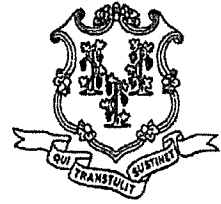


*Jaimee O'Neill-Cox*  
2018 JAN 10 PM 1:44



**Town of Griswold**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 9, 2018**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Downstairs Meeting Room**  
**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  
Steve Merchant Sr., Second Selectman  
Ed Burke, Third Selectman

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
11 others present

2. **Notification of Emergency Exits** – Emergency exits were noted.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Pledge of allegiance was cited.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **December 26, 2017 – Special Meeting Minutes**
  - b. **December 26, 2017 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
  - c. **December 29, 2017 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to approve the December 26, 2017 special meeting minutes, December 26, 2017 regular meeting minutes and the December 29, 2017 special meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Correspondence** - None

6. **New Business**

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to approve the three tax refunds for a total of \$93.75. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on allowing the employee member of the Ordinance Committee to include employees of the Board of Ed** – It was noted by T. Babbitt that when this committee was formed, one member was to be an employee (in-house staff member). T. Babbitt filled this spot until his term of First Selectman began. Due to the limited staff of Town Hall, Senior Center, Recreation and Public Works, it is difficult to get a resident employee to fill the position. The possibility of opening this employee requirement to also include employees of the BOE was discussed at the last meeting.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to allow employees of the BOE to be considered to fill the employee member of the Ordinance Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Old Business - None**

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to bring the item of reappointment of Liz Sibicky as a member of the Ethics Commission, for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There was comment from T. Babbitt noting that Liz Sibicky has served as a member for quite some time and has been doing a great job. The state often uses the policy that was created by our Ethics Commission as an example for other towns.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to reappoint Liz Sibicky as a member of the Ethics Commission for a term of 1/14/18 to 1/13/21. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to bring the item of appointment of Kathrine Petersen as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission, for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to appoint Kathrine Petersen as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission for a one year term of 1/10/18 to 1/9/19. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Public Forum**

**Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave.** – D. Vieaux wanted to know how our snow budget was holding up. T. Babbitt responded at this time it is still in good shape.

**Steve Douglas – Bitgood Rd.** – S. Douglas wanted to know if there was any word back from the town attorney on the proposed ordinance for banning of gun range, and if so if he could get a copy of it. T. Babbitt noted he has sent it to the attorney and asked him to respond back to S. Merchant. S. Merchant can send him S. Douglas a copy when the

information is received.

**Ryan Snide – Tatro Rd.** – R. Snide wanted to know if anyone has looked into the Grant offered for acquisition of Open Space and Wetlands. T. Babbitt noted he will look into it and will also check with the Town Planner.

**James Barnie – Hopeville Rd.** – J. Barnie asked if Mr. Snide knew the amount of the grants. R. Snide replied he does not.

**Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd.** – S. Viadella wanted to know if T. Babbitt had received any information about the open space land purchased in Ekonk. T. Babbitt noted the state DEEP bought 180 acres abutting the state forest. S. Viadella also wanted to know if anyone knew the status of the Lee Rd. property and an update on the gun range. T. Babbitt noted there is no new information on the purchase of the Lee Rd. property. He also noted Heather Somers contacted him and is trying to get a meeting scheduled regarding the gun range. She also informed him that the legislators were able to reduce the bonding for the proposed gun range from 6.8 million to 3.5 million. T. Babbitt noted he has also been speaking with Joe Courtney and has been trying to reach out to Mr. Larsen and Commissioner Currey and neither contact has had a successful outcome.

**Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd.** – R. Young noted his belief that the state does not have to abide by any local ordinances. He also noted his concern that the salt compound being used on the roads does not seem to be doing its job.

**Victor Jenschke – Hopeville Rd.** – V. Jenschke noted the tree on his property is still there and posing a danger and has not been contacted. T. Babbitt noted he did have Scott Dawley try to contact them and would contact him again tomorrow. The Jenschkes noted they had been out of state.

**Tom Gaudreau – Bitgood Rd.** – T Gaudreau wanted to know about funding for the school boilers and if the money has been appropriated and if spending the money to modify them is justified. T. Babbitt noted there are two underground tanks at the school that have to be removed by the next year at the cost of \$100,000 each. That cost was figured into the gas conversion. He also noted the contract with Eversource has been signed and that one school has to go onto the system each year for the next three years. He also noted the gas line expansion committee, meeting Thursday night, will be charged with the task of costs and details of the project and overseeing the project. He also noted the town has received a \$5000 grant from Eversource through a different program. That will be used to get an independent assessment of the project. It was noted there is some money in Capital Improvements that is designated to cover the cost of new boilers/conversion.

**Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd.** – R. Young noted the possibility of not being able to meet the gas demand and what would happen if they could not.

**Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave.** – D. Vieaux noted that he heard with the new budget there will be no BRAC Commission which would keep the Niantic range open. He also noted at the

P&Z meeting it was noted that the Pleasant View Condos expressed a desire to hook into the Eversource gas line. D. Vieaux commented he thought the agreement with Eversource guaranteed we would be the sole user of that gas line and wanted to know if they are breaking the contract if a discount would be given to the town. T. Babbitt commented he is not sure we can push that if the Town is not being charged for the line.

**Ryan Snide – Tatro Rd.** – R. Snide wanted to know why Eversource didn't go through Town so residents and businesses in Jewett City could join on the gas line. T. Babbitt noted he would rather not had the line placed under roads that were just paved. He also shared he had no input in that decision.

**James Barnie – Hopeville Rd.** – J. Barnie noted his understanding is that Eversource is not going out of their way looking for customers because the investment is not there. However, if a customer is interested it is probably a possibility. He also noted the rate is non-negotiable.

**Steve Douglas – Bitgood Rd.** – S. Douglas wanted to know if the school employee for the Ordinance Committee had to be a resident or simply a property owner and if all members of commissions had to be resident. T. Babbitt noted members should be residents. S. Douglas also wanted to know why we put so much effort into the fracking ordinance if the state does not have to abide by them and is it useless to pursue the ordinance prohibiting gun ranges. T. Babbitt noted, as far as anti-fracking, the state is not in the business of transporting fracking materials. As for the prohibiting of gun ranges, the ordinance may be helpful should the case go to court?

**Tom Gaudreau – Bitgood Rd.** – T. Gaudreau noted his belief that moving forward with the prohibiting of gun ranges and getting it out in the paper and public would seem to be helpful.

**James Barnie – Hopeville Rd.** – J. Barnie suggested non-violent civil disobedience.

**Ryan Snide – Tatro Rd.** – If the gun range goes through can we be the unofficial gun range capital of the world?

## 10. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by E Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant**