

**COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**October 10, 2023**

The Commissioners Meeting was held in the Oxford Commissioners meeting room on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

**PRESENT**

Attending the meeting were Commission President Tom Costigan, Commissioner Susan Delean-Botkin, Commissioner Katrina Greer, Police Chief Eric Kellner, Public Works WW Supervisor Matt Ozman, Town Manager Cheryl Lewis, and Attorney Lyndsey Ryan, with Planner Maria Brophy attending virtually. Approximately 55 people were in attendance and approximately 50 virtually.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Greer motioned to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023 as distributed, Commissioner Delean-Botkin seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Supervisor Matt Ozman provided his report. Public works is working on taking down purple lights around town and they will be down by end of the week. They have started back painting hydrants around town, as a temperature around 70 – 80 degrees with low humidity is needed to be able to use this type of epoxy paint. Public works has been working on Preventative maintenance around the wastewater plant, this includes replacing chemical pump suction tubes, greasing of equipment, also checking and changing oils in all equipment. There have been multiple equipment breakdowns over the past two weeks, including the mini excavator with a dead battery, the backhoe blew a hydraulic line, and the Vermeer Vac-Tron had a bad battery and broken drive belt. Employees have since repaired all equipment and all have been placed back into service. Leaf pickup starts Wednesday October the 11th and this will continue until December the 20<sup>th</sup>, after which it goes back to the regular schedule for brush on the second and last Tuesday of every month.

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Kellner provided the report of calls for the prior period, attached here. Kellner reported the speed trailer was set at E. Strand and Norton Street to address speed complaints from Sept. 26 to Oct. 8, with a total of 2085 vehicles registered, 18 traveling between 26-30 mph, and 1 vehicle at 30 mph. Session 2 of the Citizen's Police Academy was held on 10/9/23, with Talbot DES provided CPR and Stop the Bleed training, and the Health Dept provided Narcan Training. The next session is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Kellner completed Administrator training – Sept. 25 to Sept 29, 2023. Coffee with a Cop is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 am, and are held quarterly. Kellner noted there would be active shooter training taking place of the Coast Guard facility this week and citizens may note a little more activity on the facility than they would normally see.

**FIRE COMPANY**

Tim Kearns gave an update from the Fire Company: one medical and three fire calls over the last period. Pancake Breakfasted hosted 120 attendees. The boat committee continues testing and is working on the graphics. There will be a county wide tanker task force drill next week. He noted the new boat will have its own pump. Members will be taking CPR next week and will be attending an electric vehicle drill at the end of the month. The company will be participating in the November 8<sup>th</sup> Emergency Preparedness event at the OCC.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Costigan noted that many comments had been received supporting the existing 1996 Financial Investment Policy and the desire to keep it in place rather than consider the prepared updated version, stating the 1996 version it is not perfect but could be utilized. Commissioner Delean-Botkin noted the Talbot County had

updated their policy with small changes in 2020 and questioned should the Commissioners consider looking at that to see if there is anything that the town needs to bring up to date. Costigan stated that for now the plan is to continue with what is in place and if something comes down the road it can be reviewed.

Costigan noted that a Public Hearing is scheduled for October 24, 2023 at the regular 6 pm meeting on the following: Resolution 2310 Charter Amendment – Deadline for Filing a Certificate of Nomination, Resolution 2311 Charter Amendment – Establishing Provisions Applicable to All Town Elections, Resolution 2312 Charter Amendment – Clarifying Provisions Related to Special Election for Vacancies.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

In reference to the Budget and Finance Committee resolution proposed by Commissioner Greer, Costigan proposed that the Commissioners hold a workshop to be able to review the document in more detail. A workshop was scheduled for October 19, 2023 at 5 pm. Commissioner Greer stated that she had received 50 letters in favor of the committee as proposed and 1 that was critical and she felt the need to review the details of her proposed resolution. Commissioner Delean-Botkin expressed a desire to first determine if in fact a committee was even necessary, stating that she has yet to find a similar committee in any other jurisdiction. Costigan stated the Commissioners first needed to define what this proposed committee is and then determine if it is necessary. Discussion will continue at the workshop as scheduled.

**LETTERS AND REQUEST** A thank you letter was received from the Oxford Museum in appreciation of the town's annual support to that operating fund.

### **ATTORNEY**

Attorney Ryan provided an update to Resolution 2310, as previously introduced, to better align language with an amendment adopted during Covid to allowing for the postponement of an election in the event of a catastrophic emergency. The change she is proposing to Resolution 2310 is adding an additional sentence to be reflective of the current language adopted in 2020, but she emphasized the revision does not change the substantive nature of Resolution 2310, which was to address election notices, changing it from 2 weeks to 14 days, allowing special provisions for notice of a special election, and changing the date for filing for candidacy from the third Monday in May to 30 days prior, as previously discussed.

### **TOWN MANAGER**

Lewis noted that following an issue with static on a few of the microphones at the last meeting, several of the microphones had been replaced and the equipment seems to be working fine. She also stated that, although there was static, it was still possible to listen to the prior meeting as posted online. Lewis requested a closed session for a personnel matter and legal advice following the meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Leaf Pickup starts Wednesday October 11 through December 12, 2023; Halloween Trunk or Treat October 31, 2023 6 pm – 8 pm; Emergency Preparedness Program at the OCC on November 8, 2023 at 5 pm. Oxford Auxiliary Rummage Sale on October 28, 2023, accepting donations on the 27<sup>th</sup>; Horn Point is holding an open house on October 15, 2023.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Greer stated she was pleased to see people attending and engaging with their town.

Commissioner Delean-Botkin agreed with participation and is looking forward to the upcoming fall season activities, including the upcoming Naval Academy concert to be held at Holy Trinity on October 15, 2023.

President Costigan noted that he attended the quarterly Town/County meeting on October 3, 2023 where Preston Pepper, director of Talbot County Parks and Recreation, provided a presentation on their plans to finish Oxford Conservation Park, transforming the current farm land into a meadow. Pepper has been invited to a future town meeting to provide more details. Costigan provided an update on the Poplar Hill development, stating that it appears to have been downsized from 450 residential/commercial units to 119 residential units, acknowledging

the outcome was reflective of those who made their voices heard. Captain Judy Bixler will be providing a talk on the history of the ferry at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum on October 23, 2023.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A letter was received from Jan Greer regarding finances. A letter was submitted by Nick Papson, along with a petition from citizens, requesting consideration of landscape improvements at the Public Works facility. Discussion regarding possible solutions followed and Costigan suggested the group bring plan to the town for consideration. A letter regarding finances was received from Kelly Greenhawk. It was noted that there had been several other letters received regarding finance and investment, all of which would be attached to the minutes. Comments from the public were received regarding upcoming events and fundraisers, the proposed Budget and Finance Committee, and the status of the website domain change.

With no further business, Commissioner Delean-Botkin motioned to adjourn into a closed session for a personnel matter, legal advice, and to review prior closed session minutes, Commissioner Greer seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Lewis, Town Manager

*Commissioner Meetings are now live streaming and are archived on [townhallstreams.com](http://townhallstreams.com).*



**Oxford Police Department**  
**101 Market Street**  
**P.O. Box 339**  
**Oxford, Maryland 21654**  
**“Maryland’s First Port”**

*Eric M. Kellner, Chief of Police*

**Reporting Period: 9/26/23 – 10/9/23**

<b>REPORTS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Theft	0	7	Drug Arrests	0	0
Animal Complaint	0	3	DUI Arrests	0	0
Harassment	0	3	On-View Arrests	0	0
Fraud / ID Theft	0	3	Warrant Arrests	0	1
Assault	0	1	Criminal Summons	0	1
Domestic	0	2	Juvenile Referrals	0	1
Accident Report	0	4	Other Arrests	0	0
Suspicious Conditions	0	6	<b>Total Arrests</b>	0	<b>3</b>
Found/Lost Property	3	24			
Other	2	8			
<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>61</b>			
<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>COMMUNITY POLICING</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Alarm	1	18	Property Checks	81	1242
Animal Complaints	2	29	Special Events	0	21
Check Welfare	2	6	Foot Patrol	8	84
Suspicious Condition	0	12	Bike Patrol	1	31
911 – Hang-up	0	2			
Trespassing	1	8	<b>ASSISTS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Liquor Law Violation	0	1	Other PD	1	8
Noise Complaint	0	1	Fire/EMS	0	29
Parking Violation	1	20	Other Agency	0	0
Suspicious Person	0	8			
Suspicious Vehicle	0	7	<b>ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Verbal Dispute	0	3	Parking Citations	0	30
Found Property	3	24	Traffic Stops	5	158
Motor Vehicle Collision	0	8	Traffic Citations	0	3
Traffic Complaint	0	14	Traffic / Parking Warnings	5	165
Harassment	0	3	PC Searches	0	0
Rogue and Vagabond	0	4	Criminal Citations	0	0
Misc. Calls	3	49	Civil Citations	0	0
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>240</b>			
<b>TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Speeding	4	117	Cell Phone Violation	1	6
Stop Sign	0	21	Other Violation	0	14
Driving w/o License	0	2	Equipment Violation	0	5

September 29, 2023

Commissioner Thomas Costigan, President  
Commissioner Katrina Greer  
Commissioner Susan Delean Botkin  
Town Manager Cheryl Lewis

Subject: Management of Town Investments

The purpose of this letter is to bring some factual clarity to viewpoints expressed by members of the town during public comments of the town meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> with which I respectfully disagree, and comment upon my assessment of what I view as the regrettably amateurish and inept management of Oxford town funds.

The first disagreement is that, given the 12-month limit on permissible securities in which the town may invest, the need for establishment of an advisory Finance Committee is irrelevant. The investment process, the speaker declared, was simply a “no brainer”.

Nothing could be further from the truth. During periods in which the amplitude of general interest rates is fluctuating dramatically, either upwards or downwards, adjusting the duration of a fixed income portfolio offers considerable opportunity.

Briefly, if the rate trend seems determinedly upward, as is the present case, one is advantaged to be in short-term maturities to take advantage of increasing reinvestment rates. Should a portfolio be locked in to previously purchased, lower yield, longer maturities, it will forego this valuable opportunity cost.

In the opposite situation, when interest rates begin to fall, which often happens when the U.S. economy enters a recession, a fixed-income portfolio is advantaged by selling its short-term obligations and investing the proceeds in longer-term issues, the yields on which will soon prove to be higher than those of the shorter-term issues sold to finance their purchase.

It should also, therefore, be well noted that to secure this yield advantage, obligations held by the town must be immediately liquid. This is true of holdings in such funds as MLGIP, Shore United’s ICS fund, and especially in individual U.S. Treasury securities regardless of tenor, i.e., both short-term or longer-term. This is not, repeat not, true of bank CDs, which although hopefully timed regarding their maturity, may also not accommodate the town’s requirement for cash, not to mention that they are invariably burdened by early redemption penalties.

Two items, as something of an aside, are these: In my opinion (1) CDs should be the last form of investment in which the town should be involved, unless they offer yields

considerably in excess of those available from U.S Treasury securities; and (2) placing any percentage limitation on the town's funds which may be invested in U.S. Treasury securities is absurd. It makes no sense whatsoever.

The second issue expressed during the subject meeting with which I disagree has to do with the notion that by paying a third-party investment advisor, the Commission would somehow receive more experienced and disinterested advice than that given by a small group of volunteers from the town, and one which would be burdened by a greater sense of fiduciary duty, even to include some form of liability for a failed result from the advice they offer.

Anyone who has been professionally involved in the investment business for any meaningful length of time would simply laugh at this assertion. Investment advisors universally declare their advice is always formulated in the best interests of their clients.

In a great many cases, although historically and demonstrably not always the case, this is true. They do their best to serve their perceptions of the client's interests. But their experience in the capital markets may be a good deal less than that available from a careful selection of volunteers from our own town. Finally, paid advisors, unless found guilty of malfeasance, bear no, as in ZERO, liability for investment losses suffered by the client as a result of the advice they proffer.

Sincerely,

Jan Greer

**Given the critical nature of this letter, it is only fair to give those who might wish to disagree with and/or challenge what I have asserted the opportunity to do so. Accordingly, I wish it to be read aloud during the next regular Commissioners meeting.**

**Attachment:** A brief listing of more important aspects my 44 years spent in preparation for and involvement as a professional in the investment business. This is for those who wish to examine my credentials in order to judge for themselves the experience I employ in arriving at the conclusions set forth above. This attachment need not be read aloud at the referenced meeting.

oxfordclerk@goeaston.net

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**From:** Noname [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2023 9:49 PM  
**To:** Katrina Greer  
**Cc:** Lyndsey Ryan; Tom Costigan; Susan Delean-Botkin; Cheryl Lewis  
**Subject:** Oxford Commissioner's Meeting 9/26  
**Attachments:** Tuesday 9\_26FFInal pdf-1.jpeg; Untitled attachment 00792.htm; Tuesday 9\_26FFInal pdf-2.jpeg; Untitled attachment 00795.htm; Tuesday 9\_26FFInal pdf-3.jpeg; Untitled attachment 00798.htm; Tuesday 9\_26FFInal pdf.pages; Untitled attachment 00801.htm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Katrina,

At the September 26 Oxford Commissioners meeting you once again spent time declaring the miss management of the city's funds and lost moneys. I will give you the point a wiser decision could have been made more timely if one's responsibility is to only focused on maximizing money opportunities, but to regurgitate how much money has been lost and trying lay blame is like beating a dead horse. Frankly get over it and find a positive consensus on how to move forward.

In your late afternoon email on September 26 I was appalled and flabbergasted with your implied threat of dismissal for the Town Manager/Clerk Treasurer for failure to know about a buried investment policy dug up and now weaponized. Then again to publicly introduce the same overture was rude, unprofessional and uncalled-for. To me and in my opinion to others this smells of a hidden agenda with multiple implied innuendos. This is very unprofessional, and I am beginning to question my original support for you and the intentions of your advisors, both financial and policies.

I bit my tongue not wanting to comment on the obvious disdain you continue to display towards Susan. I admired the tactful comments made by someone from the audience who verbalized the same observation. A discussion ensued on how commissioners cannot communicate directly unless under define circumstance. You certainly could show respect for each others opinion and or comments.

I am not convinced a finance commission would be in the best interest of the city. I would not question the credentials of selected volunteer members to a finance commission, I would however question their motivations. Your commissioners would not have a legal liability or accountability. I suggest the commissioners find a practicing CFA or CFP who is legally contracted at some predefined frequency.

Since it appears you are well versed enough to draft recommendations for a financial commission. I suggest you draft additional documentation stating the pros and cons for both your ad hoc

commissioned financial volunteers and those of a fee based financial advisor/planner. This should include any applicable legal liabilities, accountability and disclosures of fiduciary alliances or investments from both. This would at a minimum facilitate a fair evaluation.

This note is in copy to all commissioners, city solicitor and Town Manager/Clerk Treasurer.

Sincerely,  
Robert Hyberg



20 PM, Katrina Greer [redacted] wrote:



Carol Kachadoorian

October 3, 2023

Oxford Town Commissioners:

Tom Costigan

Susan Delean-Botkin

Katrina Greer

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter in response to the proposed change to the Town's Investment Policy. It is my understanding that the proposed revision will provide relief for Town officials who have made investment decisions that are in violation of the existing policy. Given that the existing policy is simple, easy to understand, easy to follow, and effective for giving the Town the best interest rate and highest rate of return, the proposed change is unneeded.

As an Oxford resident, I find it unacceptable that Town officials are in violation of this policy. The solution is not to change the policy to fit noncompliant actions. The solution is to become compliant.

It is important to state that Town officials, including the Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Town Commissioners are each responsible for ensuring the existing investment policy is adhered to. Otherwise, these officials can be accused of misfeasance.

Further, I support establishing a Finance and Accounting Committee comprised of Oxford residents with direct experience in financial management. This taxpayer-led committee fulfills my desire for good and transparent government becoming the standard operating procedure for Oxford. We all have a stake in a well-managed town and this committee is a natural and logical contributor to this goal.

Finally, and as part of this, all Town Officials need to comply with the Town's requirement for an annual Conflict of Interest disclosure.

I expect that this letter will be included in the record for consideration of the Town Investment Policy changes.

Regards,



Carol Kachadoorian

Cc: Town Manager, Cheryl Lewis  
Maryland Attorney General, Anthony Brown

October 3, 2023

Dear Commissioners of the Town of Oxford,

For the record:

Statements during the past several Commissioners meetings have exposed several violations of the Town's Investment Policy, Resolution 9607.

1. Resolution 9607 states: "No more than 50% of the Town's funds shall be in a single financial institution". In violation of this requirement, approximately 90% of the Town's funds were held at a single institution. If not for the proactive discovery and recommendations of Commissioner Greer, supported by Commissioner Costigan, we would still be in violation of this requirement.
2. All of the Town's revenue was allocated to a deposit account earning approximately one third of one percent interest rate. Two million dollars was invested at a 1.5% interest rate when it could have been invested in MLGIP earning 4.8% in May. This also was an indefensible violation of the Town's investment policy to "invest public funds and manage public obligations in a manner which will provide the highest investment return with the maximum security...". A large monetary return on investment was not realized, because of this decision which was not in compliance with Town Policy. Again, if not for the proactive actions of Commissioner Greer, supported by Commissioner Costigan, we would still be in violation of this policy. The transfer of the \$2M to the MLGIP account, is now earning a competitive 5.4% interest rate, and brought us back into compliance with the interest requirement.

finance background, qualifications, or certifications(s) required to make sound recommendations in matters of finance and investment.

Some have suggested that the Town hire a professional financial advisor. However, I do not believe that there is anyone on the Board of Commissioners, or in the employ of the Town who is qualified to ask the right questions of this advisor, or who will ensure that the individual has considered all available financial options. A hired professional advisor has no fiduciary obligations, and has no vested interest in how the finances of this community are being structured.

All of these issues are exactly why we need to stand up a Financial Advisory Committee. We need a volunteer committee of seasoned financial experts to review all of our current financial circumstance and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The Committee will ensure that recommendations are in the best interest of the Town, best meet the financial needs of our community, and ensure policy and ethical compliance.

Furthermore, the Oxford Town Code, Chapter 13, sections 13.1 to 13.4 states (in short): "...all elected officials and all Town employees and appointees...shall file a financial disclosure statement...". I insist that this policy be upheld, and that all commissioners and all employees and appointees of the Town of Oxford immediately submit any required information, if it has not already been submitted, that was due January 31, 2023. If one agrees to hold an elected position, be under the employ of this Town, or be an appointee to the Town business, one must comply with this requirement of transparency.

Failure to submit this information is in violation of Town Code Section 13-6, and is subject to the following enforcement:

TC13-6§B. A Town official, appointee, or employee found to have violated this chapter may be subject to disciplinary or other appropriate personnel action, including suspension of any Town salary or other compensation.

3. The Town (i.e., the Commissioners and Clerk-Treasurer) are still in violation of a third requirement, that “all investment funds and time deposits shall not exceed one year”. It is my understanding that we have a 25 month CD with Bay Vanguard Bank (BVB). In order to comply with required Town Policy, the Commissioners should direct the Clerk-Treasurer to renegotiate that deposit with BVB to mature 12 months from the start date of that CD, at the initiated term interest rate, without penalty for early withdrawal. If BVB is not willing to renegotiate this CD, the CD should be terminated with penalty. Proceeds from the CD should be invested at the highest rate of return at an alternate institute to regain as much loss of capital as possible. Potential withdrawal of all of the funds from BVB could be used as leverage in renegotiating new terms.

These, and others, are/were serious violations of the Town’s existing policies, which has not been followed for many years. These are potentially ground for recalls and employment terminations.

To make matters worse, rather than to bring the Town into compliance with our current policy, an attempt is being made by some to react to the current situation by adopting a new investment policy that would circumvent these blatant violations. This devious attempt is cause for suspicion, and should put all Oxford citizens on high alert.

Also, the Town Manager/Clerk-Treasurer proposed a new (not better) Investment Policy and suggested eliminating the requirement to disclose conflict of interest. This would be in violation of the Oxford Town Code, Chapter 13. I can think of only one reason a person would want this requirement stricken. Enough said!

I am in favor of keeping our existing Investment Policy. Why would you, Commissioners, direct the person who has already demonstrated negligence in this matter, and is in violation of our existing Investment Policy, to draft a new policy? The Clerk-Treasurer does not have the

TC13-6§C. Violation of section 13.5 shall be a misdemeanor subject to a fine up to \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

The three following objectives should be the Commissioner's highest priority of Town business. All other Town business should be put on hold until these objectives are achieved:

1. Bring the Town, Clerk-Treasurer, and Board of Commissioners into compliance with the existing Investment Policy as soon as possible.
2. Enforce all existing Town Code Ethics requirements for Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.
3. Form a Financial Advisory Committee, as was previously presented at the last Commissioner's meeting.

Any alternate action(s), or lack of implementing these priority actions soonest, would exacerbate the existing pattern of misconduct already demonstrated. I expect better stewardship from our Commissioners, and Town employees.

Concerned citizen,

Daniel Kordell

October 9, 2023

Commissioner Thomas Costigan, President  
Commissioner Katrina Greer  
Commissioner Susan Delean Botkin

Dear Commissioners:

I have been following developments and conversations regarding the past and recent investment of Oxford's funds, and the proposed establishment of a Finance Committee composed of a small group of Oxford citizens experienced in such matters to advise you on the making of decisions in this respect.

As a businessman long involved in financial matters on the Eastern Shore, I understand very well the critical requirement to have such decisions based upon a deep understanding of prevailing economic conditions as well as those in the capital markets.

I therefore strongly recommend a favorable view of the establishment of such a Finance Committee be taken by the Commission. I am personally acquainted with a number of Oxford residents who I believe are not only highly qualified to serve on such a committee, but who would also have an unquestioned desire to do so only in the best interests of our town.

Sincerely,



Chuck Benson

**From:** [Noname](#)  
**To:** [Katrina Greer](#)  
**Cc:** [Tom Costigan](#); [Susan Delean-Botkin](#); [Lyndsey Ryan](#); [Cheryl Lewis](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Finance Commission  
**Date:** Monday, October 9, 2023 4:34:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT\\_0.4\\_SampleBudFinResolution.pdf](#)  
[Untitled attachment.00268.htm](#)

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Katrina,

Thanks very much.

I just quickly scanned the document, I will review several more times to insure I fully comprehend the extent of this proposal to the city.

My initial thoughts are these:

- 1.) Very heavy authority given to this commission and a sizable expansion of our small town government. To what end, when all we need is safe, secure financial institutions to house our checking, savings and certificates; well meaning but growth speculation on our tax reserve dollars is not needed in my opinion.  
[REDACTED]
- 2.) Page 1, Section 3. - "... no longer meets the required qualifications for membership"  
Who monitors and decides a member no longer meets qualifications?
- 3.) Page 1. Section 4.1. - "... member shall own property in the Town of Oxford." **Why not a permanent resident?** How do you justify non-residents fully ingrained in the benefits of living here, not just real estate speculation. The commission member should be qualified to vote in Oxford.
- 4.) Page 2. Section 5.2. - "Bull" They can request required information through a formal request to the town commissioners. They serve to benefit the commissioners town oversight and decisions.
- 5.) Page 2. Section 6. - Where is it stated the member(s) will sign a non-disclosure agreement. Do they sign the ethics document?
- 6.) Page 2. Section 7. - Who evaluates or determines the recommendations are compliant with this section?
- 7.) Page 3. Section 13. - "... will be encouraged, but virtual attendance ..." This is unacceptable, I am not aware of other committees that are allowed virtual attendance. If there are five members, surely there will be enough for a quorum.

I am coping the other commissioners assuming they have the same document and in the interest of not repeating myself during the meeting.

Thanks again,  
Bob Hyberg  
[REDACTED]

On Oct 9, 2023, at 3:25 PM, Katrina Greer <katrina4commissioner@gmail.com> wrote:

Just tried to call you it went to VM.

My thoughts exactly!!! I was going to print some out for the meeting as it's very difficult to hear and follow along in that meeting room. I'll attach a copy below. The Commissioners, manager, lawyer got theirs two weeks ago Tuesday early afternoon. I am still mulling over some language so if the one I hand out tomorrow is not exactly the same that is why.

I have had lots of folks that asked for a copy. And yes, a lot of folks have weighed in on this. Most of them feel it is a no brainer that we have impartial expert financial advice. We have so many talented people here in town and we could have done better with the cash management.

Cheers,

On Mon, Oct 9, 2023 at 3:04 PM Noname <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Hi Katrina,

I strongly suspect your document defining this finance committee structure is finalized or closely completed waiting for formal submission at the next commissioners meeting, or soon thereafter. Would you please share a copy of this document with me. I ask this since you are a very strong supporter of transparency and this document can impact everyone in this town. I must assume you are seeking input from a broad spectrum of the citizens.

Please share this document well before the next scheduled commissioners meeting.

Thank you,  
Bob Hyberg

[REDACTED]



Cheryl Lewis, Town Manager

Oct 3, 2023

PO Bo 339

Oxford, MD 21654

Dear Cheryl,

Enclosed, you will find a petition signed by over 180 Oxford citizens, directed to the Town Commissioners, asking them to consider moving forward with a beautification effort along the Water Treatment system's fence located on JL Thompson Drive.

I would appreciate this topic being added to the next Town Commissioner's public meeting agenda in the area you see as appropriate (new business, letters to the commissioners, etc.)

I also request that both this letter and this petition be read publicly and added to the meeting minutes.

Over the last few weeks, I've had several conversations with Matt Ozman concerning this topic. He explained his concerns regarding the embedded water pipes and electric lines in that area, and the issue with plant roots, as well as the impact that pipe repairs could have on any highly planted area.

Based on his concern, I solicited recommendations from Anne Jelich, owner, operator of Garden Design of Easton. She feels that it is reasonable to develop a plan that addresses Matt's concerns and can provide appropriate plantings and fence coverage at a budgetary cost of \$10,000 or less.

She also suggested that a portion of the funding could potentially be reduced if this area becomes a targeted area for trees that result from replacements when citizens request to remove trees but choose not to replace them on their property.

As stated in the petition, I am sure it would be relatively easy to pull together a committee of volunteers to develop a plan, if the town does not have the bandwidth to do so.

I know Oxford has a lot going on. That said, for those of us who live close by and regularly see this area, as well as those who use the town gardens, or the dog park, this is a priority issue.

I appreciate your help in getting the petition on the record.

Sincerely,

Nick and Betty Papson



**PETITION:  
ACCELERATE OXFORD WATER TREATMENT FACILITY BEAUTIFICATION**



To the Oxford Town Commissioners:

As concerned citizens of Oxford, we respectfully submit this petition in an effort to accelerate a beautification campaign along the fence surrounding the Water Treatment Facility located on J L Thompson Road. As we all know, currently this fence with the barbed wire top is more reminiscent of a Prison Fence than anything else.

For years this has been an eyesore which those of us who live nearby and pass daily have been asked to tolerate, as higher priority facility and beautifications projects have taken place. While we understand that priorities are necessary whenever limited funds and resources must be allocated, it is nevertheless a fact that for the last 17 years no efforts have been made to improve this area.

With the exception of one lonely (dead and brown) "evergreen" tree, this entire length of the fence is devoid of any beautification efforts for at least that length of time.

Based on discussions with local realtors there is no doubt that the impact to the adjacent neighborhood streets has been significant in terms of the curb appeal and property values.

Therefore, we who have signed this petition request the following support from our town officials:

1. A proposed beautification plan that can be reviewed by any and all interested parties
2. An understanding of the costs associated with that beautification plan
3. An understanding of where this plan fits in terms of current priorities and depending on its current position in the queue, what can be done to accelerate the plan
4. A timetable to execute the plan

If resources are unavailable to address the first 2 items above, we request that a voluntary committee consisting of concerned citizens be formed to develop the plan and solicit quotations to understand the associated cost.