

Valerie Pucwah

2020 JAN 17 AM 9:34



**Town of Griswold**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 14, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Griswold Town Hall**  
**28 Main St., Jewett City, CT 06351**



**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6 PM, by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

**Members Present:** Todd Babbitt, First Selectman  
Richard Grabowski, Selectman  
Jared Picco, Selectman (left at 6:50 PM)

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director  
Ryan Aubin, Recreation/YFS Director  
18 other interested citizens

2. **Notification of Emergency Exits** – Emergency exits were noted
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Pledge was cited
4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **November 26, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the November 26, 2019 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **December 11, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to approve the December 11, 2019 special meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Correspondence**

- a. **Town of Griswold Ethics Commission 2019 Annual Report** – Letter was noted as received for the record

- b. **Letter from Planning & Zoning Commission requesting meeting with BOS to discuss Short-Term/Transient Rentals** – T. Babbitt noted there was a meeting the night before and that a request was made for a summary of what was discussed at that meeting. He hopes to have that report for the 1/28/20 meeting.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on fifteen tax refunds for a total of \$3026.64 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the fifteen tax refunds for a total of \$3026.64 as presented by the Tax Collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on request by Ryan Aubin for use of Town Hall, Senior Center for May 2<sup>nd</sup> food, art and music festival** – R. Aubin gave a brief summary of the plan for the festival. The new event would help our local crafters to promote their products and would also serve a fundraiser for the Lion's club. He noted there would be no indoor use of the town hall building but the craft vendors would like to set up inside the senior center. The event would also involve food trucks and local services. Rebecca Jusseume also commented on the number of artists that would be involved. It was noted the Sr. Center had not reviewed the request. It was suggested that Ryan present the plan to the Board at the Senior Center in order to get their feedback. R. Aubin responded that most the clean up would be done by the Young Marines.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to table action on this item until the 2/11/2020 meeting and feedback from the Senior Center Board of Directors is received on inside use of the center. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on approving request by the Ordinance Committee for BOS approval and town meeting date for ordinances for Chapters 147 and 198 and possibility of allowing a paid secretary for the committee** – R. Grabowski noted that Chapter 147 Firearms had minor changes regarding signing in "a" and adding a designee to section "c". The Solid Waste ordinance changed the destination of where the material is brought and affected two paragraphs. J. Picco asked if "a" included the parks in Jewett City. R. Grabowski noted the change had to do with posted signage.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring to town meeting the changes by the ordinance committee for Chapter 147 and Chapter 198 as presented for a special town meeting on January 28, 2020 at 5:15 PM.

**T. Babbitt rescinded his second on the motion.**  
**R. Grabowski rescinded his motion.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to send Chapter 147 Firearms to town meeting on January 28, 2020 at 5:15 PM with changes made by the ordinance committee. **Motion carried.** T. Babbitt and R. Grabowski in favor, J. Picco opposed.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to send changes made by the ordinance committee to Chapter 198 Solid Waste to town meeting on January 28, 2020 at 5:15 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on waiving of electrical permit fees for the Glasgow WPCA – T. Babbitt noted that Glasgow WPCA is considered a leg of the town and that state permitting fees would still need to be paid.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to waive electrical permit fees for service upgrade at the Glasgow WPCA plant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action on state policy regarding town issuance of firearms permits – T. Babbitt noted that an audit was done at the state level regarding the issuance and handling of firearms permits. The audit revealed incorrect storage of the documents in the previous process and the outcome is that the resident troopers do not have the authority to issue firearms permits on behalf of the town. The town will now have to issue them through the Selectmen's office and there are upgrade requirements needed for computers and we will have to relocate the files to town hall. The first step is to approve this policy. The assistant and the First Selectman will both have to be trained and certified to handle the documents. It will create more work for the office, but there is no other option. The state has given us about six months to implement the procedures.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, that the BOS approve the adoption of the Criminal History Records Information Policy to be followed as presented by the State of Connecticut. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **Discussion and possible action on request by SCCOG for Municipal Resolution Endorsing SCCOG RPIP Grant Applications – T. Babbitt noted the resolutions provide the SCCOG to approve for Grants to provide professional services/positions that the member towns could use for services. R. Grabowski inquired as to the town's possible cost if the positions were implemented. R. Grabowski noted he has not problem adding resources to the town but would like to be certain of any costs involved. T. Babbitt noted it is not clear and would verify the costs if any at the SCCOG meeting tomorrow.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to table this item until the next meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- g. Discussion and possible action on selection of SCBG writer and authorizing the First Selectman to apply for any applicable program grants** – T. Babbitt noted that four applicants for grant writer were interviewed in response to the RFP. All three members interviewing agreed on selecting A&E Services Group LLC. There are no costs incurred by the town unless a grant is received.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, that the BOS authorize the First Selectman to engage the services of A&E Services Group LLC as the grant writer for the Small Cities Block Grant Program. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- h. Discussion on proposed “Notice of Blight Ordinance Violation” form** – T. Babbitt noted the form was compiled from sources of other towns and input from those that deal with enforcing blight. He also noted he did not think any action was needed. R. Grabowski and J. Picco both noted they had no issue with moving forward with using the form.

- i. Discussion and possible action on agreement with G&W Management on trying to rectify the situation at Country Mobile Estates** – T. Babbitt noted there is a list of taxes on delinquent units. He noted the town proposed an offer to the owner about a year ago. G&W would like to work aggressively with the tenants that are still there and are delinquent to satisfy the taxes. The feel of the management company is if they change and improve the atmosphere and look of the property the remaining tenants will take more pride in their properties. They have recently engaged with a tree arborist to address the trees and safety concerns of them. T. Babbitt noted he is just looking for approval to be able to negotiate with G&W to be able to come back and present a package to the Board of Selectmen.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski, to authorize the First Selectman to negotiate with G&W Management to resolve the issues at Country Mobile Estates. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- j. Discussion and possible action as requested by Tina Falck, Senior Center Director, on change of use of money in the Anthony Fund** – It was noted this is a very old fund that was set up and they would like to broaden the use of the funds. It was also noted it is an ordinance so would actually have to go to the ordinance committee for review. J. Picco asked if there was a definition of “crisis”. T. Falck noted there was nothing defined but the committee would meet and bring that situation forward to the BOS. It was suggested adding language to the end noting as approved by the BOS.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to send forward to the ordinance committee the proposal of the Anthony Fund Committee with the additional language “as approved by the Board of Selectmen” for the ordinance committee to review and forward back to the BOS for approval and town meeting date. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- k. Discussion and possible action on re-appointment of Joseph D'Errico as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission for a term of 2/12/2020 – 2/11/2021**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to re-appoint Joseph D'Errico as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission for a term of 2/12/2020 – 2/11/2021. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- l. Discussion and possible action on request of the Capital Improvement Committee to change the membership to allow for an additional regular member position – T. Babbitt noted the addition of another member of the CIP has been discussed back and forth between the CIP and the BOS. It was decided that the additional of a regular member versus an alternate member was better and that the member should be a participant of public safety.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to approve the addition of a member to the CIP committee and that the member be a participant of public safety. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- m. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Louis Demicco III as a regular member of the Capital Improvement Committee – T. Babbitt noted a request was received from Louis Demicco expressing his desire to serve on the CIP.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to appoint Louis Demicco III as a regular member of the CIP committee to fill the public safety spot. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- n. Discussion and possible action on the request by the Democratic Committee to appoint James Krueger to fill the vacant alternate member position of the Planning & Zoning Commission for a term of 11/19/2019 - 11/16/2021**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to appoint James Krueger as an alternate member of the Planning & Zoning Commission for a term of 11/19/2019 – 11/16/2021 as recommended by the Democratic Town Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. Old Business- None**

**8. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring back onto the agenda for discussion and possible action the request of the Ordinance Committee for a paid secretary. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There was brief discussion on this item that it would have to be looked at putting a line item in the budget to cover the costs.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to look at including the possibility of this position in the upcoming budget. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**\*J. Picco excused himself at this point. (6:50 PM)**

## **9. Public Forum**

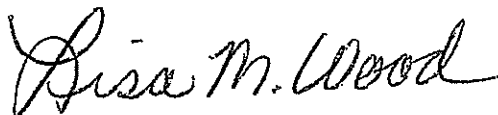
Paul Brycki – Taylor Hill Rd. – P. Brycki noted he was upset that he had to wait till the end, but understood the format and thanked the BOS for their input on Glasgo WPCA and noted he was able to speak with R. Aubin in the hall and he answered his question. P. Brycki mentioned the bill up in Hartford that is looking to help the state alleviate some of the tree issues that around. He noted how hard this area of the state has been hit and recommended reaching out to the elected State officials to see if some of that money could be targeted to Griswold and the surrounding communities. T. Babbitt noted for him that SCCOG has done a survey and gathered information for the state. He also noted he reached out to Senator Somers. P. Brycki noted he was going to put a request in to the budget for \$100,000, in hopes that some of that cost could be reimbursed by the state. He also offered to go testify to the state with some other individuals. P. Brycki also commented he has been trying to get a trial balance for Glasgo WPCA and is still waiting. T. Babbitt noted Elie Rix was supposed to have it, but he would look into it. P. Brycki also noted they are coming in to check the pumps for Glasgo WPCA on Thursday. T. Babbitt also provided an update on the SEAT route as requested. P. Brycki also noted he is looking for a new grant coordinator for the Housing Authority and asked for the BOS support of their projects.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux asked that the BOS look into the potential amount of money to be spent on the attorney in enforcing the issues with the short term rentals and, if perhaps that money would be better spent on enforcing something that the whole town would benefit from. T. Babbitt noted the BOS has to give some guidance to P&Z but will do that after the summary from the attorney is received.

## **10. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Lisa M. Wood**  
**Executive Assistant**