



# Town of Griswold

Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting  
February 19, 2019  
7:00 PM

Town Hall Meeting Room  
MINUTES



**1. Roll Call/Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM**

**Board of Finance Members Present:**

Scott Davis – Chairman  
Steve Mikutel – Vice Chairman  
Brian Baker  
Valerie Grills  
Gail Rooke-Norman  
Daniel Webster

**Also Present:**

Julie Marcotte, Director of Finance  
Jeannette Bell, Recording Secretary  
Todd Babbitt, First Selectman  
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director  
Mario Tristany, Town Planner  
13 Other People

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Public Forum**

S. Davis asked if anyone wished to speak. No one came forward.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**a. January 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**b. January 15, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by S. Mikutel to approve the above mentioned minutes as presented. All in favor; **motion carried.**

**5. New Business**

**a. Finance Directors monthly report**

J. Marcotte stated the revenues recorded to date are \$26,647,791.74 or 77.6% of budgeted revenues. There are no major concerns with revenues at this point. The expenditures recorded to date are \$17,001,433.99 or 49.51% of budgeted expenditures. There are no major concerns as of right now. J. Marcotte stated there are a few new line items overspent as well as one previous line item which has been previously discussed.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Discussion on bonding projects.**

T. Babbitt stated he has been in contact with George Krevida from USDA regarding funding for the infrastructure projects. The request for funding has been forwarded to Washington and we should hear something in about a week. He also noted Congressman Courtney is on board with the bonding projects as well. T. Babbitt noted that we could possibly receive a 100% grant for the proposed sewer project. M. Tristany passed out a revised infrastructure improvement packet which included a detailed cost estimate for the proposed infrastructure improvements to the Route 164 and Route 201 corridor. The projected total for this project is approximately \$6,000,000.00 plus bond counsel costs. There was much discussion regarding the projects as to contracts which should be in place before we go out to bonding, and to make sure the taxpayers will be receiving the money back from JCDPU for the tie-in and buy-in fees. M. Tristany and T. Babbitt both feel these infrastructure improvements would stimulate economic development to attract business and industry thereby providing jobs for the residents and increasing the tax base. It was further suggested these proposed projects need to be marketed to the taxpayer with the hope that the taxpayer will see the benefit in the long run to the Town as well as the taxpayers of Griswold. There was discussion regarding the ongoing gas line project for the schools. It was noted the cost for the project is approximately \$1.5 million to go forward. However if we decide not to pursue the project it will still end up costing upwards of \$1.0 million dollars due to the contract breach with Eversource and the cost of replacing oil tanks. It was noted the public needs to be educated this is a town project not a school project. There was also further discussion on the proposed new Senior Center to be built off Taylor Hill Road. T. Falck stated that 2 years ago the estimated preliminary cost of the new center would be approximately \$3.5 million. The projected cost is now \$7.5 million with no funding. She stated any and all funding which might possibly be available will be pursued at all levels. She stated they are shovel ready to begin the project and any delay will only drive the costs upwards. She also stated the Senior Center is absolutely needed as the current one is too small and not able to handle the day to day activities and food preparations as well as affording privacy for the various services provided.

**b. Discussion and possible action on finalizing 2019 budget calendar.**

J. Marcotte noted she would not be available to attend the Board of Finance meeting on April 16, 2019. S. Davis stated there was still plenty of time to figure that week out. This item of business was tabled until the next meeting.

**c. Discussion and possible action on BOF policies as recommended by audit.**

J. Marcotte stated as requested by the auditors that Tax Ordinance Chapter 10-1 #5 be stricken from that section and base the calculations off the other items listed. It was also suggested to look at Ordinance 10-3 due to previous years budgets. There was much discussion. **MOTION:** G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** that was seconded by B. Baker to ask if the board is interested in asking Julie to send 10-3 to the town attorney and ask the town attorney to draft some new language that keeps us in compliance with state statues but gives us as much latitude as possible as far as time. There was further discussion. G. Rooke-Norman **rescinded** her **motion** and B. Baker **rescinded** his **second**. **MOTION:** G. Rooke-Norman made a **motion** that was seconded by B. Baker for the Board of Finance to ask the Finance Director to send 10-1 and 10-3 to the town attorney for advice and drafting #1 in regards to 10-1 to ask if eliminating #5 assists us in not overspending for lack of a better word and in 10-3 new language that keeps us in compliance with state statues but gives us as much time as possible as far as our meetings and referendums if the state is delinquent in doing their job. All in favor; **motion carried.**

**7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Public Forum**

S. Davis asked if anyone wished to speak.

**P. Brycki** – Feels it is a decent plan for the Senior Center and believes the taxpayer will not handle a large mil increase. Feels we need to hire a grant coordinator and reminded us we do not know who will be here come November elections.

**E. Burdick** – Supports the Board of Finance and thinks the projects are a good idea for the town. Feels we need to move more quickly on the projects.

**J. Barnie** – Stated he is a member of the Ordinance Committee and their intention was to start at the beginning of the book however states it is a long process.

**T. Babbitt** – Stated Julie is working on the budget for the Youth and Recreation Department which will have a detailed event cost.

**L. Sorder** – Stated 4 years ago the Selectmen went to the Borough to ask for money to be donated to the infrastructure. They donated 20,000 gallon of free flow at a cost of \$350,000.00.

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by V. Grills to adjourn the meeting at 8:56PM. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Bell  
Recording Secretary