

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on May 27, 2025, at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830. Audit Committee met at 7:00 P.M. and the Regular Board meeting started at 7:30 P.M.

**Present were:** Mayor Terry Stark, Trustee Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Mary Branham, OIC Adam Francis, WWTP Operator Brenton Rideout, DPW Superintendent Bill Kelsey, Clerk-Treasurer Shelly Marks.

**Absent:** Fire Chief Ron Martin, Captain Mark Forrest, Zoning Officer/Dog Warden Roger Barrows

The Village Trustees (Audit Committee) reviewed each of the invoices in the abstract for May 2025.

Mayor Terry Stark called the Regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

Audrey Johnson attended the meeting. She said that the Greene ambulance picked up her husband and it took 20 minutes for them to get to the house-it was 6:30 in the morning. Oxford currently has coverage from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. She wants to know why we cannot cover in Oxford 24/7. Mayor Stark said that the village cannot afford this coverage. Mayor Stark said it would raise taxes about \$200 if we did this. Mrs. Johnson said our people are important and we need to take care of them. The village just does not have the staff to support this request for the EMS. 25-35% would be the increase in taxes to get this coverage. The village is paying \$157,000 per year to have two people on for those 12 hours. She wants an article put in the paper letting people know about this situation. The village should talk to Chief Martin, EMS Captain Forrest and the board and get information together and put an article in the paper about funds with the EMS.

Mrs. Johnson also said that she appreciates how things are looking at 6 Fayette Street- they are working on the house and the area is looking better. She appreciates this being taken care of. She asked what the steps are for a property that has violations against it. Eighty percent of these properties have absentee owners. They receive a verbal warning, then a letter to clean up by a specific date and then a citation to appear in front of the judge and a charge of \$25-\$150 depending on the situation. We should think about raising our fine amounts.

Doug Davis addressed the board about having a boat ramp by the sewer plant or the lack thereof. There are people that want to fish and this is the only place to put in kayaks or canoes. This spot is impossible for an older person. DPW Superintendent Bill Kelsey talked about the ramp. This is not the correct place to put in a ramp-it has lost thirty feet from where it was at the beginning. They used to put gravel out and it got washed out every spring. Without a grant, this "fix" is what can be done and we are donating gravel every year. This space used to be shallow but is now pretty deep in that area. The most cost-effective way would be to reshape the current ramp so people can get out of their vehicle safely. It would be more sensible if that area could be used. We will work on grants and a short-term fix. We will also talk to the fire chief as well about this.

Reagan Long addressed the Board. She is going into her junior year at Oxford Academy. She used to work with Nat Emerson and she saw someone watering the flowers and wondered if that position was available. Mayor Stark told her that the position has already been filled but to give us contact information and we will keep in touch if a position becomes available.

Edith Holtz addressed the Board. She is the president of the Garden Club. She appreciates the support of the village and the help from the DPW with the mulch and for delivering it for them. Someone brought to their attention that the flowers around the fountain are maintained by them. The Garden Club would like to put a sign up around the fountain so people are aware of who works on them. They need more members and more younger members. They want

people to know that they are a club that is in Oxford and for people to see what they do and how funds are spent. The sample sign would say something like, “THIS GARDEN IS LOVINGLY TENDED BY THE GARDEN CLUB – LOOK US UP ON FACEBOOK.” They would like to put a sign up on the electric box permanently (not on the door but on the side of the box). The parks they take care of are: LaFayette, Washington Park and the Library.

There is a car that parks on State Street on the sidewalk and weekends are the worst. This is near 20 State Street. This is not as much of an issue during the day. OIC Francis will have Officer Sherman keep an eye out and speak to the owner about this situation.

**ABSTRACT:**

Trustee Marks seconded by Trustee Hendricks made a motion to approve Abstract #012 as presented. All voted aye and motion was carried.

General Fund	\$ 72,339.16
EMS Fund	\$ -0-
Water Fund	\$ 16,773.74
Sewer Fund	\$ 10,550.74
Water Improv Project	<u>\$104,058.16</u>
	\$203,721.80

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Branham seconded a motion to approve the April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes. All voted aye and motion was carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Marks seconded the motion to approve the April Treasurer’s Report.

**JUSTICE REPORT:**

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Branham seconded the motion to approve the April Justice Report from Judge Ross. All approved.

**OFD REPORT:**

Chief Martin was absent. We need to discuss the capital project.

**EMS REPORT:**

Mark Forrest was not present. Bond resolution for the ambulance purchase. Trustee Branham moved and Trustee Marks seconded the motion to approve the bond council bond resolution by Village of Oxford, NY not to exceed \$235,000.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Officer Francis addressed the board. There was a discussion about EAP (Employee Assistance Group) to help the village employees to cover police, fire, DPW, WWTP. The cost is \$3,000 a year and will cover all employees (up to one hundred people). There is critical incident training and it covers as many people as we need. Counseling can be one on one or over the phone/computer. This is a better option in OIC Francis’ opinion.

ESI (Employee’s State Insurance) is used – The police would use this program. Trustee Leach thinks this is fine and Trustee Hendricks and Trustee Marks agrees with him. Motion by Trustee Marks and seconded by Trustee Leach to approve this program.

**WASTE WATER PLANT:**

WWTP Operator Rideout addressed the board. The chlorine system was fired up for the summer, they must chlorinate from May 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>. W2O came and replaced two more pump stations. They still need to do the one behind the school after school is over for the summer. Pump hours are down due to the pumps getting a good seal. Water Street hours were cut in half.

An electrician came into the plant to replace the sludge receiving vault.

They had a secondary sludge pump stop working. We will get a price to fix this. They took the pump and are going to give us prices \$8,000 – \$10,000 is the price and a rebuild is about half that price. He recommends the rebuilding option.

He tries to flush out GP5 and the wet well at the plant monthly to keep them clear of the rags and grease that builds up.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:**

DPW Superintendent Kelsey addressed the board. Cook's had a quote on the trees that need to be removed. With Board approval, we will get Cook's back this summer. Either sooner or spring is best for the DPW. The Board approved their okay to hire Lance Thorne again to help with the mowing of the parks. They have thirty stumps that need to be ground.

Suit Kote gave us a quote for paving South Washington Ave for cold paving. Greene and Bainbridge have been doing this for the past few years. This is a little cheaper than hot patch. The next step next year would be to micro seal the cold patch and then this is all done. Micro sealing is covered by CHIPS money. \$25,000 to do the seal and we will be good for 6-10 years. Crack seal can be done in one day and \$3,000 - \$5,000 to do the whole village. This is not covered under CHIP money.

If there are any vehicles that we should sell at auction (including the fire department), do it and get rid of them this summer.

Resolution for DPW \$25,000 for a sweeper if they find one on Auction's International. Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Branham seconded the motion to authorize SPW Kelsey to commit to the purchase of a sweeper for up to \$25,000.

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Leach seconded the motion to approve the bond council bond resolution for the DPW for up to \$120,000 for a new truck.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Roger Barrows was not present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Branham seconded the motion to authorize the redesign of our website by Woollybear Web. He also updated our website to the .gov that has been made mandatory for governments.

**TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Terry Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelly W. Marks  
Clerk-Treasurer