

**Board of Selectmen's
Regular Meeting**

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
7:30 PM - Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by First Selectman George Temple, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: First Selectman George Temple, Esq., Selectman Scott Flaherty, Kristyn Rosa,
Administrative Assistant
Absent: Selectman Jeff Haney

A moment of silence was held for the tragedy in Florida and our own tragedy for the loss of Melissa Cole who passed away last week. Melissa is going to be missed by the town of Oxford. She gave a lot to the town and was the Chairman of the Board of Education, and is a major loss to the Board of Education, the Town, the Board of Selectmen and to First Selectman Temple who knew her personally.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

1. 2/7/18 Regular Meeting

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to approve the 2/7/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

2. 2/12/18 Special Meeting (Budget)

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to *table* the approval of the 2/12/18 Special Meeting (Budget) minutes. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: The minutes will be prepared for the next meeting. They are not ready yet.

3. **2/12/18 Special Meeting (4:00 PM)**

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to approve the 2/12/18 Special Meeting (4:00 PM) minutes as presented. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

4. **2/14/18 Special Meeting (Budget)**

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to *table* the approval of the 2/14/18 Special Meeting (Budget) minutes. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

1. **Riverside Fire Station Chimney Repair Estimate – Approve**

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to amend the agenda to add Riverside Fire Station Chimney Repair Estimate – Approve as Item #7. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

2. **Oxford Fire Department Request to Purchase Portable Hurst Pump – Approve**

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to amend the agenda to add Oxford Fire Department Request to Purchase Portable Hurst Pump – Approve as Item #8. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

3. **Oxford Center Fire Station’s Septic System Failure – Discuss with Possible Action**

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to amend the agenda to add Oxford Center Fire Station’s Septic System Failure – Discuss with Possible Action as Item #9 and move Report of First Selectman to Item #10. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Economic Development Commission Appointments

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to re-appoint Edward Carver, Jr., of 28 Lisa Drive, to the Economic Development Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/21. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries

Discussion: Ed Carver has been Chairman of this committee for some time and has come up with some good ideas with his leadership and knows he will continue to do a great job.

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to appoint Scott Halstead, of 229 Chestnut Tree Hill Road, to the Economic Development Commission with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/21. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: We all heard from Scott tonight and know he is a parliamentarian, and will do a very good job as he had in the town and on the fire department.

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to appoint Steve E. Smith, of 12 Great Oak Road, to the Economic Development Commission as an Alternate with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/18. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is an individual who is very interested in the town and has a particular skill set which will lend itself well with this committee and First Selectman George Temple supports this. Scott Flaherty asked why this is a short term. First Selectman Temple stated that someone left the Commission.

2. Lake Zoar Authority Re-Appointments

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to re-appoint Richard Speer, of 178 Freeman Road, to the Lake Zoar Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/18. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: First Selectman Temple stated this is an authority with Monroe, Newtown, and Southbury. The town uses it as a recreation area at Jackson Cove. He has been a member and does a good job.

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to re-appoint John Downs, Jr., of 75 Coppermine Road, to the Lake Zoar Authority with a term to commence immediately and expire on 12/31/19. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: John Downs, Jr. is a good choice.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee Peddler's Permit – Approve and Waive Fee

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to approve the Agriculture Advisory Committee's Peddler's Permit to hold a Farmer's Market at Oxford Center School on Saturday's beginning in July 7, 2018 through October 27, 2018 from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM as presented and to waive the Peddler's Permit fee as requested. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: They are trying to get something off the ground and the Agriculture Advisory Committee also advises the garden program at the Middle School, who will be using this also to sell their produce. It is a service to the town and people love to see the Farmer's market.

2. Oxford Ambulance Association Volunteer Tax 2017 Abatements – Approve

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to approve the 2017 Volunteer Tax Abatements (Attachment A) for the Oxford Ambulance Association as they presented in their letter received on 2/13/18. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: Madeline is here and this is a tax break for the Oxford Ambulance Association due to their service.

3. Schreiber Farm Open Space Appraisal – Approve Funding

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to approve the funding, in the amount of \$4,500.00 to be taken from Finance Contingency, for Sheehy, LLC, located in Shelton, for the Schreiber Farm Open-Space appraisal. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: This item was in the paper recently regarding purchasing 100 acres from Schreiber Farm. They are also looking at purchasing another 200 acres to purchase from Mr. Schreiber's brother. There is a lot of wetlands there and doesn't expect the appraisal to come in high due to the wetlands. It is ideal and it will be owned by the town of Oxford for open space. There will be more to come on this; if it is a prohibited figure, we will have to negotiate and the decision will ultimately be made at a town meeting. Scott Flaherty asked if this amount is a normal amount for an appraisal. First Selectman Temple stated yes, it is a lot of money, but the appraiser has to spend a lot of time at town hall identifying the property description and then finding comparables to similar properties that have been sold. First Selectman Temple does not think we can get anyone cheaper. Scott Flaherty asked if eventually the land will be bought with grants. First Selectman Temple stated yes we will go for some grants, and we have \$950,000 from M. Strong's estate. First Selectman Temple stated that COG looks favorably on this type of open space. It has a good fishing stream and something that we as a town can enjoy. Scott Flaherty asked why it is not the person selling the property getting the appraisal, and since we are looking to get grant money why is the town paying for it. First Selectman Temple stated that ultimately the grant will pay it, and that whoever wants it the quickest usually does the appraisal. We have other properties that we are selling that we do not pay for the appraisal. First Selectman Temple stated he is a friend of Mr. Schreiber for years and wanted to make this disclosure, and he does play golf with Mr. Schreiber. This matter does need to go to the Board of Finance.

4. Rename Opiate Crisis Steering Committee to Oxford Addictive Substances Information Services (OASIS) Committee

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to rename the Opiate Crisis Steering Committee to Oxford Addictive Substances Information Services (OASIS) Committee as the committee feels the new name better encompasses the committee's mission. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple.

Discussion: Sue Schiavi, Chairman of the Committee discussed that the name be changed to make their mission broader. First Selectman George Temple stated that there are other substances besides opiates that are addictive. It makes sense to change the name that is more descriptive to what the committee wants to do. First Selectman

Temple stated he is not big on acronyms and to be sure if there is anything on the website or communicating to the Board, please spell out the acronym. It is whatever the committee feels comfortable with. Sue Schiavi asked if the committee members had to be sworn in again. No they do not. First Selectman George Temple stated that their group can construct their own mission and everyone on the committee has to agree on it. First Selectman Temple appreciates that there are a lot of people signed up to participate on the committee. The committee would like to address other drugs, alcohol, and tobacco since that is where it starts.

All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Sue Schiavi stated the next step is they would like to be a local prevention council. There are over 150 in the state. First Selectmen stated this is a town sponsored thing and doesn't want the town to lose its mission to facilitate this more than to participate in. Sue Schiavi stated some of the active participants do not live in Oxford. First Selectman Temple stated to find out where these local prevention councils started from. Sue Schiavi stated this was discussed at the October 19th meeting and it was agreed as a Board to become a LPC. If you don't support this, she will resign. First Selectman Temple stated that we cannot have people from out of Oxford running our committee. The committee stated that the purpose is not to dissolve the committee and that the LPC will meet after the regular meeting. The LPC will not have control of the funds. The town could have control of the funds. These are details we can work out. We were combined with Seymour at one point, and now both towns are on their own. Jim Hliva stated that they will need to make a line item in the budget and will be a separate government agency and all funds go through the town. First Selectman Temple's signature will be on the LPC. This will give other people an opportunity to bring ideas and energy to the table, and will give the committee more resources. Sgt. Dan Semosky is on the committee but is not a town resident. Non-residents do not have the right to vote. Scott Flaherty thought it was a good idea. Discussion held.

MOTION

Scott Flaherty moved to create a Local Prevention Council (LPC) through OASIS (Oxford Addictive Substances Information Services). This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

5. FY 2017 – 2018 Transfer Requests

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to approve the FY 2017 – 2018 transfer requests (Attachment B) as presented by the Finance Director in his letter dated 2/16/18. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

6. Cultural Arts Commission Funding Request – Approve

First Selectman George Temple stated this is not being taken off the table; there was indication that this event may be cancelled, and if it is going to be cancelled, we are not doing this.

7. Riverside Fire Station Chimney Repair Estimate – Approve

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to approve the estimate, in the amount of \$1,250.00 to be taken from Capital Non-Recurring, from Kevin Tymon, Mason Contractor, of 5 Anna Drive, for the Chimney Restoration Project at Riverside Fire Station as recommended and presented in the Board of Chiefs letter dated 2/5/18. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 2 Ayes. 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: The chimney is falling apart, and will be repointed and all needed repairs will be done.

8. Oxford Fire Department Request to Purchase Portable Hurst Pump – Approve

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to approve Oxford Fire Department's Request to purchase a portable Hurst Pump for R54, in the amount of \$9,000.00 to be taken from Capital Non-Recurring, as they presented and requested in their letter dated 2/5/18. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. This matter will be forwarded to the Board of Finance. All 2 Ayes, 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Discussion: This is a portable gas unit for the Jaws of Life, which catastrophically failed and there are no parts for it.

9. Oxford Center Fire Station's Septic System Failure – Discuss with Possible Action

First Selectman Temple stated that the Oxford Center Fire Station has experienced a failure in their septic system and we can't have people go to the fire station with inadequate facilities. There were 3 possible manners to approach this. The third option was to relocate the leeching fields into the bank behind the fire house. This would be the long term solution, and First Selectman Temple would like to get some perk testing done there and see how much ledge is there. The Town Engineer suggested option #2 to fix the existing leeching fields and make them larger with new materials, which could be done relatively quickly, and should last longer than the current system. It was suggested that First Selectman George Temple speak with Brian Nesteriak. Scott Pelletier recommends this option. First Selectman Temple stated this is a safety and health issue.

The estimate for the 2nd option is approximately \$30,000. The option #3 would cost around \$60,000 - \$70,000 depending on how many trees need to be removed, getting the equipment in there, and purchasing the septic sand. The portable restrooms were outrageous to rent, so they decided to have the septic tank pumped out twice per week. First Selectman George Temple will talk with Brian Nesteriak, and this can be discussed at a special meeting. The Board of Finance will have to expedite this.

10. Report of First Selectman

1. The Grand List has been published and has increased 1.45% without considering the Power Plant tax agreement. This is the best growth around in the Valley area. First Selectman Temple is very happy with this figure. First Selectmen Temple discussed the Airport Incentive zone. Oxford will continue to grow. The Assessor did an amazing job on this and First Selectman Temple is very pleased with the employees in this department, and pleased with the progress that the town has made.
2. The CCM Convention will be held beginning on March 11, 2018 and First Selectman George Temple will be attending this Council on Municipalities. It is a good place to network and there will be quite a bit of discussion on the Opiate crisis.
3. One of the major considerations that First Selectman Temple has is school security. There are certain things that we can do to enhance our school security now. One of the items is to have the alarm system corrected so it can tell everyone there is a lock down. First Selectman Temple is planning on meeting with anyone interested and listening to ideas from teachers, parents, custodians, students, etc. whoever sees a problem and has an idea they would like to share. It is a concern of his and is frustrating for him when people do not share his concerns.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Jack Kiley, 88 Bee Mountain Road, asked for the dollar amount for the grand list increase. 2017 is \$1,498,530,591; and for 2016 was \$1,477,153,946. Jim Hliva stated that it would be approximately \$500,000 of additional taxes. Mr. Kiley stated his appreciation for Melissa Cole who was a member of the school board and became Chairman in November. As sick as she was she did the work for the teacher's contract and put in many hours and she didn't stop even though she was not feeling well. She was on the Town Committee and worked hard for us. We will really miss her. She was an asset to the town. First Selectman George Temple agrees with Mr. Kiley and appreciates his comments. She was very dedicated.

Linda Czaplinski, 33 Freeman Road, asked about the complaint filed with the Ethics Committee and that she never received a follow-up. First Selectman George Temple stated it was an oversight on their part and he will have it for her tomorrow. Linda Czaplinski wanted to make the Board of Selectmen aware of inconsistency in the minutes of the Planning and Zoning regarding the Quarry Walk Project. There may be other committees also with inconsistencies.

She stated it doesn't appear to be any specificity for municipalities as to the level of detail, and was concerned about the inconsistency and wanted to bring to the Boards attention, and asked if it would be helpful to have all the meeting minutes audio filed that can be easily accessible on the website or at least available at the town hall to put on a flash drive, since information is not always available. First Selectman George Temple did discuss this with the Town Clerk to have live-casting meetings on our Website for the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Inland Wetlands, etc. He stated that minutes are not the same as a transcript. It would give people the opportunity to look at what was said and stated it is a good idea. Some towns are doing this. Ms. Czaplinski would like to request First Selectman George Temple to reach out to the Planning & Zoning and have a discussion with them about the Quarry Walk project. She has concerns that there may be hesitancy on the Commission to be more proactive on the town, and that the developer is driving members on the Commission. Ms. Czaplinski discussed her concerns. The Town Planner has not attended these two very critical meetings. We need to do it the right way, and need our elected officials to act in the best interest of the town, and best interest of the people and not feel they are bullied by the developer. She would like to have First Selectman Temple intervene. First Selectman Temple does have concerns with rules changing in the middle of the game and made it clear to the members of the board. First Selectman Temple was at the meeting 2 weeks ago and had some concerns. Scott and he talked about the safety concerns that they have, and had a meeting with the applicant concerning this. We are working that out.

First Selectman George Temple believes they have done a good job but have not been up-front with everything, and these changes are in fact going to be done. First Selectman Temple stated he has had meetings in his office and it is a concern of his that that things are changing but some are good changes. Linda Czaplinski stated that when you go through the zoning regulations and the latitude that our commission has as far as the density and looking at the original concept plan and site plan, and then say it is consistent with the concept plan We have a lot of latitude with the regulations that allow our commissioners to be more methodical and by sliding things thru we are denying the public the opportunity to have a hearing.

First Selectman Temple doesn't like to stick his nose in other committees or commissions business, but will demonstrate leadership regarding this matter, and we cannot rush this. We want the public to be heard on this matter. First Selectman Temple wants the public to have one last opportunity to be heard on this, and do a robo call. People are listening.

Peter Zbras, 26 Autumn Ridge Road discussed the item on CNN about an organization that helps out the bullying in schools. 160,000 kids skipped school due to bullying. He will give the information to Kristen Rosa. Mr. Zbras also commented on the Planning & Zoning, that people do not realize how much time it put into this Quarry Walk, and all of our concerns were discussed prior to these meetings and that Planning & Zoning is not being pushed through and they are not afraid of the developer. First Selectman Temple wants people to talk about this until they are tired of talking.

John Downs, 666 Roosevelt Drive, asked about the fracking materials for sewer. Did the town set any legislation for it coming to town? First Selectman Temple has a sample ordinance and is

having Town Counsel looking at it. First Selectman Temple was impressed with the presentation of the environmental group and is concerned about where we get the soil from. He would like a regulation on that issue and wants to know where the soil will be coming from and be allowed to test it. Mr. Downs asked about the Schreiber property and if it included just the land or is the farm on the Schreiber property included also. First Selectman Temple stated there are two proposals, one is 200 acres which includes the entire ridge towards Southbury, and includes the flat land. The farm is not included which is around 10 acres.

Peter Zbras stated that a few months ago, they had the paving company come to remove 16,000 cubic yards of septic sand. If we can get sand from Oxford to Oxford, that will be fine.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Scott Flaherty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. This was seconded by First Selectman George Temple. All 2 Ayes. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Romanowski
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

18 FEB 28 AM 10:51
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
Lynda Romanowski
TOWN CLERK