



The Oxford Scoop

Paid for by Luff2025, Claudia Luff Treasurer, Approved by Jeff Luff

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Oxford Police Still Without Contract After Four Years Amid Ongoing Dispute

Oxford, CT — As the contract dispute between the Oxford Police Department and the town enters its fourth year, questions continue to mount over stalled negotiations, climbing legal costs, and the morale of the officers who serve the community.

According to those familiar with the situation, the disagreement is not rooted in financial demands. Both sides reportedly agree on compensation-related issues. The sticking points are said to be non-financial — issues that officers claim are standard in other departments across Connecticut.

Despite the impasse, the town has spent what sources estimate to be tens of thousands of dollars on legal fees in an effort to resolve the matter, drawing criticism from some residents and officers who believe that a more collaborative approach could have prevented the prolonged standoff.

The First Selectman, George Temple, serves as the town's Chief of Police by charter. While legally accurate, some officers argue that his leadership style has been more combative than constructive. "It feels less like we're working with a leader, and more like we're facing an adversary," one officer, who asked to remain anonymous, said. Oxford's Police Officers are among the lowest paid in the region, averaging only \$74,152 a year...

...while surrounding towns such as Seymour, Shelton, Monroe, Woodbury, Derby, Southbury, Naugatuck, Middlebury, and Newtown average at about \$93,356 a year. Many of Oxford's Police Force are retired State Police sergeants and lieutenants who bring decades of investigative experience to the department. Supporters say their expertise has been underappreciated during the years-long dispute.

Morale, they say, has suffered as a result.

The strain on the department dates back to the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Officers say they were promised support for their efforts during that uncertain time, but now question whether those assurances have been fulfilled.

"I remember back in 2020," said one longtime officer and former State Police Sergeant, "we were responding to emergencies while much of the public stayed home. George told us, 'We'll take care of the guys when this is over.'"

Now, nearly four years later, that officer, along with others, are asking whether those words still hold meaning. Calls for transparency have also grown louder, with some residents and candidates urging the town to release the full amount spent on labor attorneys over the past four years.



Two new Oxford Police vehicles purchased with ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act). Dodge Durango and Chevy Tahoe. Pictures taken at Rich's Farm in Oxford, photographer Jocelyn Boroski.

Jeff Luff & Rob Boroski Make a Run for 1st & 2nd Selectman of Oxford

Oxford, CT — Jeff Luff has been a dedicated public servant in Oxford for many years. He served as Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and now holds the role of Economic Development Director for the town. Alongside his professional contributions, Jeff and his wife, Claudia Mangione Luff, have successfully run a business, Alternative Heating and Supplies LLC, located at 160 Christian Street in Oxford. They have raised three wonderful children, all of whom participated in Oxford's sports and programs, as well as graduated from the local school system.

Rob Boroski is a current Oxford Police Officer with five years of service to the town. Before that, he was a resident state trooper for Oxford and had a distinguished career with the Connecticut State Police. His wife, Stacy Boroski, is a second-grade teacher, and their two children are actively enrolled in the Oxford Public School system.

Both Jeff Luff and Rob Boroski are proud to call Oxford home and are now ready to take the next step in serving their community. They are committed to working for the people and the town of Oxford. Their slogan for their campaign is...

"New Energy, Oxford Values."



Hard Truths and Heavy Hearts

It's disheartening to see our town facing the same problems year after year. So many in our community have spoken up, hoping to be heard, but little has changed. The challenges we're dealing with aren't new. Union complaints, lack of police contracts, taxes, lack of transparency, our volunteers, underfunded schools, to name a few, and yet... the follow-through just isn't there.

That's what weighs on people. Not just the problems themselves, but the sense that promises are made with no real intention or ability to keep them. It leaves...

...residents feeling unheard, discouraged and tired of waiting.

We know Oxford can be better. We've seen how hard our neighbors work, how much people care. That's why Jeff and Rob are stepping up. Not out of ambition, but out of a deep concern for where we're headed. They want to bring real solutions, not just more words. Real follow-through. Real care. Real accountability.

Talk to those who work in and around the town every day, they feel it too. It's time we turned concern into action and give Oxford the leadership it truly deserves.

OUR PROMISES TO YOU

Jeff Luff and Robert Boroski for 1st and 2nd Selectman

We will create an online platform so residents can access information with ease

- Create an employee handbook
- Read articles on pg. 3 for more!

We will allocate funds to currently underfunded departments

- Rebuild town-education ties
- Retain all faculty
- Read more on pg. 2!

- Town services streamlined
- Recorded public meetings
- Read the articles on pg. 3 for more!

We will strengthen internal operations within the Oxford Town Hall

- Public works, emergency services, and recreational facilities
- Read more on pg. 4!

We will prioritize education to support the growing individuals of Oxford

Calls Grow to Celebrate Student Success and Repair School-Town Relations

Special to the Oxford Scoop

Oxford, CT — As the town looks ahead to its next chapter of civic leadership, residents, educators, and parents are voicing renewed interest in strengthening the relationship between the Board of Education and municipal leadership, while also calling for more visible celebration of student achievement.

One of the recurring requests among parents and community members are that they would like to see the Board of Education reinstate regular student recognition at public meetings. These ceremonies should showcase accomplishments in academics, the arts, community service, the trades, and other areas. Supporters say bringing them back would reinforce the value placed on student excellence while fostering stronger connections between schools and the broader public.

"Recognizing the hard work our students put in is an easy, impactful step toward rebuilding trust and school pride," said one parent at a recent community event. "It sends a message that we see them, and we support them." The discussion around restoring student recognition is taking place alongside a broader conversation about stability in schools with the current town leadership. Since 2010, the district has seen ten superintendent changes:

- Dr. Judith Palmer (until 2010)
- John Connelly (interim)
- John Malvey (brief tenure)
- John Connelly (interim again)
- Dr. John Reed (Dec. 2011 - June 2012)
- Tim Connellan (2012 - May 2014)
- Anna Ortiz (2014 - 2019)
- Dr. Jason McKinnon (2019 - 2020)
- Dr. Rob Miller (2020 - term ended in (March 2025)
- Dr. Steven Adamowski (interim)
- Dr. Ralph Marino (July 1, 2025)

All of these leadership transitions have taken place during the tenure of the current town administration. While each superintendent brought value in their own way, the frequent turn over has made it difficult to implement long-term initiatives and has raised concerns about systemic support for education leadership and continuity.

Despite these changes at the top, the district maintains a strong 93% staff retention rate, just below neighboring Monroe's 95%. Officials say this signals stability within the teaching ranks and points to a dedicated and resilient faculty. Budgeting, Mandates, and Town Collaboration Education funding continues to be a major topic of discussion, particularly around unfunded state mandates, which require districts to meet certain standards or implement programs without providing matching financial support. These mandates place increasing pressure on local budgets and staff, with the Board of Education often...



...against limited resources.

Some residents believe the relationship between the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, and the Oxford Town Hall has been strained for several years, with budget negotiations occasionally turning adversarial. They argue that collaboration, not conflict, should guide the process moving forward.

With this year's municipal elections approaching, many residents are looking to new leadership to help reset the tone. Candidates Luff and Boroski, running for First and Second Selectman, have been mentioned by supporters as potential bridge-builders who could help repair relationships between town officials and the school district.

"There's a real opportunity here for a fresh start," said a longtime resident, "We need people who will bring all sides to the table Board of Education, Finance, parents, teachers and work together on what's best for students."

Luff and Boroski have signaled a desire to promote transparency, unity, and stronger engagement across all levels of local government. If elected, residents say they hope the pair will prioritize education partnerships as a key part of their agenda.

Moreover, stakeholders are seeking broader support for the whole student body beyond governance. Residents are also calling for more visible support for a wider range of student activities. While athletics often receive strong turnout and praise, families would like to see board and administrative presence at art events, academic competitions, and student-run initiatives as well.

Special education remains a concern as well. Advocates are encouraging the superintendent and district administration to meet directly with the teachers union and classroom staff to better understand challenges and identify solutions collaboratively.

This community is ready for progress. As the school year winds down and election season approaches, the conversation around education is growing louder and more hopeful. Many in the community agree that the ingredients for success are already in place: dedicated educators, passionate families, and a strong student body.



Respecting Our Volunteers

Our volunteer firefighters and EMS workers are the backbone of public safety in our town. These dedicated individuals devote countless hours to protecting our community —often while balancing full-time jobs and family responsibilities.

Currently, firefighter volunteers receive a modest \$2,000 annual stipend—but only if they both own property and reside in town. This restriction not only undervalues their service but also limits our ability to attract and retain committed responders.

A similar concern applies to our EMS volunteers, many of whom do not live in town. Their contributions are just as vital, and this policy fails to recognize the essential role they play in our emergency response system.

Given the extensive training, ongoing certification requirements, and the personal sacrifices involved, the current compensation structure falls far short of what these volunteers deserve.

We can—and we must—do better.

When your loved one calls 911, they deserve a fast, skilled, and compassionate response. Fortunately, we are proud to have some of the best volunteers in the region. But to keep our departments strong and sustainable for the future, we must prioritize support, provide fair incentives, and proactive recruitment efforts.

Investing in our volunteers isn't optional—it's essential to the safety, resilience, and future of our community.



Transparency Dialogue in Oxford Selectman Race

Oxford, CT — Concerns about transparency and public trust have become a central theme in the Oxford Board of Selectman race, as candidates Jeff Luff and Rob Boroski say they’re hearing repeated frustrations from residents about how town decisions are being made.

According to Jeff Luff and Rob Boroski, voters have expressed dissatisfaction with what they describe as “backroom decisions” made prior to public meetings, a lack of answers during official proceedings, and limited opportunities for open discussion on key town matters.

In response, the pair has made transparency and accessibility the cornerstone of their campaign.

"What we can promise is that we’ll never shy away from a conversation. We believe in open dialogue, honest answers, and giving residents a voice in shaping the future of Oxford."...

...Boroski echoed the sentiment, noting that public engagement and accountability are essential to restoring trust between residents and local government.

The candidates say their approach is not about politics, but about creating a culture of openness and responsiveness in town leadership... something they feel has been missing in recent years.

As the election approaches, Luff and Boroski are positioning themselves as a team committed to transparency, communication, and what they describe as “Leadership you can trust.”

The election for Oxford’s Board of Selectman is expected to draw heightened attention, with transparency and town governance emerging as key issues for many voters.



Getting Oxford into The Modern Age

Oxford, CT — Jeff Luff and Robert Boroski, candidates for First and Second Selectman, are pledging a bold and necessary modernization of Oxford Town Hall if elected, aiming to bring local government into the 21st century with better technology, updated policies, and improved access for residents.

“For too long, Oxford has lagged behind when it comes to technology,” said Luff. “People still have to physically go to Town Hall to get basic information or submit applications. In 2025, that just doesn’t make sense anymore. We’re ready to change that.”

Luff and Boroski say their administration will prioritize creating a robust, user-friendly online platform that allows residents to access documents, file permits, and conduct other business from home. They believe this shift will not only make things more convenient for residents, but also improve the efficiency of town operations.

"Modern technology exists to make people's lives easier. It's time Oxford started using it," added Boroski. "We will ensure town information is available in the cloud and that services are streamlined for the public."

Another major priority on their platform is ensuring that town laws and regulations are consistently updated and easy to access. Luff and Boroski plan to make the review and updating of town ordinances as well as the town charter a regular, scheduled responsibility, not something that gets pushed aside year after year.

"This isn't just about convenience," Luff said, "It's about transparency, accountability, and making sure our government is working for the people." In addition to public-facing improvements, Luff and Boroski recognize the need to strengthen internal operations. Oxford currently lacks a comprehensive employee handbook — a basic but vital document that helps employees understand their roles and expectations. The candidates are committed to developing and implementing one early in their term. "Employees deserve clarity, and residents deserve a town workforce that's well-informed and consistent," said Boroski. "This is just good leadership."

With a clear vision for a more efficient, transparent, and modern Oxford, Luff and Boroski are committed to addressing and implementing these essential documents.



“Why Can’t You Watch Your Town’s Meetings?” Push for Transparency Demands Cameras in Every Meeting

Oxford, CT — In their bid for First and Second Selectman, candidates Jeff Luff and Robert Boroski are making government transparency a central issue — vowing to mandate that all public meetings in Oxford be recorded with video and audio, made available for live viewing, and archived for public access.

"The government should never operate in the shadows," said Luff. "Every resident deserves to know what decisions are being made, who's making them, and why. That means video access to every meeting, live and on demand."

Currently, video and audio recordings of board and committee meetings are not consistently required or provided in Oxford. Luff and Boroski argue that with today's accessible and affordable technology—and the equipment the town already owns—there is no excuse for the lack of regular recordings and live access.

"This isn't a technical challenge," Boroski emphasized. "We already have the tools to do this. What's missing is the policy—and the will to put the public first."

If elected, Luff and Boroski plan to introduce a town-wide requirement mandating that every board and committee — whether it's the Planning Board, Board of Selectman, Zoning, Finance, or others — record and publish their meetings. Live streaming will also be a core part of the plan, allowing residents to participate or observe meetings in real time from home or on the go.

"This is about restoring trust and encouraging civic engagement," said Luff. "When people can see what's happening, they feel more connected to their government and more confident that their voices matter."

Boroski added, "We want a town where no resident is left out because they couldn't make it to Town Hall at 7 p.m. on a Tuesday. That's the kind of accessibility modern technology makes possible and it's the kind of transparency Oxford needs."

The pair sees this initiative as another step in their broader effort to modernize Oxford's government and ensure it serves the people more effectively and openly. "Transparency isn't a luxury, it's a responsibility," Luff concluded. "And if we're elected, it will be the standard."

Several Senior Center Directors Resign During Concerns for Local Seniors

Oxford, CT — A series of resignations at the Oxford Senior Center has raised concerns about the town's commitment to serving its senior population. Multiple former directors have stepped down over the past few years, citing ongoing challenges and a lack of follow-through on initiatives aimed at improving services for local seniors.

Each director brought their own vision to the role, but all shared a common goal: expanding programs and resources for Oxford's senior residents — the town's largest group of taxpayers. One of the most recent directors had focused on developing services that would allow seniors to “age in place” and improve access to support for local veterans.

Among her most significant initiatives was bringing in a Veterans Service Officer to assist with the complex process of filing claims and securing benefits. Supporters say this was a vital step toward strengthening the safety net for Oxford's aging veteran population.

Despite these efforts, former directors Pat Babbage (resigned 2019), Heather Haney (resigned 2023), and Sandra Arburrr (resigned twice in 2025) reportedly faced repeated...

... delays and limited support from town leadership.

According to several sources, the lack of response and completion contributed directly to their decisions to resign.

“Our directors were committed, qualified, and truly had the best interests of our seniors at heart,” said one local resident, “It’s disheartening to see them leave when they were trying to make real progress.”

The ongoing turnover has prompted renewed calls for accountability and transparency. Some community members are urging town officials to take a closer look at how senior services are being prioritized and whether enough is being done to meet the growing needs of this population.

"This isn't about blame," said one local advocate. "It's about recognizing that our seniors deserve more than promises. They deserve meaningful programs, consistent leadership, and a seat at the table when decisions are being made."

As Oxford moves forward, many hope the town will recommit to its older residents. Not just in words, but through sustained investment and support.

2025 REVALUATION UNDERSTANDING YOUR TAXES

REVALUATIONS of real estate are required under Connecticut General Statutes 12-62a every 5 years. It is an attempt to estimate property values within Oxford based on your property's fair market value. In other words, it's an Oxford-wide appraisal.

The **ASSESSED VALUE** is the dollar value assigned to your home for tax purposes. Assessed values are different from the fair market value (what the property could sell for) and are calculated at 70% of the fair market value.

A **MILL RATE** is the amount of tax payable **per \$1,000 of the assessed value** of a property, which is used to calculate the amount of property tax.

TAXES = Assessed Value x Mill Rate

Prior Year		Current Year
Assessed Value		Assessed Value
\$300,000	41% Average Increase in Oxford	\$423,000
Mill Rate		Mill Rate
25.81	22% Decrease	20.01
Taxes to be Paid		Taxes to be Paid
\$7,743	9.3% Increase	\$8,464

- To support the town's budget (town, school, and roads), the Board of Finance sets a single Mill Rate that is applied to all property to raise the needed funds from taxpayers.
- Taxpayers then vote at the town-wide budget referendum to accept the proposed budget.
- A link to the ASSESSMENT data can be found on the Town of Oxford Assessor's web page.

The tax table above reflects the recent revaluation of residential properties in Oxford. In addition to updated property assessments, the state of Connecticut has revised its method for calculating the value of motor vehicles by updating its depreciation schedules. These changes aim to reflect current vehicle values more accurately. As a result, both residential property taxes and automobile taxes are expected to see a slight decrease, particularly for owners of older vehicles.

Police and Town Hall Employees Unions File Complaints Against Oxford Town Hall

Oxford, CT — Tensions are rising at Oxford Town Hall as two separate union complaints have been filed in recent weeks—one from the police union and another from the union representing municipal employees, each alleging serious issues in labor practices and contract negotiations.

The Oxford Police Union has formally submitted a complaint seeking damages, citing the town's ongoing failure to resolve a contract that has been left unsettled for over three years. Union representatives argue that the town has not made a good-faith effort to move negotiations forward, leaving officers without an updated agreement and, they say, at a financial and professional disadvantage.

"This is not just a delay—it's a breakdown," said one union spokesperson. "We have been more than patient, but after three years of inaction, we're left with no choice but to take further steps."

Simultaneously, a second complaint has been lodged by the Town Hall Employees' Union over what they call a clear case of pay inequity and disregard for internal applicants. According to union officials, a recently hired employee is earning more than nine existing employees some with more than two decades...

...of service to the town. Several of those employees had applied for the position but were not even considered, the union claims. "This is a slap in the face to long-serving employees who have dedicated years to this town," said a representative for the municipal workers. "To hire someone from outside and pay them more than people who've been here for 10, 15, even 22 years is not only unfair — it's demoralizing."

The Town of Oxford has not yet issued a public response to either complaint. However, both unions are calling for immediate action and accountability from the Board of Selectman and town leadership. The grievances underscore broader concerns among staff about transparency, respect for labor agreements, and equitable treatment in hiring and compensation practices.

As the situation develops, both unions have indicated they are prepared to escalate matters further if their concerns are not addressed promptly.

This marks the latest in a series of personnel and administrative challenges facing the town, highlighting what some say is a growing need for stronger oversight and leadership within Oxford's local government.

Oxford Candidates Propose Revenue Plan to Save Taxpayers Millions Without Raising Taxes

Oxford, CT — In a bold move aimed at reshaping how local government supports essential services without burdening residents, Jeff Luff and Rob Boroski, candidates for First and Second Selectman in the upcoming election, have unveiled an innovative revenue-generation plan they say could save taxpayers up to \$2 million annually.

Luff and Boroski's strategy involves three separate initiatives designed to raise funds earmarked specifically for key municipal departments. Though details of the plan are still under wraps pending full public disclosure, the duo emphasizes that none of the proposed methods would require an increase in local taxes.

"We're focused on real solutions that don't come at the taxpayers' expense," said Luff at a recent town forum. "We've identified creative avenues to bring in revenue that will support critical services while reducing reliance on property taxes."

According to the candidates, the funds will be directly allocated to three currently underfunded departments, which they did not yet name, though they hinted these could include public works, emergency services, or recreational facilities. By generating independent income for these departments, the town could redirect...

...taxpayer dollars toward other pressing needs... like the improvement of town parks and athletic fields, which residents have noted are in decline.

Boroski emphasized that the plan not only focuses on cost savings but on enhancing the quality of life for Oxford's families. "Our parks, our fields, our community spaces are vital to the well-being of our town. If we can reinvest in these areas without asking our residents to pay more, then that's exactly what we should be doing."

With municipal budgets tightening across the state, Luff and Boroski's approach may set a new precedent for how small towns can balance fiscal responsibility with improved services. Supporters are optimistic, while others await further details to fully assess the plan's feasibility and long-term sustainability.

The candidates say that if elected, implementation could begin as early as the first quarter of their administration, with projected results visible by the end of their first year.

As the election approaches, Oxford voters will have to decide whether this forward-thinking financial blueprint is the kind of leadership their town needs.



CONTACT US!

Jeff Luff



JeffLuff2025@gmail.com



@JeffLuff2025

Rob Boroski

rob2123@aol.com

@Rob.Boroski



@Jeffrey.Luff



@deepvoyage1



203-668-1078



www.Luff2025.com

