

2021 JAN 27 AM 11:36

Valerie Pucval



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

January 26, 2021

6:00 PM

VIA ZOOM



MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

Members Present: Todd Babbitt, First Selectman
Richard Grabowski, Selectman
Jared Picco, Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Erik Christensen, Finance Director
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director
3 other interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **January 12, 2021 –Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 12, 2021 as presented. **Motion carried.** T. Babbitt abstained.

3. **Correspondence - None**

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on four tax refunds for a total of \$464.90 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

MOTION: Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski, to approve the four tax refunds for a total of \$464.90 as presented by Leona Sharkey, tax collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on moving forward with the proposed capital improvement plan as presented by the CIP committee** – R. Grabowski stated the work was done by the chairman and the members of that committee and the amount is reasonable and is in favor of moving it forward. J. Picco noted he is not against the plan but wants to make sure it is something we can financially handle given the current financial climate. It was noted that final approval would be by the BOF. T. Babbitt noted the fire department FIT testing machine was purchased out of the CARES Act so that can come out of the proposal.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to forward the capital plan as presented, with the one amendment of the testing machine being removed, to the BOF for their consideration. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on signing contract for architect as voted and approved by the Alternative School Space Needs Committee** – R. Grabowski asked if they have looked at any grant funding for this. T. Babbitt noted he doesn't believe so since this is a design phase trying to determine if the site is feasible for the purpose. Grant funding may be something they look at as they get further along with the project. R. Grabowski asked if the funds were available and T. Babbitt noted the BOF already approved funding for \$10,400 as confirmed by J. Picco.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the contract with the architect for the Alternative School Space Needs Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on a social media policy for the town** – There was no discussion.
- b. **Discussion and possible action on update of Patrylo property** -T. Babbitt noted we are still waiting to hear back on the Brownfields money and the EPA paperwork will be in by the end of this week. It took a bit of work due to the title search. R. Grabowski inquired as to the status of the safety of the building as noted by Mr. Vieaux at the last meeting. T. Babbitt noted the building has already been condemned and posted. That didn't seem to make a difference with the owner. T. Babbitt has instructed the acting building official to go back out and check the posting. The only other option would be to get a court order.
- c. **Discussion and possible action on progress of creating a new website** – There was no new update. Work with the developer is continuing, gathering of pictures and trying to involve the public.
- d. **Discussion and possible action on COVID-19 update** – T. Babbitt noted there was an increase of six cases last week from the previous two-week period. UNCAS health feels that after this week we should see local towns level off. The town is working with the senior center and UNCAS health and local business to get vaccine out to those 75 and older. T. Babbitt noted he had a meeting today with a recently formed Recovery Committee to discuss the issues that people have faced being able to utilize the COVID related programs and how to better prepare for what will be faced coming out of COVID. Possible transportation to Norwich was discussed for seniors who can't get there. J. Picco noted the VAMS system is constantly being updated and the state is looking at opening more vaccination sites. The governor is letting the government know that the state can take an increased amount of vaccine.

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to bring onto the agenda for discussion, the topic of the new senior center. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted he reached out to the Chairman of the committee and invited him to the next BOS meeting. Unfortunately, they are asking him to attend a special BOS meeting for the same purpose on that same night. He noted he can keep the board apprised of the meeting date so that they may attend that meeting if they would like to.

7. Public Forum

Tina Falck – Senior Center Director – T. Falck noted the senior center phones have been non-stop with seniors reaching out trying to get the vaccine. She noted they have worked out a system with Walgreens. They have contacted every resident at elderly housing for the data required and are working on setting up email addresses for those who do not have one and working to get them registered for the vaccine. They have also put a notice out on the Facebook page.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux noted that while attending a BOF meeting he was shocked at the BOF recommendation for the budget was to an increase up top half of mil. He is concerned that during these difficult times and with the amount of foreclosures that this is not a good idea. He is also concerned that there may not, again, be a referendum in May and the increase would be forced upon the residents.

James Barnie – CIP Chairman – J. Barnie wanted to thank the BOS for moving the CIP recommendation forward with the exception of the FIT test machine.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant

Residents that wanted to listen to the meeting were invited to sign in with Zoom.

Meeting ID: 742 8793 7667
Passcode: uML87Z