

August 31, 2022  
Oxford, Nebraska

A public hearing of the Chairman and Board of Trustees of the Village of Oxford and the Oxford Rural Fire District was held in Open and Public session at the Oxford Fire Hall on August 31, 2022.

Notice of the public hearing was given in advance by publication and by posting in four prominent places in the Village, a designated method for giving notice. Notice of the hearing was given to the Chairman and all members of the Village Board, and a copy of their acknowledgement of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice to the Chairman and Board of Trustees of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

The special meeting started at 7:02 P.M. and attendance was determined by Roll Call. Present were Scott Hamilton, Keithen Hamilton and Clint McQuiston. Absent: Chad Cunningham and Mike Minarik. Others present were Becky Calderone Clerk/Treasurer. Roll call for the Oxford Rural Fire District: Present were Todd Brown, Craig Bailey, Dan Hunt, Paul Bantam and Tim Goding. There were members of the public present as well.

Village Board Chairman McQuiston informed everyone present that there is one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted on the back wall of the fire hall.

At 7:05 PM, Chairman McQuiston opened the Public Hearing for the purpose of the merger of the Oxford Volunteer Fire and Rescue and The Oxford Rural Fire District to take comments from the public. The Village of Oxford Board of Trustees and The Oxford Rural Fire District elected to take public comment simultaneously and all comments were to apply to both boards.

Comments from the public included questions on how the Rural Fire District will hold elections. Chairman Todd Brown of the Oxford Rural Fire District informed that there are four representatives, one from each township and one at large for a total of five. He stated a representative from the Village of Oxford would be needed. Doug Rawson handed out a state statute allowing for the rural fire district to contract for services with the Village. There currently is an agreement for services between the Village of Oxford and The Oxford Rural Fire District, but it was not available for inspection at the meeting and can be obtained at the village office. The merger would succeed the current agreement. Comments were made on the tax levy. Village attorney Rick Calkins commented that the Rural Fire District would have authority to tax inside Village limits. Comments were made on other towns/municipalities merging within the rural districts, such as Orleans, Stamford, Alma, Franklin to name a few. Republican City still has two boards. Chairman Todd Brown asked Doug Rawson for his opinion. Rawson would prefer to see another way beside the merger. Other comments and questions came regarding the size of the district, and other concerns. The Village Board and the Rural Fire District asked if there were any more comments.

There being no more comment from the public, Chairman McQuiston from the Village Board of Trustees asked for a motion to close the hearing. Scott Hamilton made a motion to close the hearing seconded by Keithen Hamilton. Roll call. Voting in favor: Keithen Hamilton, Scott Hamilton and Clint McQuiston. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

There being no more comment from the public, Chairman Todd Brown from The Oxford Rural Fire District asked for a motion to close the hearing. Craig Bailey made a motion to close the hearing, seconded by Paul Bantam. Roll voting in favor: Craig Bailey, Dan Hunt, Tim Goding, Paul Bantam and Todd Brown. Opposed; None. Motion carried.

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The hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m.

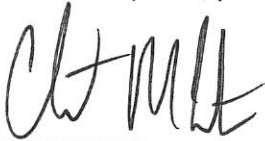
The Village of Oxford board Chairman Clint McQuiston asked for a motion to approve or disapprove the interlocal agreement for the merger. Scott Hamilton made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement, seconded by Keithen Hamilton. Roll call. Voting in favor: Keithen Hamilton, Scott Hamilton and Clint McQuiston. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The Oxford Rural Fire District Chairman Todd Brown asked for a motion to approve or disapprove the interlocal agreement for the merger. Dan Hunt made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement, seconded by Craig Bailey. Roll call. Voting in favor: Tim Goding, Paul Bantam, Craig Bailey, Dan Hunt, and Todd Brown. Opposed; none. Motion carried.

Village Attorney Rick Calkins informed that meetings were schedule with Harlan County Commissioners, Furnas County Commissioners and Gosper County Commissioners. He suggested that at least one member from the Oxford Rural Fire District or the Fire Chief attend each of the upcoming meetings. Rick Calkins will inform the boards and the fire chief of those meeting dates set in September.

There being no more content for the agenda, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:10 pm.

I, the undersigned, Village Clerk, of the Village of Oxford, Nebraska hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings had and done by the Chairman and the Board of Trustees on August 31, 2022 that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that such agenda items were sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting and that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available and accessible to members of the public; posted during such meeting in the room in which such meeting was held.



Clint McQuiston, Chairman of the Board



Becky Calderone, Village Clerk/Treasurer