

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford was held on May 14, 2024 at the Village Hall - 20 LaFayette Park, Oxford, NY 13830. at 7:30 P.M.

Present were Mayor Terry Stark, Deputy Mayor Dale Leach, Trustee Dustin Hendricks, Trustee Richard Marks, Trustee Richard Rice

Other Attendees: Oxford Town Supervisor Alan Davis, Town Councilman John Weidman Oxford Fire Chief Ron Martin.

Mayor Stark called the special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was given.

Mayor Stark summarized the below local law being proposed by the Greene Town Board regarding its role in administering the liquidation of Brisben Fire District #11. The notice of the law was recently published in the Evening Sun and included a notice of public Hearing to be held at Greene Town Hall on May 15th.

BRISBEN FIRE DISTRICT #11 Liquidation OF FUNDS

Local Law #1 of 2024

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Greene, in the County of Chenango, as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

This local law provides for the gifting of monies from the sale and dissolution of the Brisben Fire District which were transferred to the Town of Greene as of its December 31, 2023, dissolution, whereby an equitable share of the proceeds from the Brisben Fire District dissolution as will be gifted as set forth herein, providing a portion of Brisben Fire District's monies to continue the mission of the Brisben Fire District to its successors-in-interest which are now providing essential and emergency services to the former Brisben Fire District, including the Town of Greene Fire District, Town of Oxford Fire District, and Town of Smithville Fire District.

SECTION 2. ESCROW

The Town of Greene shall withhold in escrow \$6,400.00 from the monies from the sale and dissolution of the Brisben Fire District for a period of four (4) years to account for attorneys' fees, costs associated with Cancer Insurance payments for the former Brisben Fire Department, and any other similar and like costs, where the remainder of the \$6,400.00 not used for the same shall be disbursed to the below-mentioned recipients in accordance with the percentages set forth therein.

SECTION 3. APPORTIONMENT SCHEDULE

The monies from the sale and dissolution of the Brisben Fire District are gifted to the following fire districts as follows:

2024 Tax Apportionment		
Recipient	Percentage	Amount
Village of Greene (Town of Greene Fire District)	68.1%	\$56,320.44
Village of Oxford (Town of Smithville Fire District)	4.5%	\$3,721.62
Village of Oxford (Town of Oxford Fire District)	27.4%	\$22,660.50
TOTAL	100.0%	TOTAL
		\$82,702.56

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Since last summer, the towns of Oxford and Smithville had believed that the proceeds from the liquidation of the Brisben Fire District dissolution would be distributed to the towns. ostensibly to be used to cover payments for future fire contracts. However, the proposed law as written and confirmed by Greene Town Supervisor McDermott, indicates the liquidated proceeds are being equitably gifted to Village of Oxford and the Village of Greene to be used by the fire departments to continue to provide essential and emergency services.

The issue to address is how the funds should be applied as the towns (Oxford & Smithville) will not receive the funds directly. Whether funds can be used to offset future contract payments or placed in a reserve for future equipment or other capital purchases is the crux of the matter. Consequently, the Board has to determine what is in the best interest of all concerned (Village, Fire Department, Towns). The Village has an interest in maintaining good relations with the Towns. The Towns have a need to manage their finances to ensure funds are being spent wisely on fire protective services. The Fire Department has a need to maintain services and morale in an increasingly difficult economic environment.

Following discussion amongst the group present (Fire Chief, Village Board and the Town representatives) the consensus was to proceed as follows:

1. Follow the directive of the local law's intent by adding the funds to the OFD Capital Reserve.
2. Review and confirm with Village attorney that allocation of funds to capital reserve is compliant with the local law's intent.
3. Review proposed 5-year Fire District #23protective service contract with the intent to increase current payment schedules in compliance with current Tax cap levy allowable increase of 2%.
3. Attend the Greene Public Hearing to better understand the rationale for the fund distributions and to determine if the distribution amounts sent to the Villages are reduced by the \$6,400 escroll amount or if the escroll is additional to the \$82,702.56.

Mayor recommended Village Board pass a resolution reflecting the above listed objectives: Following more discussion, Trustee Leach moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to:

1. Add any funds received from the Town of Green for the liquidated proceeds from the dissolution of the Brisben Fire Department to the Village of Oxford Fire Department Capital Reserve fund
2. Review and confirm with Village attorney that allocation of funds to capital reserve is compliant with the local law's intent.
3. Review proposed 5-year Fire District #23protective service contract with the intent to increase current payment schedules in compliance with current Tax cap levy allowable increase of 2%.

The motion was adopted, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

Dale Leach	AYE	Dustin Hendricks,	AYE
Richard Marks	AYE	Richard Rice	AYE
Terry Stark	AYE		

The mayor will attend the Green Public Hearing at 6 PM on May 15th, Contact the village Attorney for legal review and contact Supervisors of Smithville and Preston to schedule a meeting with their respective Boards to discuss the liquidation proceeds process and the proposed fire District #23 contract renewal.

HUEBER BRUER CONSTRUCTION CO
INVOICE FOR SERVICES March-April 2023

The mayor presented an invoice from Hueber Bruer for \$5,615.00 for services for the period from March 1 to May 5th. This included all the work completed to prepare and solicit and review submitted bids for the new roof for the fire department.

Trustee Leach inquired if the review is including a thorough review of the low bid submitted by Clapper to ensure bid submittal met all required specifications. And if so, that the bid award ensures there is not a tacit agreement to potentially large change order request. It was also mentioned by Trustee Rice that there still may be some confusion with the bidders regarding the need to remove the chimney as part of the roof replacement bid. Fire chief indicated that that Sean Foran (Hueber-Bruer) will discuss the specifications and bid amounts with all bidders prior to recommending a bid award to the Village Board.

Following more discussion, Trustee Hendricks moved and Trustee Marks seconded a motion to approve the payment of \$5,615.00 for services rendered on Invoice #19-580.15 and direct the Village Treasurer to issue payment this week and include on the May abstract at end of month.

The motion was adopted, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

Dale Leach	AYE	Dustin Hendricks,	AYE
Richard Marks	AYE	Richard Rice	AYE

PROMOTE OXFORD NOW
HOUSING REHAB REQUEST FOLLOW-UP

Promote Oxford NOW is a not-for-profit organization located in Oxford, NY. They have created a subcommittee (Improve Oxford NOW-ION) that has identified the need for affordable home ownership opportunities in the village. They are requesting that the village commit \$10,000 to their rural housing project.

This funding will be used to refurbish the 1947 house build on a 1-acre lot located at 54 North Washington Avenue (Tax Map # 183.12-4-45) in the Village of Oxford. The refurbishment will begin following a gift conveyance of the 1 family residential property from Oxford Storage Units LLC (OSU) to Promote Oxford Now (PON). PON is a 501c (3) IRS recognized non-profit group established more than 20 years ago to promote the Oxford business community, recognize and maintain Oxford's historic nature and respect its hometown character and culture.

The gift from OSU is contingent upon PON's ability to raise about \$ 125,000 to refurbish the single-family home which is not currently suitable for living. Absent a successful refurbishment the building will be demolished. The \$125,000 estimated refurbishment cost will address the following needs:

- Roof Septic Full renovation of the kitchen
- Complete renovation of two bathrooms
- HVAC system Exterior updates/paint
- Energy efficiency upgrade (spray foam insulation)
- All new electrical and plumbing systems
- Complete gut of interior

The Refurbishment will benefit the community of Oxford by updating a currently under developed property and uninhabitable residence to an attractive single-family home located on a 1-acre lot. The home will be listed at an affordable

price of \$150,000 to \$180,000 and is easily walkable to the downtown business center, local schools and churches. The availability of a home in the village which is energy efficient, economically affordable and move-in ready is rare and in high demand.

Following more discussion, Trustee Rice moved and Trustee Leach seconded a motion to:

1. Approve \$10,000 be committed to the non-Profit 501c (3) organization to support the rehabilitation of the non-profit property located at 54 North Washington (Tax Map # 183.12-4-45).
2. Modify FY 2024-2025 General fund Budget to appropriate \$10,000 to Economic Development Account # 8020-400.
3. Allocate Funds from the general fund unassigned fund balance
4. Issue commitment letter contingent upon PON submitting formal documentation of legal; status of the non-profit group, by laws and list of Board officers and Directors.
5. Require PON officer (President, Treasurer) provide quarterly reports of status of project including expenditures to date and that all funds be returned to the Village of Oxford if project is not completed as planned within two years from date funds advanced to PON.

The motion was adopted, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

Dale Leach	AYE	Dustin Hendricks,	AYE
Richard Marks	AYE	Richard Rice	AYE
Terry Stark	AYE		

Mayor to respond to PON

TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Leach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.
Next Regular meeting will be May 28, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry M. Stark
Recorder of Record