

Town Meeting
August 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman George R Temple (GRT) at 7:24PM. Town Clerk Margaret A West read the call and return of posting. Scott Pelletier moved to appoint Gino Moretti as moderator, seconded. There being no other nominations GRT called for a vote.

Nomination carried: Unanimous

Moderator Moretti read the eligibility of vote at a town meeting.

Item 1 moved by John Downs, seconded.

Shall the Town of Oxford approve the proposed Fire Commission ordinance as presented and approved by the Board of Selectmen on 8/4/2014. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the Town Clerk's Office.

Discussion: Ed Hellauer 83 Bowers Hill Rd explained he is member of Oxford Fire Department and Riverside. He was asked to draft an ordinance, he further explained he did not create an ordinance; he simply reviewed the current one carefully. It is basically the same with some corrections, there was never an attempt to assert the power of the Chiefs. He went over section "B" pertaining to the Fire Commission duties. I amended the parts that said Board of Selectmen and changed it to the Fire Commission.

Joseph Calabrese 494 Quaker Farms Rd explained that the problem lies in the words "but not limited to", this is a board amount of power to give. An example he explained was how the commission questioned at a public meeting qualifications of a Chief. He further commented that the ordinance was too broad and was taking power away from the fire companies.

Martin Wing, 94 O'Neil Rd asked if there was more time to bring this back for another vote?

Joseph Calabrese explained that it's been frustrating and as clear as we speak the commission has not listened, further commenting that the Fire Department and the commission have reached an impasse.

John Downs Jr 75 Coppermine Rd asked what would happen if we take a vote and it doesn't pass?

First Selectman Temple explained that the fire commission is in the Charter and that this was an attempt to clarify that with the ordinance.

Jeff Haney commented that with out the ordinance the duties are not clear.

Motion to move the question, seconded the moderator then called for a vote to move question.

Motion carried: Unanimous

The moderator then called a vote on Item 1, by a show of hands.

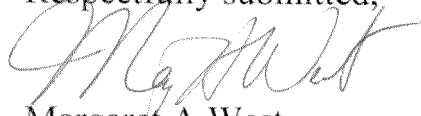
Motion failed:

Yes 19


No 36

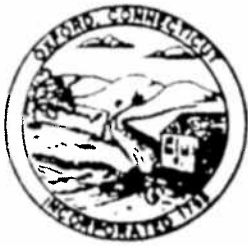
Scott Pelletier moved to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:36PM

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret A West
Oxford Town Clerk

14 AUG 21 AM 11:51
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT

TOWN CLERK



TOWN OF OXFORD

S.B. Church Memorial Town Hall
486 Oxford Road, Oxford, Connecticut 06478-1298

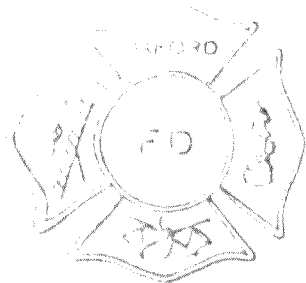
RETURN OF POSTING

I, George R. Temple, First Selectman of the Town of Oxford, hereby certify that I caused a copy of the foregoing Notice of the Town Meeting, bearing the written signatures of two members of the Board of Selectmen, to be posted on the public signpost in the Town on Thursday, August 7, 2014 and that I caused a copy of said Notice to be published in the Voices, a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Oxford, in its issue of August 13, 2014.

Dated: August 13, 2014

George R. Temple, Esq.
First Selectman

14 AUG 14 PM 3:12
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT
George R. Temple
TOWN OF OXFORD



OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT



SB CHURCH MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
OXFORD, CONNECTICUT 06478-1298

Office of the Fire Commission

OXFORD CENTER VOL. FIRE CO.
QUAKER FARMS VOL. FIRE CO.
RIVERSIDE VOL. FIRE CO.

Oxford, CT Code of Ordinances

35.01 ESTABLISHMENT.

A Fire Department for the town shall be established for the protection of life and property.

35.02 GOVERNMENT.

The following shall be adopted for the government of the Fire Department of the town:

- A. The governing body of the Fire Department shall consist of a Fire Commission of six members. Officers of the Fire Department shall consist of a Board of three Chiefs, one each of these to reside in and represent the three principal sections of Oxford: the Center, Quaker Farms and the Riverside sections.
- B. (B) The term of office for each Chief shall be from January 1 to December 31, and no Chief shall hold over in office after the termination of the year due to the failure of an appointment of his or her successor. Fire Chiefs shall be appointed as follows. Each company shall annually submit nominations in writing to the Fire Commission not prior to October 15, nor later than November 15. If no nomination has been received by the Fire Commission by November 15, the Fire Commission shall make the nominations. The Fire Commission shall approve or reject the nominees in writing and shall forward their recommendations for the Chief positions to the Board of Selectmen no later than December 1. The Board of Selectmen will appoint or reject the selection at the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting. The three Chiefs shall be known as the Board of Chiefs, and within 30 days after their appointments by the Board of Selectmen, the three Chiefs shall select one of their members to the position of Chief and the others to the position of Assistant Chiefs. They shall forward this selection to the Fire Commission who shall approve or reject the selection for Chief in writing and will forward the selection in writing to the Board of Selectmen. In the event any Chief is unable to serve, or a vacancy occurs in his or her position, appointment of his or her successor shall be made by selection by the company.

This selection shall be forwarded to the Fire Commission in writing. The Fire Commission shall then approve or reject the selection in writing within ten days from receipt of the selection. This selection shall be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen in writing and the Board of Selectmen will appoint or reject the selection at the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting or as soon as practical based on the scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting dates. If there have been four rejections, or if no selection is made within 30 days from the time the vacancy occurs, the Selectmen shall make the appointment from the respective fire company.

- C. A six-member Fire Commission shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen with members serving overlapping terms. Members of this Commission shall consist of one active member of each of the fire companies, plus three civilian citizens of the town not currently associated with the Fire Department. The terms of office shall be as follows: each appointed Commissioner shall serve a three year overlapping term with one firefighter Commissioner and one civilian citizen Commissioner being appointed every year. Commissioner's terms will expire December 31st and they will be appointed on January 1st. Appointees for firefighter Commissioners shall be nominated by each individual fire company with the nominations sent in letter form to the Board of Selectmen for appointment. Each company shall annually submit nominations in writing to the Board of Selectmen not prior to October 15, nor later than November 15. In the event any firefighter Commissioner is unable to serve, or a vacancy occurs in his or her position, appointment of his or her successor shall be made by nomination by the respective company, and appointment or rejection in writing by the Selectmen within ten days from receipt of the nomination or as soon as practical based on the scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting dates. If there have been four rejections, or if no nomination is made within 30 days from the time the vacancy occurs, the Selectmen shall make the appointment from the respective fire company. No fire department Line Officer may serve as a Fire Commissioner. Civilian appointments will be made by the Board of Selectmen. The Fire Commission's duties and responsibilities shall consist of managing only the administrative functions of the Fire department. All operational duties shall remain the responsibility of the Board of Chiefs. The Fire Commission's duties shall include, but are not limited to, overseeing the preparation of the annual budget, develop and maintenance of Fire Department administrative policies, develop and maintenance of the Fire Department organizational structure, providing recommendations to the Board of Selectmen, assist in grant development programs, and overseeing the inventory of Fire Department equipment, apparatus, property, and buildings. The Fire Commission will operate as a cohesive group with the Board of Chiefs to oversee and promote the best interests of the Fire Department and Town. The Fire Commission will ensure the policies for disciplinary actions and grievances incorporate those provisions of Section 301 and 302 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Fire Commission will also strive to seek input from the individual fire companies, Board of Chiefs and residents of the Town.
- D. Chiefs shall have the general superintendence of all the Fire Department property belonging to the town, and see that same is kept in order and repair and ready for immediate use. They shall direct all proper measures for the extinguishment of fires; also enforce all regulations regarding fires.

E. The Department shall consist of one or more fire companies, each having an active membership of at least ten men or women. The number of fire companies that the town shall approve shall be governed by the Fire Commission, Board of Chiefs and the Board of Selectmen. Each company shall have its own officers, namely, Captains, Lieutenants, Secretary and Treasurer. Any member of any company may be removed from the Department by the Fire Commission, upon recommendation by the Board of Fire Chiefs, after a full hearing and sufficient reason found.

F. (1) Active membership in the fire companies of the Oxford Fire Department is open to any resident of the town and former residents of the town grandfathered in, who moved his or her residence to Seymour, Beacon Falls, Monroe, Southbury, Middlebury or Naugatuck and who have been trained as a member of the Oxford Fire Department, were outfitted and equipped by the Oxford Fire Department and who was a member in good standing when residence was changed. Citizens and resident aliens of Seymour, Beacon Falls, Monroe, Southbury, Middlebury or Naugatuck who are at least 18 years of age may apply for membership. Out of town citizens and resident aliens may not exceed 10% of the total number of active members in each company as determined by the Board of Fire Chiefs. Budgetary restrictions may limit the actual number of new out of town residents added on a yearly basis.

(2) Applicants must be at least 18 years of age prior to starting their probationary period, and shall comply with all rules, regulations and laws of the town, state and the federal government, including but limited to, the passing of any physical examinations, inoculations or other requirements.

(3) All members of the Oxford Fire Department must continue to be a member in good standing to retain membership. Town employees serving as firefighters, and in good standing, may remain members regardless of their town of residence within the state. Out of town citizens and resident aliens shall not hold Commissioner or officer positions within the fire companies.

G. The Fire Commission shall annually hereafter oversee the Board of Chiefs preparation of the budget for the Fire Department. This budget is to cover the purchase of equipment, repair and maintenance of all equipment and property in the jurisdiction for the Fire Department.

H. Each company shall have power to adopt a constitution and bylaws for their regulation and government, provided, however, that no part of same shall be inconsistent with any of the bylaws adopted or hereafter adopted by the town.