

**BOROUGH OF JEWETT CITY
BOARD OF WARDEN AND BURGESSES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of Borough Warden and Burgesses held in the Main Meeting Room. 28 Main Street, Griswold CT., on Monday January 6, 2020 was called to order by Warden Sharkey at 6:15pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Clerk Valerie Pudvah read the roll call. Present: Warden Timothy Sharkey, Burgesses Laurie Sorder, James Krueger, Laura Laidley and Heather Glover. A quorum was determined.

ALSO PRESENT:

Leona Sharkey, Linda Cote, Tina Falck, Louis Demicco III, Ken Sullivan, Jim Barnie, Resident Trooper Vaillancourt, Peter Testa, Pastor Joshua George and 1 other interested person.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2019.

MOTION by Burgess Krueger to approve the meeting minutes of December 2, 2019 as presented, 2nd by Burgess Sorder. All in favor, aye, Motion carries,

PUBLIC FORUM:

Linda Cote mentioned property on Lenox Avenue.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Calls for service report for November 2019.

Trooper Vaillancourt noted that he received a copy of the report.

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

BLIGHT: Burgess Glover noted Phillips Street is getting bad again. Warden Sharkey noted that 50 Lenox Avenue, 17B Palmer Avenue, and 103-105 North Main Street have blight. Letters will be sent to 50 Lenox Avenue and 17B Palmer Avenue to start the process. Tina Falck noted that 6 Mechanic Street is also bad.

FIRE: Louis Demicco III noted everything is good.

NUISANCE: NONE

POLICE: Burgess Sorder noted that the speed sign is up on East Main Street. It will be collecting data for the next couple of weeks. She also noted that the FBI audit says that the Town is supposed to be doing the pistol permits for the town. As far as we know the Resident Troopers are still doing them for Jewett City and the Town of Griswold.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT:

Tina Falck was present to speak on the free breakfasts. They are trying to open it up more for families. The third one will be held on January 25th. The time has changed from 9am-11am. Also, they will be having an event for Betty Mentillo who will be celebrating her 106th birthday. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 1, 2020 11am at the Senior Center. She was contacted by the Troop leader for Pack 20, and they will be working on a project with them at Ashland Manor.

RESIDENT TROOPER REPORT:

Trooper Vaillancourt also noted that he had been called to 6 Mechanic Street, regarding the sale of underage puppies. He said that there is a hoarding situation going on there and that garbage building up outside.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

Ken Sullivan noted that the Christmas lights will be going off this week, but will not be coming down until next week. Everything at wastewater treatment plant is going well.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and possible action with grant writer, Peter Testa regarding upcoming application.

Warden Sharkey introduced Peter Testa to the board as new grant consultant. Mr. Testa from A&E Servicing Group LLC noted that he has been hired by the Borough of Jewett City as the grant writer to prepare the 2020 application to the Dept. of Housing. The mandatory workshop is on the 28th and Warden Sharkey has already been signed up. The deadline for the application is April 3, 2020. A new stream lined application will be coming out shortly. There will be a Public Hearing, which will need to be published twice once we have the information. He spoke on how much money should be available from the State. He does not know what the limits are for this year. He thinks for this project maybe 1-1 1/2 million. Burgess Sorder questioned if it is a housing grant how can it be used for the project that we want. Mr. Testa noted that the Dept. of Housing is the agency that allocates the funding to the municipalities. This grant is used for everything, such as slum and blight, urgent need and benefit low to moderate income communities. Burgess Sorder wanted to know if you could piggyback projects, Mr. Testa noted that it is usually for 1 project.

2. Pastor Joshua George from Quinebaug River Church regarding project on School Street.

Pastor George spoke about the project on School Street and what he is hoping to do. They have been meeting at GMS cafeteria for the past 5 years with an attendance of 135-160. They are planning to build a 12,000 sq ft facility on 2 levels this summer. Each level will have 6,000 sq ft foot print. The church will be on the upper level, lower level café, storage, area for children programs and a proposed splash pad to be built in the future. He noted the generosity of the town with letting them have a place to meet over the years. He would like to give back by making the facility available to Ryan Aubin and his team by providing afterschool programming 5 days a week plus weekends. It would be made available to Griswold Pride as well.

Warden Sharkey brought up the parking ordinance that the Borough has. Pastor Josh said that everyone is welcome to use their parking lot which will have more parking spots than is required. Burgess Sorder questioned the timeline for construction. They are hoping to pour the foundation for the church in April or May. They have a group of volunteers coming up on June 2nd to help build the church. The building should be framed and roofed in 6 days. Next would be siding, insulation etc. After that the inside will be done. They are hoping for a CO by September or October. Burgess Krueger wondered how the final approval went with P&Z. Pastor Josh noted that there are 2 areas. Lighting, all exterior lighting needs to be approved by a lighting engineer and the second is for Fire Marshall to review the site plan allows for adequate area for rescue vehicles. It was approved with the Town Planner review the lighting plan and the project must obtain Fire Marshall approval prior Building Permit issuance. There was further discussion on school buses getting in and out.

3. E-mail from Mr. Nick Richard regarding new monument for Fanning Park.

Burgess Sorder commented on this, and she would like to recommend that the money be returned to Mr. Richard. Leona Sharkey gave a brief synopsis of what happened in the past year and half in regard to this matter. Burgess Krueger noted that everyone here supports the military and he would like to give it a couple of months to get more information. Burgess Laidley would like to get something in the park so people know that it is really happening. Burgess Krueger will take on this project along with Burgesses Laidley and Glover. Warden Sharkey recommended that Mr. Richard be returned his money with a letter saying that we are looking into the project again and would he still be interested in the helping out with it. **MOTION** was made by Burgess Glover that we take steps in getting this monument and forming a subcommittee going again, 2nd by Burgess Sorder. Warden Sharkey listed Jim Krueger as the chairman,

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Laura Laidley and Heather Glover on the subcommittee, and they will get back to us in 2 months. All in favor, aye.
Motion carries

OLD BUSINESS:

1. No parking signs request to First Selectman.

Warden Sharkey spoke with the First Selectman regarding Burleson Lane, Green Avenue, South Main Street and Anthony Street. There are Call Before You Dig signs out to make sure there is no underground pipe or anything else.

2. Blight situation at 119 North Main Street

The bank has the insurance on the mortgage and may turn the property over to the town. Should be torn down shortly if that is the case.

3. Parking issue on Oak Street

No response from the letter that was sent. Leona Sharkey will send out a second letter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:

Burgess Sorder would like to have agendas available to the public.

Warden Sharkey spoke about who is on the appeals committee for the Blight Ordinance.

Warden Sharkey spoke about "courtesy tickets" that some communities give out for the first time offense for parking.

Trooper Vaillencourt is unaware of these type of tickets. Discussion followed regarding the written warning that is usually given out by police. Jim Barnie noted that he gives out similar tickets to people that park in the complex that he has apartments at.

Burgess Krueger asked if there is a law or something that there should be a crossing guard for the children that have after school activities. None that we are aware of.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Trooper Vaillencourt spoke about the sidewalk on Oak Street.

Jim Barnie spoke about safety of the children that get off the school buses. He thinks that they should be educated to look both ways before they cross. Burgess Sorder noted that she has seen the children cross when the bus driver nods to them.

Leona Sharkey wondered if there was a follow-up with the complaint from Mary Mager.

Meeting to adjourn made by Warden Sharkey, Burgess Glover 2nd the motion.

Meeting duly adjourned at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie Pudvah