenue will be for the cell towers and what other towns are getting, and First Selectman George Temple stated it is \$1.3 million. Currently we are getting \$55,000 per year to lease the towers. The City of Ansonia did this at Nolan Field, and they got \$1.4 million for one larger cell tower. First Selectman George Temple stated as long as they maintain it and there is a demolition bond on it then he is for it.

6. **Department of Agriculture School Garden Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Department of Agriculture School Garden Resolution and authorize the First Selectman to sign as recommended and presented by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 6/23/15:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that it is in the best interest of the Town of Oxford to enter into contracts with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

**IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS RESOLUTION**, the Honorable George R. Temple, Oxford First Selectman, is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts dated on or after July 2, 2015, on behalf of the Town of Oxford. The Honorable George R. Temple, Oxford First Selectman, is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the State of Connecticut in connection with said contract and to execute any amendments, rescission or revisions thereto.

**THE TOWN CLERK IS AUTHORIZED** to impress the seal of the Town of Oxford on any such document, amendment, rescission or revision.

This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple has been pushing for this for three years now. This will be to put raised gardens, possibly add a hot house to help our children learn how to plant and grow crops, then sell the products at the farmers market. First Selectman George Temple has discussed it with the Science teachers at the school and with both the past and present Superintendent, and they are all in favor of it. The Board of Education also supports this and First Selectman George Temple would like to push it along.

7. **Approve Police Re-Opener/Insurance Contract**

**MOTION:**

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Settlement Agreement between the Town of Oxford and the Oxford Police Union Local 2693, Council 15, AFSCME AFL-CIO regarding wage increases effective 7/1/12 and 7/1/13 as well as insurance premium cost sharing effective 7/1/13 and 7/1/14, as presented. This was seconded by David McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated the town has been negotiating this since he has been in office. It has already been ratified by the Union. We have a very hard time in attracting outside officers here. First Selectman George Temple will be meeting with the State regarding our contract. We have seven troopers now, and need to increase our Police Department. . First Selectman George Temple supports this item.

## **8. Report of First Selectman**

First Selectman would like to welcome back Kathleen O'Neil.

Congratulations to the Economic Development Department, they are doing a great job.

The Town Hall will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday.

First Selectman George Temple attended graduations at the Middle School and at the High School and he was very impressed with the quality of kids Oxford has. We are producing good citizens and he is very proud of this. Oxford is spending so much less than other towns and we are doing a great job.

First Selectman George Temple had the opportunity to attend David McKane's Retirement party. He appreciates how much David McKane has done. They have always worked together well, and stated that Dave McKane should be very proud of his daughter Kelly, and she did a wonderful job with the party. It was a pleasure to be there.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.

## **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

Jack Kiley stated that Mr. Downs requested a gate at the cell tower; make sure it is in the contract. First Selectman George Temple stated it is in the contract and will be done. He also commented on the garden issue, that the only thing that works against us is the school year. It is in the summer when all of the plants grow and school is out. First Selectman George Temple stated that this will be maintained by the Agriculture Committee.

John Downs, 666 Roosevelt Drive, asked if the kids can maintain the garden with a scroll-a-dex, or get an app to pick the weeds. Jeff Haney stated that at the presentation that was held all of the details have been worked out. There are teachers that are involved, and a master gardener involved also.

Kathleen O'Neil stated how collaborative all the groups were in town with writing the grants for this project. The Grange is very interested in doing more community work. The Youth Conservation Core has been going on for years and has done our recreation trails. It is possible that there could be a group to use their summer to maintain the garden. The History of agriculture will also be part of the curriculum.

## ADJOURNMENT

### MOTION:

David McKane moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

15 JUL -6 PM 5:43  
TOWN OF FORD, CT  
*Margaret A. West*  
TOWN CLERK