

**Oxford Space & ARPA Advisory Committee  
Special Meeting  
January 23, 2024**

**Attendance**

Chairman Jeff Luff, Lynn Aiksnoras, Mary Beth Nelson, Betsi Hellman, Bill Miller, Herman Schuler, Larry Ellis, Rich Frazino, Rich Krueger

Chairman Jeff Luff opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Done prior to the start of the meeting.

**Amendments**

None

**New Business**

- 1) Discuss Community Center Campus Presentation to BOS.

**Discussion**

Chairman Jeff Luff, acting as spokesman, outlined what the Committee has done to date, which includes the Committee agreeing to the estimate being presented to the Board of Selectman for the Oxford Center Municipal Annex.

This Special Meeting has been called to discuss what to call the building and how it will be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Lynn Aiksnoras, provided spreadsheets outlining what has been funded to date, as well as what will be needed to make the building viable.

Chairman Jeff Luff explained some adjustments to the estimate, including the Contingency Fund (AED's and PlayGround Repair's were approved by BOS and then withdrawn). CPM Environmental Cleanup was added back in. The Board of Selectman added a Traffic Radar Trailer under the Oxford PD line item.

Rich Frazino expressed concern the BOS might ask why the Committee wants to spend \$100,000 on the Auditorium.

Chairman Jeff Luff, stated the charge of the committee is only to recommend how the money gets spent. The rest of the board agrees.

Lynn Aiksnoras makes a motion: The Oxford Space and ARPA Funds Advisory Committee allocate \$2,235,500.00 toward the improvements of the Oxford Town Municipal Annex and toward the creation of the Oxford Community Center Campus. This was seconded by Rich Frazino. Motion carried.

Chairman Jeff Luff opens up a discussion on what to call the location. Lynn Aiksnoras believes that using the word Campus would be most appropriate because of the skate park and outside fitness area. There is a general consensus.

Chairman Jeff Luff discusses the date of the meeting to present to the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Jeff Luff opened to comments and questions from the Audience of Citizens and moved the Discussion the Board Deems Necessary down.

### **Audience of Citizens**

Amy Sarris, 120 Freeman Rd: Expressed concern about the age/condition of the building, starting a new project when the town already has so much to fund and potentially tax liability.

Bill Miller agreed, and explained that the committee included a line item for a Complete Building Inspection, which should allow the town to gain a more in-depth understanding of any potential issues and make informed decisions based on that inspection.

Amy Saris, mentioned there was already a Facilities Inspection done in 2015/2016, which outlined approx. \$8,000,000.00 worth of work needed.

Bill Miller agreed, but the inspection at that time was done with an eye toward renovating the building for continued use as a school, which is much different than renovating for the purpose of a community center.

Chairman Jeff Luff mentioned that it would cost more to tear the building down than to renovate it.

Ken Kroll, Quaker Farms Road: Expressed concern the ARPA money might easily be spent unnecessarily or on items that the grant was never intended for.

Chairman Jeff Luff responded that the spreadsheet is available that explains how every dollar will be spent.

Jessica Pennell, 17 Redwood Drive: Expressed concern that having a sound system installed would not benefit the residents.

Rich Frazino: It would be a multi-purpose room, not just for town meetings. It could be rented to corporations in town and they could utilize the equipment and the town could potentially make money.

Lynn Aiksnoras: There is a huge issue about being able to hear well in the meeting room, adding that any meeting should be able to be heard and shared.

Carol Cass, 707 Championship Drive (Oxford Greens): Expressed support for the Audio Visual system, adding that tech is very important in the building.

Chairman Jeff Luff and Rich Frazino noted that the goal is to get the backbone of the tech installed, but they are limited by the budget. As time passes it can be augmented depending on the towns needs and ultimate use of the space.

#### **Discussion the Board Deems Necessary**

None

#### **Adjournment**

Chairman Jeff Luff moved to Adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM. This was seconded by Mary Beth Nelson. Motion Carried.

#### **Respectfully Submitted By**

Laurie Carr  
Clerk

TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
TOWN CLERK  
*Laurie Carr*

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