

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, September 3, 2014
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 Temple, Esq., Selectman Jeff Haney, Selectman David McKane,
Joanne Pelton, Administrative Assistant

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 8/20/14 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Dave McKane moved to approve the 8/20/14 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. Repair Main Flooring at the Senior Center

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add Repair the Senior Center Main Flooring. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple All 2 Ayes. 1 Nay by Dave McKane. He is in favor of repairing the floor, but not in favor of spending without documentation of costs involved.

2. Appoint James Winger to the Economic Development Committee

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to amend the agenda to add under Appointments, appoint James Winger to the Economic Development Committee. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Anti-Blight Study Committee – Appoint Andrea Niamtu

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint Andrea Niamtu, of 102 Quaker Farms Road, to the Anti-Blight Study Committee with a term to commence immediately. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes, 1 Abstention by Dave McKane. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman George Temple stated that Andrea Niamtu has indicated interest in studying the problem with blight and she is a hard worker, and would be a good addition to the committee.

2. Charter Revision 2014 – Appoint Gerard Carbonaro

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to table the appointment of Gerard Carbonaro, of 14 Country Farms Road, to the Charter Revision 2014 with a term to commence immediately. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

3. Appoint James Winger to the Economic Development Committee

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to appoint James Winger, 38 West Street, Oxford, CT to the Economic Development Committee with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/16. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Dave Stocker, 144 Punkup Road, Oxford, CT commented on the potential noise issue for residents on Chestnut Tree Hill Road, Echo Valley Road and Rt. 67 with the new development. He would like to add refuse removal and compactor use to a temporary noise ordinance once construction starts. First Selectman George Temple stated it would be unenforceable for short term. First Selectman Temple suggested having a condition of approval for the site plan that there is no compacting between certain hours. First Selectman Temple noted to Joanne Pelton to send a letter to the Planning & Zoning with these concerns and have no compacting or refuse removal between 10 pm and 7 am, for the quiet use and enjoyment of the neighbors in that area.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Planning & Zoning Commission's Recommendation for Morse Road

Discussion: We have not received any information on this from Planning & Zoning. It was suggested that this item should go to the Roads Commission. Andy McGeever stated that this will be alleviated in a short while, since the company that is in there started building, and they have 40-50 people employed and only have 8 spots to park.

No action on this matter.

2. Appropriation of \$8,000 to Hire Public Works Summer Help – Approve

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$8,000.00 to hire Public Works Summer Help and to forward this matter to the Board of Finance. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: Last year, we did not use summer help. The summer of 2013, it did cost \$8000. First Selectman Temple stated he sees the difference the way the fields were maintained from last year, and this year there is goldenrod growing, and the left side of the field is overgrown with weeds. Landscaping was done at Lily Park and nobody is watering the trees that were planted. We need someone to do this. It is a big help having kids do the traffic at the field and having the Public Works Department doing the paving. These individuals will be hired by the Board of Selectmen.

3. Ratification of UPSEU Municipal Employee's Union Contract – Approve and Authorize First Selectman to Sign

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to approve/ratify the UPSEU Municipal Employee's Union Contract, effective July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 and authorize the First Selectman to sign. This was seconded by Dave McKane. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is for Town Hall employees. The two main points of the contract are a salary increase of 2.5% per year, and employee medical contribution will go from 6-1/2% to 9%. Longevity was taken out for new hires, and there is clarification of language. Also, Long Term Disability, employees will have to give back six days.

4. Tax Refunds

MOTION:

Dave McKane moved to approve the Tax Refunds, in the amount of \$3,054.55, as presented by the Tax Collector in her letter dated 9/3/14, and to authorize two signatures. This was seconded by Jeff Haney. All 3 Ayes. Motion carries.

Discussion: These are put in by the tax collector and they all are for motor vehicles. First Selectman George Temple has to sign.

5. Repair Main Flooring at the Senior Center

MOTION:

Jeff Haney moved to have the Senior Center main flooring repaired at a cost not to exceed \$21,000, and to send it to the Board of Finance for approval, then to a Town Meeting for approval. This was seconded by First Selectman Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Abstention by Dave McKane.

Discussion: This is an ongoing problem with the floor buckling. It has happened before in the Craft Room and now the same thing is happening on the main floor. The Elderly Commission has been talking about it. Selectman Haney brought some samples and the Elderly Commission wanted to pick out the products. The Elderly Commission wants a 12 X 12 tile application. The original floor needs to be stripped then tile goes down. The total cost will not exceed \$21,000. We need to agree today, then it will go to the Board of Finance and then to the Town Meeting for approval. It will be a 3 step process for bids: 1) removal of the existing floor; 2) labor for laying the floor; 3) sealing the grout. The town will buy all of the material.

First Selectman George Temple asked if Jeff Haney is confident that this floor will not buckle in the future. Jeff Haney stated yes, this type of flooring does not use glue; it is a thin set cement, and it is a proven method of doing the floor. It would cost the same amount with engineered snap-together type flooring. The other option is carpet, but this will need to be changed every three years because people spill a lot. There is tile in other parts of the Senior Center, and we do not have this same problem. The Elderly Commission has already gone to price material. They found one tile on sale at \$0.89 per piece and another \$0.69 per piece. These are sold in lots at Home Depot and Lowes. 2/3 of the project will go out for bid, and we will make a bid sheet and advertise it. First Selectman Temple stated there needs to be three estimates on the material also, to show we made an effort to get the best price. The Town Charter states you have to get three quotes for items over \$10,000. Jim Hliva will work with Jeff Haney to be sure he and the Elderly Commission are compliant.

Dave McKane has a concern that he has nothing here in front of him to review, and has a problem doing it this way with an amendment to the agenda and spending \$21,000 on a line item. The Board of Finance would need to have the three quotes also in front of them for their approval. The next meeting of the Board of Finance is the 4th Monday in September. First Selectman George Temple stated we would need the bids before their meeting. The Senior Center would need 2800 square feet of tile.

6. Report of First Selectman

This weekend soccer starts on Saturday at Great Oak School at 12:00 noon.

The fields need to get cleaned up before the home game.

Ryan VerNooy's race will be held Saturday, September 13, 2014 at Colonial Tavern. The VerNooy's are the donors of Ryan's Court on Great Oak Road.

As of this evening, the Board of Education has hired a new Superintendent of Schools, Ana Ortiz, from Windham. She is a Veteran, and is very interested in what the kids are doing at the

schools, i.e. sports, plays, etc. It is important to have an open relationship between the Town and the Board of Education. First Selectman George Temple will meet once per month during lunch with the new Superintendent, and he feels it is a good choice, and she will be a nice addition to Oxford.

AMENDMENTS

NONE.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Jack Kiley, 88 Bea Mountain Road, Oxford, discussed the UPSEU Municipal Employee's Union Contract. He stated it amounts to 70% of the Town's budget, and would have liked the Board of Selectmen to have spent more care at looking at this contract. He doesn't know if it is a gain in expenses or a net. He stated we spent three months doing a budget, and we don't have much control over benefits. If we pay someone \$40,000/year, it will cost double that in benefits.

Mr. Kiley also stated regarding hiring of summer help, he had thought the football field was under the Board of Education budget, and why is the town doing the field maintenance? First Selectman Temple stated the Town works with the Board of Education, and if the custodians are down there weed-whacking the grounds, we will be paying them double time. Mr. Reilly stated he would like to see it advertised, and it should be opened up to the town, not just friends.

John Downs, 666 Roosevelt Drive, Oxford, commented on the flooring for the Senior Center. He understands Jeff Haney is trying to get the best deal, but if something goes wrong, we won't be able to go after the Big Box Store. If a contractor bought the tile, we might be able to get repairs done if needed. Selectman Haney stated there are pros and cons to both. This is very prominent with plumbers and electricians, but in the tile business, everybody buys the same tile. The mark up is around 400%. The big name stores are expensive. Lowes and Home Depot just buy in a larger quantity. There are different levels of tile, and if it is a 3 or 4 rated tile, it will be good. A level 5 tile is extremely expensive. It is important to check references on installers.

Mr. Downs also commented on the Legal Notice ad in the Voices today regarding review of ambulance services. He asked if the Board was thinking about an outside ambulance service and can the Town do this? First Selectman George Temple stated we are not thinking about anything, and that the Board of Selectmen are not qualified to review ambulance services, and yes, the Town can do this.

Dave Stocker, 144 Punkup Road, Oxford, commented on the field issue. He noted that the school owns the field, and that Oxford Landscaping mows the lawns, and suggested the Board of Education may be able to negotiate with the Oxford Landscaping company to take care of the fields. Also, Parks and Recreation takes care of Lily Park, and maybe they can water the trees.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Lynda Romanowski
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

14 SEP -8 PM 5:36
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Margaret A. West
TOWN CLERK