

Walter P. Piccolo

2020 FEB 14 AM 10: 22



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
February 11, 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

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
13 other interested citizens

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

- a. **January 28, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to pass and accept the regular meeting minutes of January 28, 2020. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **January 30, 2020 - Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to accept and pass the special meeting minutes of January 30, 2020. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **February 6, 2020 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to pass and accept the special meeting minutes of February 6, 2020. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Correspondence

- a. Letter from the Sr. Center regarding the use of the Sr. Center for May 2nd was noted as received.
- b. Sample resolutions regarding the possibility of tolls in Connecticut, were noted as received.

6. New Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on seven tax refunds for a total of \$1266.24 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to accept and pass the seven tax refunds for a total of \$1266.24 as presented by the tax collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on direction to Planning & Zoning regarding short term rentals** – T. Babbitt noted the correspondence in the packet from the town planner and the summary received by the town attorney. It was discussed that if an ordinance were put in place for enforcement it would have to be enforced across the board. T. Babbitt noted if it were by permit and they violated the permit, the town would have the ability to pull that permit. This would be for short term rentals which would be anything under 30 days. The issue becomes enforcing whatever is put into place. The town attorney suggests staying away from putting language into the zoning regulations.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to table discussion and to draft a letter to Planning & Zoning indicating that as directed by town counsel we would steer away from changing the zoning regulations and lean more towards ordinance enforcement. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on request by Ryan Aubin for use of Town Hall, Senior Center for May 2nd food, art and music festival** – T. Babbitt noted a letter was received from the Board of Directors of the Senior Center stating they are not comfortable with the inside use of the building. R. Grabowski noted he is in favor of the events based on the positive feedback from the community on the events offered. R. Grabowski mentioned the use indicated by R. Aubin seems to be just for the main room and he would be willing to open and close the building for the day. J. Picco mentioned he is also in favor of the activity for the town. R. Grabowski also noted he previously informed R. Aubin that the grounds would need to be policed and restored to the original condition. T. Babbitt noted there was a problem with the clean-up and policing in the past.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the request by R. Aubin to use the Town Hall exterior and parking area and senior center interior for the May 2nd food, art and music festival. **Motion carried.** R. Grabowski and J. Picco in favor. T. Babbitt abstained.

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

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring the item of tolls and resolution samples from other towns, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

It was noted that most towns are concerned about the increased traffic through their towns, damage to the roads and possible increase in accidents. J. Picco gave an update noting that nothing has been passed at this point and the plan is continually changing. The latest plan does show one in Plainfield and the total number of tolls is down to around 12 or 15. He also noted that due to a previous agreement with the federal government we would suffer a penalty and decrease in road funds if we were to put tolls at the state borders. It was also noted it would be great if the money collected were to go to a lock box and be used specifically for roads and bridges.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to table this item to the next special meeting agenda for discussion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Public Forum

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux commented on the reappearance of dirt bikes and four wheelers as a result of the warmer weather and asked for an update on commercial developments. T. Babbitt provided a development update. D. Vieaux also noted he liked the idea of a permit for short term rentals and encouraged the town to look at a noise ordinance.

Cathy Beyer – Glasgo Rd. – C. Beyer commented on the ongoing issue of blight at 1585 Glasgo Road and the lack of enforcement. She cited a number of vehicles and trailers as well as pallets and wanted to know why the Town has not cleaned up the property based on the court ruling that they can. T. Babbitt noted that certain things can be cleaned up but the cars cannot if they are registered and last time they were checked the vehicles and trailers were registered. The advice of the town attorney was to not take the pallets if he was using them for heat through the winter. T. Babbitt noted that he will send the ZEO and the Assessor out to again verify the vehicles on the property and see if they are registered and being taxed as either motor vehicle or personal property.

Paul Madonna – Osga Lane – P. Madonna commented on his concern of the short term rental issue that is facing the town and his belief that the current regulations prohibit a short term rental of less than 30 days. He also did not want to incur expenses for the town but the ZEO can issue a cease and desist at no expense. T. Babbitt confirmed they will follow the advice of the town counsel and not look at changing the zoning regulations but rather an ordinance.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux noted that in CT you cannot burn pallets or treated wood. He also noted a ZEO report has not been provided at the P&Z meeting for the past six months.

Ryan Aubin – Dennis Lane – D. Aubin – R. Aubin, Recreation Director, thanked the Board for their support of the May event and invited them to youth basketball night at the high school.

Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd. – S. Viadella asked if the plan for the walking trail, near the river behind the Stott property is still going forward. T. Babbitt confirmed it is. S. Viadella asked about a clean-up day for Earth Day. It was suggested that April 18th be used with the hours of 7-1 for the transfer station.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux noted that briefly spoke with T. Falck after the last meeting about getting people together from last year. It was agreed to put this on the next meeting agenda.

John Connelly – Carely Ave. – J. Connelly expressed his concern about the safety of people walking the path by the river in regards to people that may be loitering down there and the proximity to the river.

Ryan Snide – Tatrod Rd. – R. Snide commented that FOPF would be willing to help with the trail.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant