

J. O'Neill Cater, asst
2020 DEC -9 PM 2:36



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
December 8, 2020
6:00 PM
VIA ZOOM



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

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Erik Christensen, Finance Director
10 other interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **November 10, 2020 –Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the November 10, 2020 regular meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence** – It was noted two pieces were sent on Monday in addition to the packet.
4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on twelve tax refunds for a total of \$2535.15 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

MOTION: Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski, to approve the twelve tax refunds for a total of \$2535.15 as presented by Tax Collector, Leona Sharkey. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on filling of vacancy on the Board of Finance till the next municipal election**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski to appoint Amanda Brycki to fill the vacancy on the Board of Finance till the next municipal election.

J. Picco expressed his concern on possibly tabling this item to allow more time for anyone who may be interested to apply for the vacancy as he had a couple of people approach him that may be interested. He sees no rush in filling it before the end of the year and noted the Board is doing well with the party split down the middle.

R. Grabowski noted the regulations that allow the selectmen to fill this vacancy is not new. He also noted he has not attended the recent BOF meeting to see how this is progressing but would like to see the position filled as budget season is nearing and to prevent deadlocks between party lines. He was not opposed to delaying for two weeks but does not see that it would solve anything.

J. Picco wanted to allow a little more time for possible additional candidates since the two that are interested are the same two that were previously interested. He also noted that sometimes deadlock leads the board to have to compromise.

T. Babbitt noted that the BOS could have moved forward earlier but notified both party chairman with the ability to reach out and seek candidates for the vacancy.

MOTION: Motion was made by J. Picco to nominate Dana Bennett to fill the vacancy on the Board of Finance. -- It was noted that the motion currently on the floor had to be dealt with first.

MOTION: T. Babbitt, seconded the motion previously on the floor by R. Grabowski, to appoint Amanda Brycki to fill the vacancy on the Board of Finance till the next municipal election. This motion was voted on. **Motion carried. R. Grabowski and T. Babbitt in favor, J. Picco opposed.**

c. Executive Session: Discussion on pending employee vacancies

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to move Executive Session (items 4c and 4d) to after public forum. **Motion carried unanimously.**

d. Discussion and possible action on pending employee vacancies

5. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on a social media policy for the town** – It was noted there is no new information on this and to leave it on the agenda for next meeting.
- b. Discussion and possible action on update of Patrylo property** – T. Babbitt provided an update on additional information from DEEP and EPA. He noted they suggested the town submit a plan for cleanup to the Municipal Brownfields Liability Relief Program, which would not hold the town to any deadlines. There is also a Brownfields Targeted Assessment grant program that is 100% funded. If everything falls into place, the town would have to move forward with foreclosure, the funds come out in January and the assessment would be done in the spring. R. Grabowski noted he would like to move forward as soon as possible. J. Picco echoed in agreement with the thoughts of R. Grabowski. T. Babbitt noted he would get the application started.

- c. **Discussion and possible action on progress of creating a new website** – J. Picco noted that next step is probably he and Erik get together to discuss the layout of the website with the designer.
- d. **Discussion and possible action on COVID-19 update** – T. Babbitt provided an update on status and numbers.

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to bring the item of the need of signage on Roode Road and Stonehill Rd. regarding truck traffic, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

R. Grabowski noted there have been several complaints from residents in the area about the amount of trucks and size of trucks that are using that road. He noted T. Babbitt has spoke with the dispatch facility in the past. T. Babbitt noted he did go to Western Express depot, does not seem there has been much improvement. He will go back. We can put up a “No thru Truck Traffic” sign and see if that helps. We cannot totally restrict trucks as we would than loose town aid road money for that road.

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to bring the status of the problems on Susan Avenue, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted discussion is limited as this case is in litigation. The last writ has been filed and a list is being put together of those that may need to testify. He verified that making them remove the building is a possibility. The town may have to do that if it is ordered by the court and the owner refuses to do so. The town would then lien the property.

7. Public Forum

Valerie Grills – 6 Edmond Rd. – V. Grills wanted to know how Rich and Todd came to a decision on filling the BOF vacancy in regard to the pros and cons of the applicants. R. Grabowski noted that based on his knowledge of Ms. Brycki and her background felt she would be a good candidate to represent the town. T. Babbitt also noted his knowledge of Ms. Brycki and her background in working with budgets and grants with UCFS, and how that would be beneficial. V. Grills noted about voting on party lines. R. Grabowski noted he did what he thought was in the best interest of the town.

Dan Webster – Cook Hill Road – D. Webster had concerns in regard to the timing of the BOF being made aware of the BOS going to fill the vacancy and J. Picco being notified after the BOF. He also noted that in his sixteen years on the BOF there has been a three to three party board and the BOF has always been able to conduct business with the exception of being able to fill a seventh member position. He also wanted to know why further nominations were not taken tonight and why the two interested candidates to not get to speak in regard to their qualifications. T. Babbitt noted the chair of the BOF shared the ruling on filling the vacancy at the BOF meeting prior to sending the information to the BOS. He also

noted the BOS could have acted in a shorter time frame but allowed more than 30 days to allow applicants to respond. T. Babbitt noted he does not recall anything specifically that the BOF was not able to accomplish other than what was mentioned. With the upcoming tough budget season, he would like to see as many people involved in the process as possible.

Dana Bennett – Dina Lane – D. Bennett noted that in other surrounding towns, when there is a vacancy on a board which is to be filled, they fill it with a member from a similar party. T. Babbitt just stated that it was stated that the vacancy could be filled by either party.

4. **New Business (cont'd)**

c. **Executive Session: Discussion on pending employee vacancies**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to go into executive session at 6:32 PM for discussion on pending employee vacancies.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to come out of executive session at 6:42 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

d. **Discussion and possible action on pending employee vacancies**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to offer the position of Assessor to the other candidate that was interviewed, if they are still interested. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Meeting ID: 773 7209 6728

Passcode: rMP4n

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant