

**BOARD OF WARDEN AND BURGESSES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Warden & Burgesses held in the Main Meeting Room, 28 Main Street, Griswold, CT on March 2, 2020 was called to order by Warden Sharkey at 6:15pm.

**Burgess Sorder made motion to bring up under New Business #7, Discussion and possible action on refund in the amount of \$446.52 as presented by the Tax Collector, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Krueger. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Clerk Valerie Pudvah 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, Leona Sharkey, Louis Demicco III, Ken Comfort, Tina Falck, Larry Laidley, Todd Babbitt, Ken Sullivan, Jack Cipriano, Daniel Deguire and Resident Trooper Chris Vaillancourt.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2020.**

Burgess Krueger made motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2020 with two (2) corrections, under DPU it should be flood wall and under Old Business it should be 17 Palmer Avenue not 18 Palmer Avenue. Burgess Laidley 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion with the corrections. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

NONE AT THIS TIME

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Calls for service report for January 2020.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

**BLIGHT-** Burgess Glover noted that nothing is new. Warden Sharkey noted that a letter was sent to 53 Mechanic Street and that property has been cleaned up.

**FIRE-** Burgess Laidley noted that all is well. Fire Chief Demicco noted that the food trailer is no longer in the firehouse parking lot. Also noted that April 26<sup>th</sup> is Little League baseball parade.

**NUISANCE:** Burgess Krueger all is good.

**POLICE-** Burgess Sorder noted that she has a few things to discuss but they are agenda items.

**SENIOR CENTER REPORT:**

Tina Falck talked about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Clean-up Day which is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>. The hours will be expanded 7AM to 1PM. There is no fee that day. Looking for anyone that would like to adopt a road. If interested she has 2 telephone numbers for people to call. It was noted that this is for bulky waste only, not household trash. There will be people with trucks that will pick up if someone is unable to get to the site with their load. They would need to call and schedule in advance for pick up. Todd Babbitt noted that they will have gloves and bags for the volunteers.

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Burgess Sorder noted that at the school there is a project where the students do volunteer hours and suggested reaching out to their coordinator. It was noted that there should be some adult supervision for the children that are doing volunteer work. Tina noted that a lot of these students are helping out with the Community breakfast that is held once a month at the center.

**RESIDENT TROOPER:**

Trooper Vaillancourt had nothing at this time.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:**

Director Ken Sullivan noted that everything is running well at the wastewater treatment plant. He noted that they are planning for the coronavirus and it is very challenging. He wrote a plan for the both the wastewater treatment plant and electric plant because they cannot be shut down. He is imposing some measures at both plants so everything stays functional.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Discussion regarding blight in the Borough with the Building Official/Zoning Enforcement Officer, Jack Cipriano.**

Mr. Cipriano introduced himself to the people that do not know him. He gave a few examples of the work he has done so far. Discussion was held on enforcing the ordinance. He noted that the Borough needs to adopt the Town's ordinance. Mr. Cipriano noted that there is always going to be blight. If people do not have the money then, things will not get done.

Jack explained the process that he goes thru for a complaint. Burgess Sorder questioned if there is a formal process that is done. Jack gave an example of what he does. He noted that 30 days is given for a complaint. After the 30 days a fine of \$50.00 can be imposed.

**2. Discussion and possible action on upgrades and changes to Fanning Park as presented by Dantry & Associates LLC Owner, Daniel Deguire.**

Mr. Deguire was present to discuss the proposed changes for the park. He noted that the trees that are there now are getting big, overgrown and dying. He would like to take the trees out, remove the stumps and plant white dogwood trees. Also, put flower beds in around the monuments and trees. He took a soil sample, and found the ph level was low. Warden Sharkey asked about power washing the monuments. Dan will check on the price for power washing the monuments. Burgess Krueger asked how long this would take and it should only take about a day to do. Planting should be after the frost. There would be a 1year warranty on the planting.

Burgess Laidley questioned his thought on where to put the monument that may be going in. He noted that there is definitely room for another monument.

Burgess Sorder made motion to delay action until the budget workshop, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Krueger. All in favor, aye. Motion carries. Table until the budget workshop.

**3. Discussion and possible action on a joint purchase with the Town of Griswold for a portable speaker system.**

Warden Sharkey noted the sound system that is used at the park for town events is shabby and should be replaced. It has been discussed that the town and the borough put in around \$1,000 each to purchase another system. Burgess Sorder wondered if Locip money could be used for a speaker system. Burgess Krueger made motion to table until the next meeting when Linda Cote (treasurer) can provide us with information regarding Locip money, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Sorder. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

**4. Discussion and possible action on Resident Troopers working the Youth & Recreation department event to be held on May 2, 2020 with overtime being covered by the Youth & Recreation dept.**

Burgess Krueger made motion that the board is okay with the Resident Troopers working with the youth center as long as the overtime is taken care of by the Youth/Recreation Dept. for the May 2, 2020 event, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Laidley. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

**5. Discussion and possible action on the adoption of the following items in accordance with the 2020 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application.**

**a. Citizens Participation plan**

Peter Testa explained the plan, noting that the borough is supposed to do outreach to the community and that is what the earlier meeting (Public Hearing) tonight was about. To get input from the citizens. Also, there is a small population of Spanish speaking citizens which is why the policy will be written in Spanish as well.

**b. Affirmative Action Policy Statement**

Peter Testa explained that the borough would market fair housing. The borough would not discriminate against, minorities, race, sex, etc. That is what the affirmative action policy states.

**c. Municipal Grievance Procedure.**

Peter explained that it lays out the process and procedure for a grievance. The complaint should be submitted no later than 60 days after the alleged violation. The borough has 15 days after receipt of the complaint to meet with the grievant. The grievant may appeal the response within 15 calendar days after receipt if they do not agree with the response. All responses would be in writing.

**d. Fair Housing Policy Statement**

Peter stated that it is federally funded and that it is the policy of the Borough of Jewett City to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing activities. Basically, promoting fair housing for everyone.

**e. Fair Housing Resolution**

The resolution states that the Borough of Jewett City is committed in upholding the laws.

Burgess Sorder asked if the resolution needed to be read into the minutes? It does not and has not in the past.

**f. Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.**

It prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color or national origin in participation programs.

**g. Certified Resolution of Applicant**

The borough's resolution to apply for federal funding thru the State of CT, Dept of Housing.

Burgess Krueger questioned what will happen to any monies left over. Peter explained that there is \$28,000 allowance for general administration, up to 10% program cost, and a contingency of \$87,000.

Warden Sharkey asked for a motion to accept all of the above, Burgess Glover made motion to accept the adoption of Small Cities Block Grant Application 2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Krueger. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

**6. Discussion regarding letter sent to 53 Mechanic Street for blight.**

Warden Sharkey noted that it is all cleaned up.

**7. Discussion and possible action on refund of \$446.52.**

Motion made by Burgess Glover to accept refunds in the amount of \$446.52 by Tax Collector, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Sorder. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Discussion and possible action on adopting the Town of Griswold Blight Ordinance and Blight Ordinance Violation Form.**

There was discussion on the height of the grass in the ordinance which is 12". Warden Sharkey noted that he spoke with the First Selectman regarding this and it is mainly for sightline problems that the town had with a couple of complaints.

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Burgess Glover made motion to adopt the Town of Griswold Ordinance and the Ordinance Violation form, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Krueger. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

**2. Update from the Monument Subcommittee**

Burgess Krueger noted that much has not happened yet. He would like to have it done by the Memorial Day Parade. He is looking for donations for the monument at this time. Also, community participation would be great. The subcommittee will come back next month with more information and ideas.

**3. Update on Borough Parking Ordinance**

Burgess Sorder noted that she and Tim met with the Resident Troopers about the parking ordinance. After a lengthy discussion, they realized the depth of what the ordinance would be and how to enforce it, appeals, etc. would not be beneficial. They then came up with the idea of creating a courtesy ticket that would serve as a warning. After the warning they will be ticketed per the state. The Resident troopers are willing to keep track who gets these courtesy tickets. They would actually look like a parking ticket. The ticket would have the actual cost of the fine on it.

**4. Update on past blight issues. (missed)**

**5. Update on 137 Slater Avenue with the parking on Oak Street and Slater Avenue**

Letters were sent but have not heard from anyone at that residence.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:**

Burgess Laidley wondered what we were doing for the coronavirus. Todd Babbitt noted that he will be attending a class on Wednesday with municipal CEO's that use Uncas Health District. He will share with the borough the information obtained.

Burgess Sorder thanked Laura for devising a video for a contest regarding community renovation.

Warden Sharkey noted that there may be a potential buyer for the Arremony & Altones Building.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Todd stated that a new business would like to go into Arremony's, possibly a barbershop. Todd also stated that owner of the building is not willing to sell.

Todd also mentioned that if the students do the clean-up day, that an adult be with them, for safety reasons.

He will try and have vests & mechanical pickers for the volunteers.

Community program at the school covers accidents.

Flyers will be done to promote the clean-up day.

Regarding the monuments Todd spoke with Graham at Mercier Monuments for the school monument project, and he noted that he was very good to deal with.

Jack wondered if out of towners can donate to the monument.

Burgess Sorder wondered what the sub-committee was looking to raise for the monument. Jim thought around \$10,000.00.

Linda Cote noted that there is \$2,000 set aside already for the monument.

Resident Trooper Vaillancourt mentioned that the Griswold school along with Griswold Pride would like them to assist in the Target Enforcement. Preferably it will be during his shift hours. A special meeting can be called for this if overtime is needed.

Tina Falck committed \$100.00 from the Senior Center for the monument.

Leona Sharkey noted that on the Griswold Now Facebook page someone thanked the person who took care of the parking situation on Anthony Street.

Meeting duly adjourned at 7:30 by Burgess Sorder, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burgess Krueger. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Valerie Pudvah, Clerk

