



# Borough of Jewett City



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**Borough of Jewett City  
Board of Warden & Burgesses  
Regular Meeting – November 3, 2020  
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Received For Record At Jewett City, CT

On: 11/5/2020 At: 11:00 AM

Attest:

*Laura Laidley*

Borough Clerk

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Warden & Burgesses held via Free Conference Call on November 3, 2020 was called to order by Warden Sharkey at 6:15 p.m.

Motion to appoint Leona Sharkey, Borough Secretary as Acting Clerk was made by Burgess Krueger, second by Burgess Glover. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

**ROLL CALL:**

Leona Sharkey, Acting Clerk read the roll call. Members present: Warden, Timothy Sharkey, Burgesses Laurie Sorder, Jim Krueger, Laura Laidley, and Heather Glover. A quorum was determined.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Linda Cote - Treasurer, Resident Trooper - Chris Vaillancourt, Louis Demicco III – Fire Chief, Ken Sullivan – Director, JCDPU, and Tina Falck – Director, Senior Center.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2020:**

Burgess Krueger made a motion to approve minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Laidley. All in favor, aye. Burgess Glover abstained. Motion carries.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2020:**

Burgess Krueger made a motion to approve minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Sorder. All in favor, aye. Burgesses Laidley and Glover abstained. Motion carries.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

1. **Blight** – Burgess Glover stated she had nothing to address.
2. **Fire** – Burgess Laidley deferred to Fire Chief.
3. **Fire Chief** – Doors should be in on Wednesday. The two other end doors should be in within a month. Middle doors were ordered. All should be wrapped up within a month for the doors. Driveway should be done next week. Chief would like to have board consider removing or replacing face along the back of the firehouse.
4. **Nuisance** – Burgess Krueger stated Halloween night there were fireworks, not sure from which direction.
5. **Police** – Burgess Sorder had nothing and deferred Trooper Vaillancourt to cover in his report.

**SENIOR CENTER REPORT:** Director, Tina Falck stated they had Farm to Families on Saturday and provided 576 boxes of food. Director Falck is working with the Legion again for Thanksgiving meals, which will be grab and go or delivery. Director Falck stated that the center will be able to provide meals to some local families thanks to a generous monetary donation. Director Falck stated that there are concerns with the senior population facing depression with the upcoming winter months. Director Falck stated she is working on a pilot program with a doctor to create an interaction with the seniors through Zoom. Director Falck stated she is also working with Griswold Pride on an intergenerational program that involves the seniors and children. Burgess Krueger asked for an update on the new senior center. Director Falck stated that everyone is hopeful the project will be completed by the beginning of the year, and they have started the interior work.

**RESTIDENT TROOPER REPORT:** Trooper Vaillancourt stated there were no major incidents to report. He also stated there were no major incidents reported for Halloween; only miscellaneous calls regarding Halloween antics and the fireworks.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:** Director, Ken Sullivan stated there was one slight issue with a blown fuse, which was rectified in 45 minutes. Director Sullivan also stated that the Waste Water Treatment Plant is running well and that the chemical analysis was within the permitted levels.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Discussion regarding mural project for 31 Main Street building with Tom Giard from Economic Development Commission and owner of property.** Warden Sharkey stated he was invited by Tom Giard, Chair for the Economic Development Commission to meet with the owner of 31 Main Street, Todd Babbitt, couple EDC members, representative from Jewett City Savings Bank, representative from Eastern CT Savings Bank and the artist for the murals. The owner of 31 Main Street would like to clean up the outside of the building and place a sunflower mural on the side of the building, as this is the first thing you see upon entering Jewett City. Tom Giard questioned if there was funding available through the Borough for this project.
- 2. Discussion and possible action on donation in memory of Olive Donahue, past Warden.** Warden Sharkey stated the Borough normally gets a floral arrangement in the amount of \$50.00; however, per the obituary the family would like donations made to the Cancer Foundation in lieu of flowers. Burgess Sorder made a motion to make a \$50.00 donation to the Cancer Foundation in memory of Olive Donahue, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Laidley. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.
- 3. Discussion and possible action on interest rate for Small Business Loans.** Warden Sharkey stated that he felt in order to entice Borough businesses to take a loan out through the Borough that the rate should be competitive. Warden Sharkey also stated the last loan taken out was for 5 years at a 4% interest rate. Warden Sharkey stated that interest rates at the banks are lower than that now. Discussion took place regarding the interest rate. Burgess Sorder made a motion to set the interest for the small business loans at 0.5% less than the going fixed rate of the Jewett City Savings Bank at the time of the application for a 5-year loan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Krueger. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.
- 4. Discussion regarding upcoming Borough election to be held on May 3, 2021.** Warden Sharkey asked Leona Sharkey to speak to this point. Acting Clerk Sharkey stated that paperwork was received in the clerk's office for the date of election and that the endorsements will most likely be sometime in January. She stated that once paperwork is received from the Secretary of State's office with definitive dates should would share that information with the board. In the meantime, for those members who would like to seek re-election, now is the time to ask for that endorsement.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Update regarding vampire event by Mike Minarsky.** Warden Sharkey stated he spoke to Pat McCormack – Director, Uncase Health about the event. Mr. McCormack felt that with the uptick in positive cases it would not be a good idea. Warden Sharkey spoke to Mr. Minarsky who understood and agreed. Mr. Minarsky also stated he would like it to be a separate event and would hold it at a later date.
2. **Update on 81 Brown Avenue.** Warden Sharkey stated the day before he was going to draft the final letter they had cleaned up the property, cut the grass and installed a new fence.
3. **Update on Monument Project.** Warden Sharkey turned this over to Burgess Krueger who stated he sent everyone a copy of the outline of the monument, as well as the invoice for the monument. Discussion took place. The Board would like to see the lettering size of the dedication portion reduced by half and moved to the bottom of the monument. The board likes the outline of the monument. Mercer Monument agreed to remove \$600 from the total cost, as the Public Works Department for the Town of Griswold will be digging the hole and taking care of the placement of the footing. The total bill minus the donations already received will be a total of \$8,646 and half will be required for the deposit. Burgess Sorder made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$8,646 and upon receipt of the updated invoice authorize the treasurer to write a check for the half deposit required, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Krueger. All in favor, aye. Motion carries. Burgess Sorder also made a motion to approve the layout as presented with the changes requested for the dedication lettering to be lowered and reduced by half in size, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Glover. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.
4. **COVID update.** Warden Sharkey stated that as of today the positive rate went from 17.1% to 19.1% with a total of 67 total cases town wide with 26 of those cases in the Borough between 10/01/2020 and 11/02/2020.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:**

Burgess Glover wanted an update on house that burned on the corner of North Main Street and Phillips Street. Warden Sharkey stated that the abatement was just completed and a contract has been made for demolition.

Burgess Sorder wanted to know if the roof inspection was done and if so what was the report. Warden Sharkey stated he would call the company on Thursday, November 5, 2020.

Burgess Glover asked about voting. Acting Clerk Sharkey told her it was going to be held at the High School.

Warden Sharkey stated that he contacted Mr. DeGuire on July 9<sup>th</sup> regarding the \$2,500 projected that was allocated for him to do and he never heard back from him. Warden Sharkey also stated that when he met with Burgess Krueger, First Selectman Todd Babbitt and Graham from Mercer Monument at Fanning Park the grass was over his ankles. Warden Sharkey stated one of the public works department workers for the Town of Griswold has his own landscaping business and was appalled at the condition of the park and has offered to clean it up free of charge. He wants to volunteer his time. Warden Sharkey authorized him to go ahead and take care of Fanning Park.

Motion to adjourn made by Burgess Krueger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Glover. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Meeting duly adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Leona Sharkey*

Leona Sharkey, Acting Clerk

\*Regular Meeting December 7, 2020\*