

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, July 19, 2017
7:30 PM - Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George Temple at 7:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman Kathy Johnson, Joanne Pelton, Administrative Assistant

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 6/21/17 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the 6/21/17 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Community Connectivity Grant Program Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Community Connectivity Grant Program Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign as Item #6 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #7. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

2. Award Window Film Application Bid

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Award Window Film Application Bid as Item #7 and move the Report of First Selectman to Item #8. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Community Support Committee Appointment

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Mark Denslow, of 38 Belinsky Circle, to the Community Support Committee. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Mr. Denslow is very involved in scouting and is extremely conscientious and will add much to this committee.

2. Cultural Arts Commission Appointments

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Joanna Lucas, of 113 Freeman Road, to the Cultural Arts Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/19. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes.

Discussion: Ms. Lucas comes very highly recommended.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Kathy Johnson, of 68 Dorman Road, to the Cultural Arts Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/17. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Recusal by Kathy Johnson. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that Kathy Johnson has supported Cultural Arts over the years and this is a very good idea to have her on this committee. Jeff Haney knows we received two resignations and asked if there was anything else we needed to do. Nothing else needs to be done since we received their formal letters.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hire Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Counselor

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to hire Kelly Ward as a Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Counselor at a pay rate of \$10.10 per hour and effective 7/10/17; as presented and recommended by

the Parks & Recreation Director in her letter dated 7/5/17. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: One of the camp counselors dropped out.

2. Establish an Opiate Crisis Steering Committee, Approve Charge and Appoint Members

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to establish an Opiate Crisis Steering Committee and approve the following Charge:

Opiate Crisis Steering Committee Charge

The Charge for the Opiate Crisis Steering Committee will be to address the opioid crisis here in Oxford and the State of Connecticut and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Opiate Crisis Steering Committee will request technical assistant from BHcare.

This was seconded by George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion:

First Selectman George Temple stated that this is a real problem losing kids in their 20's to opiate addiction and overdose, and wanted to put together a group who can make recommendations regarding this. Oxford has one of the highest rates in Connecticut for our population. First Selectman George Temple does not know if there is a government answer, but is willing to try to see if there is something that can be done. September is "Recovery Month" and we will be holding a candlelight vigil. Just about everyone who has overdosed went through the D.A.R.E. program. First Selectman George Temple would like to see people who are addicted and are going through treatment come in and talk about their experiences and how they got to this point. Oxford is more hard-hit than other towns, with seven deaths, and it is disturbing that this problem goes unnoticed and the lack of pushing on the State and Federal level. This committee includes law enforcement, health people, and two D.A.R.E. officers and First Selectman George Temple. There are also other people with addiction to pain medicines and wonders how this happens. How drug pushers buy and discard cell phones was also discussed. Susan Schiavi thanked First Selectman Temple for including her on this committee and asked why nobody from the ambulance or the first responders is on the committee. First Selectman Temple stated we can add more people if you think it is important and appropriate. BHCare are involved also. We are focusing not on the treatment but how to get to the point where they may not need treatment. Jeff Haney and Kathy Johnson both agree with this and are glad that this is being addressed.

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint the following to the Opiate Crisis Steering Committee:

Reverend John Donnelly
Laura Denslow
John Kerwin
First Selectman George Temple
Officer Thomas Gugliotti
Susan Schiavi
Jo-Ann Persson
Officer David Ives
Sergeant Dan Semosky, Liaison

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the tax refunds, totaling \$1,143.29, and authorize two signatures; all as presented and recommended by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 7/17/17. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

4. Pullman & Comley New Retention Rates Consent – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the Pullman & Comley, LLC new retention rates and authorize the First Selectman to sign the Consent To Representation On Stated Terms. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Our former attorney moved to Pullman & Comley, and now is retiring. This firm is our labor lawyers. The rate was \$215.

5. Hire Youth Conservation Corp

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to hire Cassidy Wilson, of 4 Pond View Drive, Anna Ort, of 4 Cove Court, and Eric Yeh, of 102 Bowers Hill Road, all to the Youth Conservation Corp at pay rates of \$10.10 per hour effective immediately; as presented and recommended by Inland

Wetlands Commissioner in his letters dated 7/14/17. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. .

Discussion: The youths have to put in 50 hours of service prior to getting the pay rate.

6. **Community Connectivity Grant Program Resolution – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign**

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve the following Community Connectivity Grant Program and to authorize the First Selectman to sign; all as presented and recommended by the Grant Writer in her letter dated 7/18/17:

RESOLVED, that the Oxford Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State Department of Transportation for the Community Connectivity Grant Program any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate, and;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that George R. Temple, as First Selectman of the Oxford Board of Selectmen, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Oxford Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Kathleen O'Neil stated that this is a grant out of the Department of Transportation to create sidewalks and will be our first attempt to start linear parks. This will create sidewalks from across the Town Hall along Rt. 67 to Governor's Hill Road. There are a lot of great ideas coming from the committee. There are 18 acres of open space owned by the town along this route and would be nice to have a trail though the 18 acres for people to walk. This is dependent on the grant getting approved. First Selectman commended the committee. There will be informational meetings and know that a lot of businesses would like to donate and participate, and we would like to find out what the community would like.

7. Award Window Film Application Bid

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to award Window Film Application Bid to Connecticut Window Film and Tinting of 4 Hollis Drive, Oxford, for \$90,750 for all four schools. This was seconded by Kathy Johnson. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that after the tragedy in Newtown, he was approached and one of the problems Newtown had was shooting into the window and it shattering. We have been working on public safety. This did go out to bid, and the bid went to a company in Oxford. This will make the schools safer. We are working on other ways to protect the kids also. Jeff Haney asked if the Board of Education is aware of this, and yes, they are. This is public safety.

7. Report of First Selectman

1. First Selectman Temple announced that there will be a robocall, stating on Monday, Riggs Street will be closed for paving. It will take about one week for the street to be paved and people will need to use Hawley Lane or Christian Street. There will be other roads that will be done including one by Jackson Cove, and some off of Quaker Farms Road. Hawley Lane will also be done. This will be an inconvenience but will be better for the citizens and the town.
2. There will be no Algonquin Gas Transmission Access Northeast Project based on other New England states could not get permission, and they will withdraw their application.
3. It is summer and people are out on the roads including bicyclists and skateboarders. There will be stepped up speed limit enforcement in town.
4. Every Tuesday there are free concerts at Jackson Cove until the end of summer.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Janet Barnes, 52 Christian Street discussed the traffic concerns and speeding on Christian Street. It would be nice to have people slow down and be cautious. Speeders are people that live in the area, big rigs, everyone. First Selectman George Temple agreed with Ms. Barnes about the speeding on Christian Street, and asked Joanne Pelton to get someone out there from the Police Dept. Ms. Barnes stated she was here tonight to discuss skateboarding. Ms. Barnes stated skateboarding gives kids an outlet, and keeps them off the streets and from getting into trouble. First Selectman George Temple stated that we are a target on an internet site that Oxford is the place to go with skateboards. Roads are for cars. First Selectman Temple stated the town is working on a compromise solution for this, and identifying which roads are not safe for skate-

boarders, i.e. Governor's Hill Road. We want to keep everyone safe. Ms. Barnes stated it would be great to have a skate park for the older kids.

Garrett Barnes, 52 Christian Street, suggested that if you are worried about the drug problem, then give teenagers somewhere to go. Skate parks are not that expensive, and you can get a contractor to put up some ramps and kids will have a place to go. If there was a skate park, people can invest in it, and have skateboard competitions, and people can come from all over the state which will support local businesses, and businesses can sell things there. First Selectman George Temple stated that Garrett has made a good point and would be happy to have him on this committee. In order to put "no skateboarding" signs on streets, we would need an ordinance to do this. It is really important to give these kids something to do.

Linda Czaplinski, 30 Freeman Road, stated that she agrees that people are speeding, but in addition to this, she sees cars going over to the other lane on hills and curves to pass cyclists. Cyclists do not need that much room and it is a danger if a car is coming up the road on the other side. Linda Czaplinski also stated her reason for being here tonight is to bring her concerns over a conflict of interest on the POCD Board to the Board of Selectmen's attention, and that this person works for Haynes, a major developer. He is not an objective party. A discussion was held. First Selectman George Temple stated that there are diverse opinions and this committee just makes recommendations and then Planning & Zoning takes those recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Temple stated that if Ms. Czaplinski feels there is a conflict she can make an ethics complaint against this person.

John Downs, 666 Roosevelt Drive, stated he hopes skateboarding ordinance never resurfaces. Mr. Downs stated he went to the Opiate Forum and it was very interesting. Mr. Downs felt that more of the younger parents with their children should attend a forum to find out what exactly is going on. One suggestion was made to make it part of "back-to-school" night. First Selectman Temple will bring this to the committee.

David Stocker, 144 Punkup Road, stated that he has proof this person does work for Haynes and it was stated at the Planning & Zoning meeting. Mr. Stocker stated that he would like this investigated. First Selectman Temple stated that the Board of Selectmen does not investigate this. The next step will be to go to the Ethics Committee. Mr. Stocker stated he would like his statement as part of the minutes. Mr. Stocker gave his statement to Joanne Pelton. Joanne Pelton stated that the next step is to write the complaint out and file it with the Town Clerk and then they make the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. The Ethics Board convenes when needed.

Garrett Barnes, 52 Christian Street, stated that if there is an ordinance for skateboarding, he suggested not confiscating the skateboard since they are very expensive and that a fine is hard enough for kids to come up with that money.

Herman Schuler, 125 Meadowbrook Road, asked about the conflict of interest. First Selectman George Temple stated that this is not the body to talk over personnel matters. The recommendation of the Ethics Board will come to the Board of Selectmen and we will determine if there is a hearing or not. At this point we are not having a hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

First Selectman George Temple moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski\
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

17 JUL 24 PM 5:48
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Margaret H. West
TOWN CLERK