

**TOWNSHIP MEETING
MARCH 20, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Township Committee of Oxford Township was held on March 20, 2019 in the Oxford Township Municipal Building, 11 Green Street, Oxford, New Jersey.

In attendance were Gerald Norton, Robert Nyland, Bill Ryan, Michael Lavery, Attorney, Michael Finelli, Engineer and Sheila L. Oberly, Municipal Clerk.

The flag salute was recited.

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist. The public shall be excluded from the discussion of any action upon the hereinafter-specific subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is: Two Contractual Matters-Police Contract and Brennan, LLC.

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public at the conclusion of the litigation.

The motion carried with the following roll call vote.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to enter Executive Session at 7:05PM.

On motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to enter open session at 7:40 PM.

Meeting Minutes:

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote, to table the November 7th meeting minutes again. These minutes were tabled at the December 12th and January 16th Township meetings.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to approve the February 21st Budget and Executive Session Minutes and the February 27th Township Meeting and Executive Session minutes.

Ordinances:

Ordinance 2019-01-To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank was read by title on second reading and opened for public comments.

There being no public comments, the comment period was closed

On motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adopt **Ordinance 2019-01**.

Ordinance 2019-02-Salary Ordinance was read by title on second reading and opened for public comments.

There being no public comments, the comment period was closed

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adopt **Ordinance 2019-02**.

Ordinance 2019-03- Amend, Revise and Supplement Chapter 91-16- Bush Street, and Henderson Street was read by title on second reading and opened for public comments.

There being no public comments, the comment period was closed

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adopt **Ordinance 2019-03**.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION 2019-29

REDEEMED LIENS

WHEREAS, several real properties tax payers have redeemed liens held against their property taxes and;

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received proof of such payments after correspondence with said property owners;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee, of the Township of Oxford, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, hereby authorizes the Certified Finance Officer to release the amount specified to the lienholders listed below.

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Name of Owner</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Premium</u>	<u>Lienholder</u>
38	8	Dodge, Sandra	\$17979.27	\$6400.00	FWDSL
33	104	MTGLO Investors	\$2327.66	\$1300.00	Jing Yang
31	21C0034	Caleca, J & T	\$1757.10	\$1100.00	Jing Yang

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adopt **Resolution 2019-29**.

New Business:

Mr. Norton explained that the Township's postage meter's lease will expire in April. Ms. Oberly has received quotes from three different companies in response to replacing the postage meter. Mr. Norton and Ms. Oberly have discussed the options on each machine and agreed that the meter from Postage Bowes would be the best choice for the Township.

On motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to lease the postage meter from Pitney Bowes for 60 months at a cost of \$514.23 a quarter.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to advertise for bids for the Municipal Building Roof Repair and to set the bid opening for 10:00 AM on April 24th.

The Oxford Central School Archery Team has won the State Championship again for the thirteenth year in a row and will be going to Kentucky to compete at the National Championship.

Mayor Ryan read the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially poisonous medicines, household chemicals, and other substances; and

WHEREAS, poisoning is a preventable illness! From the youngest to the oldest, all people and even pets are at risk; and

WHEREAS, poison centers across the country will focus the public's attention on identifying poisoning hazards at home as well as learning ways to prevent poisoning emergencies; and

WHEREAS, a poison is defined as anything that is taken in the wrong amount, in the wrong way or by the wrong person; and

WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey outnumbering deaths by motor vehicles and firearms; and

WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths including those from prescription and over-the-counter medications, as well as illegal drugs such as heroin and methamphetamines remain at epidemic proportions for both New Jersey and the United States.; and

WHEREAS, in approximately 94% of unintentional poison death nationally and 96% in New Jersey, drugs are the poison; and

WHEREAS, although the majority of reported poison exposures involve children five (5) years old and younger; the majority of poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20 to 59; and

WHEREAS, lead poisoning remains a major public health concern. Elevated blood lead levels can cause significant and permanent damage to the health and wellbeing of a young child. There is no safe level of lead. Stop a child's exposure to lead before it causes harm; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES), a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine of the New Jersey Medical School of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, provides expert advice, drug information, and poison prevention education to NJ residents through the 800-222-1222 Poison Help Hotline; and

WHEREAS, all services are free, confidential, multilingual and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year even during bouts of Mother Nature; and

WHEREAS, the public can contact a poison expert by calling (1-800-222-1222), chatting (www.njpies.org), or texting (8002221222@njpies.org); and

WHEREAS, consumers must be aware that e-cigarette devices, hookah pipes and liquid nicotine may contain very high doses of nicotine in enticing colors, aromas, and flavors – increasing the likelihood that small children and pets will focus their attention on them. These products pose serious risk of poisoning; and

WHEREAS, poison experts urge residents to use our services as a resource for poison and drug information instead of consulting the internet for information that may not be accurate; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all residents to program the Poison Help Line 800-222-1222 into home, office, and cell phones because a rapid response can make a difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives; and

WHEREAS, poison centers help to eliminate thousands of unnecessary and expensive emergency department visits by offering callers access to free, confidential medical advice; and

WHEREAS, NJPIES is also involved with the state’s efforts in homeland defense, counter-terrorism, emergency preparedness and response, bio surveillance, and surveillance for clusters of poisonings and their sources (products, food and beverages, chemicals in the workplace and at home, environmental toxins, drugs and medicine, and animal and insect bites and stings);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Ryan, Mayor of the Township of Oxford do hereby proclaim the week of March 17-23, 2019 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families, and their community.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mayor Ryan and passed unanimously on roll call vote to approve Matthew Correll and Darrell Corleto Blue Light Permits.

On motion by Mr. Nyland and seconded by Mayor Ryan to approve the Raffle application from the Oxford Volunteer Fire Company to host Casino Night on April 13th from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at the Oxford Firehouse. Mr. Norton abstained.

Mr. Norton researched the water issues on Lincoln Avenue. The residents complained that since the street has been paved, the water from rainstorms has been redirected and the water is going into their backyards.

Mr. Finelli stated that he was not aware there was a drainage issue. He said that he will meet with Lou and Mr. Norton to resolve the issue, which should be an easy fix, a little blacktop is needed to create a berm.

Mr. Norton asked that Mr. Finelli contact him to let him know his availability.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to approve the 2019 Interlocal PCFA Agreement. The agreement starts on March 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020. In exchange for disposal services, Oxford agrees to pay the Authority the following fees:

March 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020	\$79.00 disposal fee per ton
NJDEP Recycling Tax	\$ 3.00 disposal fee per ton

Mayor Ryan will write a letter to PCFA asking them to waive the 2019 Township Spring Clean-up fee for Oxford Township.

The Department of Public Works cleaned all debris and trash from 45 Bush Street.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mayor Ryan and passed unanimously on roll call vote to place a lien in the amount of \$2,303.40 on 45 Bush Street to pay for the clean-up.

Lisa Gerickont requested a change in her hours as the Tax Collector.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to change her hours to every Tuesday and Wednesday evening from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM and the first Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM to Noon.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mayor Ryan and passed unanimously on roll call vote to waive the sewer fees on Block 21, Lot 4 starting April 1, 2019 until a C/O is issued for the property because of a fire, the house will be demolished.

Township Committee Reports and Correspondences:

Mr. Nyland explained that he has received complaints about people not curbing their dog at the Oxford Central School parking lot and on school grounds. He stated that there is a Township Ordinance that states all dog owners MUST clean-up after their dog. As per the Township Ordinance, first offense is a \$250.00 fine and second offense-\$500.00 fine. He will reach out to Lou and have signs erected stating the ordinance number and fine amounts.

Mayor Ryan said that he would not be able to attend the April 17th Township regularly scheduled meeting and asked to have it rescheduled to April 24th.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to reschedule the Township meeting from April 17th to April 24th at 7:00 PM in the Oxford Municipal Building and to cancel the workshop meeting scheduled for May 1st.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to advertise Workshop Meeting stating that action may or may not be taken.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mayor Ryan and passed unanimously on roll call vote to approve the request from the Tax Assistant to attend and have the Township pay for a Tax Collector's class. The Committee agreed that classes and seminars should be attended to gain more knowledge about the job.

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to put "At Your Own Risk" signs at the Oxford Furnace Lake after a gentleman fell in the lake ice fishing.

Township Engineer Report:

Mayor Ryan stated that the Township has not been reimbursed by NJDOT for the second phase of Pequest Road.

Mr. Finelli will follow up with NJDOT and ask for the remainder of the grant money and let the Committee know if there is a problem or when to expect it.

Mr. Finelli stated that he has nothing else to report at this time.

Township Attorney:

Mr. Lavery stated that some townships have an ordinance stating where Sex Offenders can and cannot live and as per the Warren County Prosecutor's office-this is illegal. He said that Oxford Township does not have this ordinance.

Mr. Lavery stated that he has nothing else to report at this time.

The Committee stated that the property auction is all set for April 17th at 10AM in the Washington Township Municipal Building. The following properties are to be auctioned off:

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Street</u>
4	11&18	Mechanic Street
9	2 &3	47&49 Pine Street
10	8	Henderson Street
21	16	Henry Street
26	90 & 90.01	144 & 164 Mt. Pisgah
31	1	330 Route 31
32	1	386& 390 Route 31 (formerly Block 32, Lots 1, 2 and a portion of Lot 5)
32	9	135 Lower Denmark Road (formerly Block 32, Lots 9-13)
32	14	149 Lower Denmark (formerly Block 32, Lots 14-22 and portion of Lot 5)
33	112	Robeson Ridge and Pequest Road
34	2.01	Off Chestnut Street

Motion To Pay Bills:

On motion by Mayor Ryan, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to pay all bills approved at the meeting.

Public Comment:

Mr. Norton will reach out to Mr. Brady on Lincoln Avenue and notify residents on that street when Lincoln Avenue (the berms) will be repaired. A resident on Lincoln Avenue stated that they are not dealing with a “trickle of water.”

Mrs. Erhard asked when the potholes will be repaired on Snyder Avenue. Also, residents on Belvidere Avenue is draining their basements and there are puddles in front of houses.

Lou, DPW Supervisor will go out and look at it.

A question was asked if the Township is going to create a stormwater treating system. Mayor Ryan answered-there are no plans.

Diane Hooper stated that the closing of Covanta should be put on the Oxford website and asked what the Township is doing to prepare since Oxford is losing over \$600,000.00. She asked if taxes are going to increase.

Mayor Ryan said that he has talked to the Director of Local Government Services about receiving Transitional Aid but there is a process involved. The Township is finishing this year with one million in surplus. Oxford will not receive any aid for 2019, possibly next year or the following year.

At the budget meeting, it was discussed that the municipal tax would increase approximately \$122.00 per year on a house assessed at \$165,000.00. Also stated, the garbage tax will remain the same-\$50.00 a quarter

The township is auctioning township properties on April 17th to raise money to increase the surplus.

Mr. Nyland stated that Oxford Township needs ratables to help the tax rate.

Mrs. Riley asked who is responsible for the meeting minutes being posted on the website. Ms. Oberly will call Jean Paul, and ask him about the minutes.

Don Niece asked why the Township is taking the garbage to Hunterdon County when the Pollution Control Financing Authority (PCFA) should be taking it.

Mayor Ryan answered that PCFA stated that they cannot talk to the Township until after March 31st. Mayor Ryan will call Jim Williams, Director of PCFA on April 1st and ask that the Landfill (PCFA) take Oxford Township garbage, for no charge.

Mr. Niece asked about eliminating the garbage tax. Mayor Ryan stated that it is a revenue to the Township.

Mr. Niece asked how the Township can still collect the garbage tax if not providing the service. He stated that he isn't going to pay for a service to the Township that someone else is providing. Example: Sanico.

Mayor Ryan stated he is looking at different options.

Diane Hooper asked if there was a possibility overall to merge with other local municipalities: Liberty or Independence. She said she didn't know if it would make the situation worse or better financially but asked if the Committee was looking into this.

Mayor Ryan said that it came up in a conversation but there is a whole process that the Township would have to go through.

On motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to end Public Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist. The public shall be excluded from the discussion of any action upon the hereinafter-specific subject matter.

The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is: Two Contractual-Solar Farm and Municipal Court.

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public at the conclusion of the litigation.

The motion carried with the following roll call vote.

On motion by Mr. Nyland, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously on roll call vote to enter Executive Session at 8:27 PM.

On motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to enter open session at 8:52 PM.

On motion by Mr. Norton, seconded by Mr. Nyland and passed unanimously on roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Sheila L. Oberly, RMC

