

# **Town of Oakham**

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of April 19, 2022

**Present:** Lucy Tessnau-Chairman, Don Haapakoski-Vice Chairman, Brad Taylor-Clerk

**In attendance:** Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst, Ted Croteau, Nicol Marino, Fred Gehring, Tim Howe, Dennis Bergin, Susanne Shays, Paul Rochette, Lucille DiLeo

**Meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Lucy Tessnau**

**Approve Warrants:** Lucy made motion to approve warrants for WR21 Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote was Brad-yes, Lucy-yes. (Don did not vote as he's signing the warrants in the absence of the Town accountant).

**Approve Minutes:** Don made motion to approve minutes for 3/21/22 & 3/25/22, Brand 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lucy all in favor.

**Dennis Bergin- new wiring inspection fees:** Dennis Bergin, Wiring Inspector presented the board with new fees for the wiring inspections. Most of the fees are increased by \$10.00 but some by \$20-\$30. Don made motion to increase the wiring inspection fees as presented by Dennis Bergin, Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lucy all in favor.

**Sober in the Sun Festival:** Mr. Ted Croteau and Ms. Nicole Marino have come to the board in request of a permit for Sober in the Sun which is a drug and alcohol prevention program to provide those in sobriety a safe place to be able to be with friends and family while maintaining their sobriety. It also provides them to be around others who have been sober for many years who are role models for those who are beginning their journey. The Sober in the Sun festival would be held where it always has in the past, Treasurer Valley on the weekend of September 2,3,4 (Labor Day weekend). This request would require police detail from the Oakham Police Department. Mr. Croteau is asking for a license for public entertaining and raffle for that Sunday.

Fire Chief, Tim Howe first stated that he does support the causes but it has out grown out of control and the venue. Tim stated that the town of Oakham ambulance services comes from the town of Rutland and Rutland cannot handle it as it overwhelms their services. Tim has reached out to Paxton and they cannot for the same reason, it overwhelms their services on a busy holiday weekend. Tim said that the majority of the calls that go to Treasure Valley when Sober in the Sun is having their festival is for drugs and alcohol which was a drug overdose

fatality last year. Tim is also concerned with access if there were to be a fire as they are so many people there how to get through.

Police Chief, Fred Gehring said that there has been more than one overdose at the Sober in the Sun Festival. The most current one was fatal in 2021. But there was another overdose in 2005 which one of the officers from Oakham PD Narcan the female that overdosed and brought her back to life and then he got sued for a comment that was made of the overdosed female that the officer did not make. Months after the female started her lawsuit she passed away for another overdose. Fred said last year it started off Friday night with an OUI arrest. The individual went into a detox which he then had to go to the hospital and it exhausted Oakham PD budget as he needed 24/7 surveillance by the arresting town. Fred also said they received a call from probation in regards to a man that was an attempted murder suspect wearing an ankle GPS tracking device and was located by the GPS at Treasure Valley Camp. Oakham PD was asked to track the individual and was later determined that the suspect had cut the ankle tracking device and was no longer in the area.

In regards to the OUI Mr. Croteau said the individual never made it inside the festival, but Chief Gehring said he was trying to get in the festival and went through in his vehicle. Mr. Croteau also said that the death that occurred was covid related not an overdose. Ms. Nicole Marino stated that Sober in the Sun Festival is a safe place with entertainment that provide support to each other. People who have 20+ years of sobriety showing those who might only have a couple years of sobriety how to have fun sober, how to raise a family. She said that they are bad eggs everywhere and it would be a shame to take away the festival for all those who are doing the right thing. If

**Fire Chief, Tim Howe- new hires & academy compensation:** Fire Chief, Tim How has 4 members of the fire department attending the Fire Academy in July and ending at the end of October. The academy will be Tuesday & Thursday's 6-9pm and also 4 Saturdays for 8 hours each day. Tim would like for them to get paid something while attending the academy. Don said they have to get paid training rate while not certified. Tim suggested to save on money he would have the 4 members not attend regular department trainings. Tim will provide the board with accurate numbers but it would be roughly 3,000 per member.

Don made motion to approve to pay the 4 fire department members training rate while attending the Fire Academy, Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lucy all in favor.

**Michael Brunelle: Town Hall Study Committee:** Don made motion to appoint Michael Brunelle to the Town Hall Study Committee, term expires 6/30/22, Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lucy all in favor.

**Update on Treasurer/Collector Conversion:** Maribel updated the board that Lisa has filled out the questioners Springbrook have asked of her. Maribel told the board that Springbrook does not have a completed software for the Treasurer/Collector. Don made it clear there is an April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to comply to the grant for this conversion.

**New Business:** Police Chief Gehring brought to the attention of the board that a grant he had been waiting on had been disbursed on 1/25/22 in the amount of 20,000. Chief Gehring proposed that with the 20,000 grant and 33,000 from ARPA funds to purchase a new cruiser for the police department.

Don made motion to purchase new cruiser for the police department using the 20,000 grant and 33,000 from ARPA funds, Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lucy all in favor.

**Old Business:** No old business

**Public Session:** No public session

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:48PM:** Don made motion to adjourn, Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lucy all in favor.

Next Regular meeting: May 2, 2022 6:00 PM