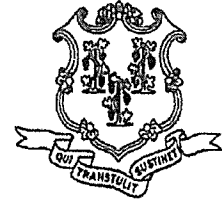




Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
January 23, 2018
6:00 PM
Downstairs Meeting Room
28 Main St., Jewett City, CT 06351

Valerie P. P. P.
2018 JAN 24 PM 1:21



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
Steve Merchant Sr., Second Selectman
Ed Burke, Third Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Tina Falck, Sr. Center Director
12 other interested citizens

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

- a. **January 9, 2018 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to approve the January 9, 2018 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Correspondence – Response from P&Z Commission in regards to request for 8-24 review** – This item was noted as received along with the annual report from the Ethics Commission.
6. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to approve the two tax refunds for a combined total of \$409.35. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Discussion and possible action on appointing James Barnie as a member of the Municipal Gas Line Project Committee

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to appoint James Barnie as a member of the Municipal Gas Line Project Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Discussion and possible action on launch of a “Community Action Team” – Tina Falck, Senior Center Director, provided information on how such a team is working in other communities. The idea is for the group consisting of emergency personnel and health officials, get together twice a month, to discuss how to assist those in the area that need help and what the most dominant issues are. T. Falck confirmed for E. Burke that there is no cost to the town involved with forming the committee.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant to allow the forming of a community action team. **Motion carried unanimously.**

d. Discussion and possible action on adoption of a resolution for the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017 – T. Babbitt noted that the previous Hazard Mitigation plan is about to expire and this resolution is required in order to continue in the plan and be eligible for FEMA funding.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the resolution for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. **Motion carried unanimously.**

e. Discussion and possible action on signing of suggested FOI letters to Commissioners Currey and Schriro, as drafted by Senator Somers’ office – T. Babbitt explained that Senator Somers legal department drafted the proposed letters and that she felt it would have more impact if signed by the local municipal official.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the two FOI letters to the Commissioners.

E. Burke asked if there could be language inserted as to requesting an explanation of “why” if the information being asked for is not available.

MOTION (AMENDED) – S. Merchant amended his motion to include the request for an explanation of “why” if the information requested is not available. E. Burke seconded the amendment to the motion.

Motion on the floor carried unanimously.

f. Discussion and possible action on setting a special meeting to begin departmental budget reviews

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to schedule a special meeting for February 2, 2018 to begin departmental reviews. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Building Official

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to schedule this item for the February 2, 2018 special meeting at 1 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring onto the agenda, discussion and possible action on the Lake Road property. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted that although there were parties that showed up at the viewing of the property, not one bid was received. He also noted he has another individual interested in looking at the property and will show it to him this week. There was also discussion on possibly listing it with a local realtor. There was no action taken on this item at this time.

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring onto the agenda, discussion and possible action on allowing the Sr. Center to apply for a 5310 grant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted this is a grant offered by the government and covers 80% of cost for a new vehicle for the Sr. Center. The Sr. Center would like to replace the silver Chevy van with a 10 passenger van with a wheel chair lift. He also noted that 20% of this cost has been set aside in the capital improvement plan.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the 5310 grant to be prepared by the Sr. Center. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Public Forum

James Barnie – Hopeville Rd. – J. Barnie asked that someone verify the 20% or \$11,000 has been put aside in the capital improvement plan for the van for the Sr. Center. He believe it is only proposed in the upcoming 18/19 improvement plan. He also wanted to know if the land for the 7 Lake Rd. property belonged to a land trust and if the February 2, 2018 meeting would be executive session. T. Babbitt responded he would check on the \$11,000, does not believe the land at 7 Lake Rd. is part of a trust and was not sure if the meeting would be executive session.

Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd. – S. Viadella asked if there was any new information available on the gun range as she missed the meeting last night. T Babbitt provided a summary of the information he had.

Steve Douglas – Bitgood Rd. – S. Douglas asked if that was a formal hearing we were asking of the state in regards to the gun range and also suggested a local realtor, perhaps willing to give a discount, be used to market the Lake Rd. property. T. Babbitt noted we would like them to request a formal hearing to be held in Hartford and agreed if a realtor is used it should be a local one.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd. – R. Young noted the governor should be liable for costs related to personal travel while he is in Aspen Colorado.

Ryan Snide – Tatro Rd. – R. Snide wanted to know who was being appointed to Building Official. T. Babbitt said that will be handled at the special meeting on February 2, 2018. T. Babbitt also noted for R. Snide that they did look into the Grant opportunity he suggested at the last meeting but this particular one did not work out for timing issues.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux asked for any updates on Heritage River Village. T. Babbitt noted the only new news in regards to HRV is some incentives on the sewer tie-ins. T. Babbitt also noted there are a couple other projects that have come to light and we are waiting to hear on them.

John Connelly – Carly Ave. – J. Connelly asked if the HRV property has sold yet and how the solar farm was progressing. T. Babbitt noted the land has not been purchased yet by HRV and the latest news is by the end of January. The solar farm has a bid out for removal of the growth at the property and that project should begin the first quarter of this year.

Tom Gaudreau – Bitgood Rd. – T. Gaudreau asked if there was anyone that Mr. Button would be willing to communicate with. T. Babbitt noted he is not sure, but would make an effort.

Steve Douglas – Hopeville Rd. – S. Douglas noted the issue with the hedges as you pull out of Browning Rd. onto Taftville Rd. T. Babbitt noted he would try to speak to the property owner.

Tom Gaudreau – Bitgood Rd. – T. Gaudreau asked if the road paving was resolved with Eversource. T. Babbitt noted they will be milling and repaving the whole road for Geer and Lily Pond. There are additional roads they now want to expand on and is trying to get the water company to work together with Eversource in projects on any of those roads.

Ryan Snide – Tatro Rd. – R. Snide noted Eversource had no interest in expanding only a week or so ago and feels they should be able to supply the whole town. T. Babbitt confirmed.


James Barnie – Hopeville Rd. – J. Barnie wanted to know if they could pave the roads in whole all away across as they deteriorate due to the seam in the middle. T. Babbitt noted the problem is they can with an extension on the paver but then cannot get through the whole road. They will pave only one way, with the extensions on, or with them off.

Thomas Gaudreau – Bitgood Rd. – T. Gaudreau asked how we were progressing with removal of the tanks at the high school. T. Babbitt noted the Municipal Gas Line Committee had its second meeting last night. S. Merchant noted they are forming a timeline and have not started yet. There will be one tank removed each year and the project has not begun yet.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant