



## Borough Benefit Committee

December 18, 2018

6:30 PM

Selectmen's Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Griswold Town Hall  
28 Main Street, Jewett City

### AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** – meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Present: Dave Vieux, Larry Laidley, John Connelly, James Barnie, Dana Bennett. One citizen.
3. **Approval of the September 12, 2018 meeting minutes** – Larry moved for the minutes to be approved, Dave seconded. Minutes passes with Dana, John and Jim abstaining.  
**Approval of the November 20, 2018 meeting minutes** – Jim moved to approve November minutes, Dave seconded. Minutes passed for approval with Dana, John, and Larry abstaining.

There was a discussion about the time of the meeting. As per the motion carried on September 12, 2018, meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m.

4. **Discussion of CT 2017-R-0215 – Merger of Municipalities-** Jim presented the Merger of Municipalities for discussion. There are several methods by which municipalities could merge. The BBC would like to invite the First Selectman and Warden to attend our meetings to gather information on their ideas of what the committee should be doing. It would require special legislation to merge the town and the borough, and the BBC again discussed that merger may not be the end game of this committee. The state may look at regionalization in the future and the BBC is a good avenue to begin the exploration of these potential issues.
5. **Discussion and possible action – format and topics** – One of the concerns with any merger may be the loss of small city grants. John stated that Paul Brycki may know the most about availability of these grants. Best contact for history would be Mary Rose Deveau. Discussion of JC Electric - what would happen if the town and borough ever merged? Would it continue? How would it affect ratepayers?

Larry made a motion that we address topics in the following order: financial debt, asset grants, employee roles and functions in town and borough, myths, living property values, taxes, utilities. John seconded and the motion was passed.

Need to contact Linda re: finances for the borough – Dana will do this.

Need to gather from JCE about finances.

Look at substantial debt and liability in sewer plant. Town may not want to absorb debt. Need to also verify what would happen with not only electric, but with sewer plant with possible merger.

Financial – Liabilities, future debt, at least 5 years of grant information, taxes, income, revenue, expenses, assets, Yearly costs to compound debt of DPU, school projects.

Jim will talk to Eric about town side of finances.

John might be able to gather additional information from Ken Richardson, DPU.

6. **Discussion of possible name change of committee** – It was discussed with others, and decided that a name change does not really matter. This was tabled and the BBC may in the future come up with alternate names.
7. **Discussion and possible action on getting the Borough to be involved in the BBC** – Tabled until we gather more information as a committee.
8. **Any other business that may properly come before the Board** – Larry mentioned to remember to change the time to 6:00 p.m. on future agenda and town calendar.
9. **Public Forum** – Ed Burdick referred all of us to an article in the American Political Science Review by Max R. White, Volume 36, #3, pp. 492-502. Willimantic may have been the last to consolidate, in 1987 or 1988. New Canaan tried to consolidate 4 times. Ed suggested we try to recruit a working attorney for our board. Put together an advisory committee on consolidation if we get an okay from the First Selectman. Put the advisory question on the ballot.  
Ed would be willing to help us with legal answers even if not on the committee. Dave stated that the town may have objection to this.  
If we did consolidate, still could have separate police and fire districts.  
There has been consolidation of borough and town practices over the years. A lot of credit that borough gets for grants due to a town member committed to the submission.  
Can go to town for question if not on ballot.
10. **Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

**Submitted on behalf of the Borough Benefit Committee**

Dana Bennett, Secretary