



# Town of Griswold

Board of Selectman  
Regular Meeting  
Downstairs Meeting Room  
Town Hall – 28 Main Street  
May 11, 2021 – 6:00 PM



## MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

### Members Present:

Todd Babbitt, First Selectman, Richard Grabowski, Selectman, Jared Picco, Selectman

### Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance  
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director  
Kenneth Bomba, Recording Secretary  
2 other interested citizens.

2. **Approval of minutes**

- a. **April 27, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to approve the April 27, 2021 regular meeting minutes. J. Picco abstained. **Motion carried.**

- b. **April 29, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski, to approve the April 29, 2021 special meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence** – It was noted that a letter from the Friends of Pachaug Forest was included in the packet.

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector.**

No Tax refunds

- b. **Discussion and possible action on transfer of land from Pettersen family and setting a town meeting date.** T. Babbitt noted that this family were prior residents of the Town of Griswold, and they felt the town had always treated them well. As they are now elderly and have no interest in the property, they would like to donate the 13.4 acres to the town for open space. The last tax bill for the property was \$1,625.62.

- c. **Discussion and possible action on transfer of land from Bruce Patterson and setting a town meeting date.** T. Babbitt noted that Mr. Patterson owns a .25-acre unbuildable lot on Rillbrook Rd., that had been on the tax sale list. He has paid the back taxes and would like to give the land to the town to eliminate future tax bills. The towns attorney recommends we take the lot, but not as open space, so the town could market the property at a future date.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, that the Town of Griswold send

two items to town meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The first being the land owned by Paul Pettersen and Elizabeth Moriarty, located at 741 Voluntown Rd, that the town consider taking the 13.4 acres as open space. The second item being the small parcel of property on 45 Rillbrook Rd. owned by Bruce Patterson and the town consider taking that property as a land acquisition for the town to acquire. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 5. Old Business

### a. Discussion and possible action on Social Media Policy

No updates on this item.

## 6. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board.

- a. **MOTION**: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to bring on to the agenda a discussion and possible action Senate Bill 817 an Act concerning senior centers. **motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt read some of the highlights of Senate Bill 817. He noted that section 1 which calls for “The chief elected official or the chief executive officer if by ordinance of each municipality shall appoint a municipal agent for elderly persons.” Is the section the town would need to act upon. J. Picco stated that the Bill is intended to give more guidance to senior centers across the state.

**MOTION**: Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski to table the Act Concerning Senior Centers, Senate Bill 817 until it is signed by the Governor and enacted. **motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION**: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco to bring on to the agenda a discussion and possible action on USDA authorization for the USDA grant for the senior center. **motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted the Board of Selectman had provided initial approval to apply for the grant, now the USDA is looking for some authorization from the Board of Selectmen, that they have voted on and agreed to the terms of the bond. E. Christensen noted that the town has the approved funds available for the required town match.

**MOTION**: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J Picco, that the Griswold Board of Selectman authorize the First Selectman to proceed securing and finalizing all paperwork related to the USDA grant in the amount of \$748,740.00. The total USDA grant amount will be \$411,807.00 and the required town match of 45% will be \$336,933.00 which will come from the unexpended funds that were previously approved for the Senior Center. **motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **MOTION**: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco to bring on to the agenda the last residential solar panel mediation with Sunnova Energy Corporation. **motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted he and the Town Attorney participated with the mediating judge to reach a settlement. Sunnova had paid \$7,924.94 they will get refund of \$4,924.94 before July 31,2021, then a refund of \$100.00 after July 31, 2021. The town will retain \$3,000.00.

**MOTION**: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco to accept the proposal related to

the mediation for Sunnova energy corporation with the town refunding all but \$3000.00 back to Sunnova. **motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco to bring on to the agenda for discussion and possible action a request by the Board of Finance for an Ad Hoc member to be added to the Senior Center Building Committee by a member of the Board of Selectmen. **motion carried unanimously.**

The members of the Board of Selectman had a discussion on the issue, it was noted that every building committee in the past had a member of the Board of Finance on the committee. It was determined that communications between the Senior Center Building Committee and the Board of Finance would not be improved by going thru a third committee.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski to send a letter back to the Board of Finance denying their request of a member of the Board of Selectman serving as an Ad Hoc member of the Senior Center Building Committee. **motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt to bring on to the agenda for discussion on the procedure for naming an alternate member of the Ordinance committee as a permanent member. **motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted that typically Lisa would review the list of alternates and offer the vacancy to the alternate with the most seniority first. T. Babbitt stated he would review who is currently on as a members and alternates and determine if a new alternate is needed.

## 7. Public Forum

David Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux had a question on the status of the Patrylo property. T. Babbitt replied the application for funding from Brownfields has been approved and are waiting for the Commissioner to sign off on it. Once it is signed off by the Commissioner the town can authorize the foreclosure to start. D. Vieaux also had a question on the condition of the Pachaug Pickers property. T. Babbitt noted that he had discussions with the Town Attorney, we can request items on the site for 1 year of more to be removed. He will reach out to the Fire Marshals and the Building Inspector to see if any more can be done.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd – R. Young shared a concern on tall grass at the Rixtown Cemetery and a tree he would like the town to take down. T. Babbitt replied the town would be mowing in that area next week and he would look at the tree.

## 8. Adjournment

**MOTION:** J. Picco made a **motion** that was seconded by R. Grabowski to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth Bomba,  
Recording Secretary