



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
February 25, 2020
6:00 PM
Griswold Town Hall
28 Main St., Jewett City, CT 06351



MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

Members Present: Todd Babbitt, First Selectman
Richard Grabowski, Selectman
Jared Picco, Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director
Ryan Aubin, Director of Recreation/YFS
8 other interested citizens

2. **Notification of Emergency Exits** – Emergency exits were noted.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Pledge was cited.
4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **February 11, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to accept the February 11, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **February 13, 2020 - Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to approve the February 13, 2020 special meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **February 20, 2020 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to accept the February 20, 2020 special meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Correspondence – two items were noted as received

- a. Letter from Atty. Matt Willis and an inspection sheet regarding a property with blight violations
- b. Letter from the Sr. Center and SEAT regarding issues with an associate member who has been banned from services

6. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action on nine tax refunds for a total of \$5454.95 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to accept and pass nine tax refunds as presented by the tax collector for a total of \$5454.95.

Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Discussion and possible action on annual clean-up day** – T. Babbitt noted the day for the clean-up will be April 18th which is normal transfer station hours but we will expand the hours to 1 PM. T. Falck noted some suggested changes on the flyer. She also noted they will be working closely with Friends of Pachaug Forest. The adopt a road is going to continue this year. T. Babbitt noted he would look into the possible grant from Last Green Valley. E. Berdick suggested noting additional stuff on the flyer as well as possibly a map on the back. Prizes and involvement of students were discussed. It was suggested getting the flyers out three weeks in advance.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco to approve waiving the fee for the transfer station on April 18th for the complete day of 7 AM to 1 PM to coordinate with town clean-up day. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. Discussion and possible action on Veteran’s Honor Flight as presented by Tina Falck** – T. Falck summarized the program that is available brings the vet with an aid and a provided wheel chair to D.C. and go to the memorials all at no charge to the veteran but there is a reasonable fee charge for the aide. She would like to apply for the program for the fall.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to endorse T. Falck to move forward with the Veteran’s Honor Flight as presented today.

Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Discussion and possible action on letter from the Borough Benefits Committee** – T. Babbitt referenced a letter received from D. Vieaux chairman of the BBC regarding their findings and request to disband.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to accept the letter from Mr. Vieaux and the BBC and to keep the committee active for the time being while we try to move forward. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action on senior center gas line contract with Eversource** – T. Babbitt noted the location has been finally agreed upon by Eversource. This is a 25 year agreement and has an agree to accept gas by date. T. Babbitt noted he discussed that with the Eversource representative and she noted that is their standard contract language and is not worried about the 60 day accept time frame. R. Grabowski asked what the \$18,000 contribution amount was for. T. Babbitt noted it was for running the line from the intersection of Pleasant View up Taylor Hill and to the facility location. J. Picco wanted to know if that could be put in writing.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to table this item until the special BOS meeting on Thursday. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Old Business

- a. **Discussion on direction regarding short-term rentals** – T. Babbitt noted sample copies of housing codes have been distributed to BOS members. It is the feeling of the town attorney that a housing code, if adopted would better address the short-term rental situation. It was agreed to schedule a special BOS meeting with the town attorney after 3/20 to discuss and possibly create a draft for the town and the process for adopting one.

8. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring the letter from R. Aubin regarding summer recreation and TVCCA, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

R. Grabowski asked if there was a need by date. R. Aubin noted they could move forward with accepting the applications and hold spots for them. T. Babbitt noted there are several issues that probably need to be looked at by the Finance Director. R. Aubin noted the reduced rate would still be available if we wait and actually gives some residents a lower rate that what the town has been able to provide in the past. The town will still continue the subsidized program they have offered in the past as a back-up, but did note with the extended hours and lunch that will now be provided, the attendance in the program could go up. The free lunch program was discussed in regards to being able to keep separate those that may be coming in for a meal but are not in the summer recreation program.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to table this item to a selectmen's meeting of a later date. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to bring the adult education program on to the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt mentioned he met with Mr. Rockett out of the Vernon area who is in charge of the adult education program in this area. They have had much success with offering a summer program for GED in a downtown location. T. Babbitt offered the second floor recreation center as it does have air conditioning, is downtown and is not used in the summer. There is also the possibility, if they have children, that they may be able to go to summer recreation while the adult attends the school. There is no cost to the town. They would do it for as little as two people but would like to see five. It is for 6 weeks with 2 weeks of group study. They would advertise, our school system would advertise and we could put it on the town website.

MOTION: Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski, to allow the First Selectman to schedule the adult education program with Mr. Rockett. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Public Forum

Cathy Beyer – Glasgo Rd. – C. Beyer asked for an update on the 1585 Glasgo Rd. T. Babbitt noted the BOS members received an update from the town attorney as well as a list of what was found upon the recent inspection as to status of registration and taxes. He reviewed this for C. Beyer.

Pam Patalano – Hopeveille Rd. – P. Patalano expressed her concerns in regards to handling special town meetings. She suggested creating a policy as to place, time and vote by ballot and to be uniform moving forward.

John Connelly – Carely Ave. – J. Connelly suggested that E. Berdick and T. Falck go to the schools and speak to the students in an effort to entice them to participate in the clean-up day and/or other town events.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux noted he did not think special town meetings should be open to non-residents. It was noted that the town attorney advised against that. D. Vieaux suggested that American Industries get involved with cleaning up the area around their facility.

Ed Berdick – Voluntown Rd. – E. Berdick reminded that a special town meeting is not a Selectmen's meeting and the clerk should be involved in addressing the concerns and the first thing to be done should be to elect a moderator.

Mike Lane – Stonehill Rd. – M. Lane asked for an update on development. T. Babbitt provided a summary of the updates.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux asked if the USDA grant comes through, where does that money go since the town voted to bond the whole amount. T. Babbitt explained that as the process continues any money left from bonded already obtained can move forward to the next project but in the end, the total bonded will not be over the total amount approved, per project and may be less due to any grants or lesser amounts experienced.

Mike Lane – Stonehill Rd. – M. Lane asked if any money left would go back into the general fund. T. Babbitt noted we cannot go over what was approved and cannot spend that money on other projects or needs in town.

E. Berdick – Voluntown Rd. – E. Berdick wanted to commend the Board and those involved in getting the bonding to move forward. T. Babbitt commented it involved a lot of work, but is showing possible increased development due to the word getting out about the progress being made in town.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**