

J. O'Neill - Eater,
2018 FEB -6 PM 12:01, asst.



Town of Griswold

28 Main Street
Griswold, CT 06351



Board of Selectman Special Meeting Selectmen's Meeting Room Friday, February 2, 2018 10:00 AM

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

Members Present: Todd Babbitt, First Selectman
Steve Merchant, Second Selectman
Ed Burke, Third Selectman

Others Present: Erik Christensen, Finance Director
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director
Mario Tristany Jr., Town Planner
Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk
Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector
2 other interested citizens

2. **Discussion and possible action on 2018/2019 departmental budgets**

Senior Center – T. Falck presented the budget for the Senior Center, after suggested cuts and contractual increases, the budget is over about \$5000 from last year even after \$5500 in cuts. T. Falck did mention cutting classes if they cannot achieve a minimum of participants. E. Christensen noted there are some factors such as health insurance and pension that may go down.

Planning – M. Tristany presented the budget for the Planning Department. M. Tristany noted the savings in the secretary position due to reduction to part-time. There were additional reductions in advertising to create a reduction of about 17.89 percent or \$36,783 in the department budget. MS4 Stormwater charges were briefly discussed and had a slight increase.

Town Clerk – V. Pudvah presented the budget for the Town Clerk's office. V. Pudvah noted she did not put any increases in the budget except for her pay. She noted most the items in her budget are contractual and/or required by State Statute. The Code of Ordinance costs are more than usual due to the work being done by the Ordinance Committee.

UNCAS Health – E. Christensen passed out a paper showing their charges for the upcoming year which was an increase of \$95.

Tax Collector – L. Sharkey presented the budget for the Tax Collector's office. Quality Data is their software program and is contractual but due to an upgrade there is actually a decrease and they are presenting a 0% increase for the contract and services due to the tight budget. It is shown that the postage is gone up but there is not much control over that. It was discussed in putting the tax refunds in a different spot rather than an expenditure next year. T. Babbitt asked if it could be shown this year.

Finance Department – E. Christensen presented the budget for the Finance Department noting salaries are contractual, accounting went down as well as service contracts. Total increase is 0.81% for the department. He hopes this may go down to a 0% if the insurance comes in low enough.

Emergencies and Contingencies – E. Christensen suggested going back to \$40,000 on that as he doesn't expect the teacher's pensions will be included.

Fringe Benefits – E. Christensen noted the MERF administrative charges did go up about \$650.

Debt Retirement – Shows an overall decrease of \$3,000. It was noted the gas line may have an effect on this.

- 3. Discussion and possible action on request of Senior Center Building Committee to waive fees associated with Zoning Board of Appeals application for variances** – T. Babbitt noted the request is to waive the ZBA fee of \$160 for the municipal fee.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to waive the ZBA application for variance fee for the Senior Center Building Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 4. Discussion and possible action on offer received for sale of town owned property at 7 Lake Rd.** – T. Babbitt noted there is an offer of \$30,000 contingent upon inspection of the property by the potential buyer. The offer was from John Wolkowski and the other interested party has decided not to purchase. T. Babbitt noted our costs right now are about \$43,000 for taxes and legal fees with about another couple thousand for closing costs and possible fees to list with a realtor with no guarantee on an offer. The town would have a loss of about \$16,000 but would get the property back on the tax list. There were no offers from the original walk through.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to express to Mr. Wolkowski that they will accept his offer of \$30,000 for the purchase of 7 Lake Road contingent upon the successful visual inspection and walk through of the property by Mr. Wolkowski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to take a recess and adjourn the meeting until 12:45 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

***Meeting was reconvened at 1 PM. Roll call was announced again and the following were present:** Todd Babbitt, Steve Merchant Sr., Ed Burke, Erik Christensen, Peter Zvingilas and 1 interested citizen.

5. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Building Official

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to appoint Peter Zvingilas as Building Official for a four year term.

S. Merchant noted it was the opinion of the previous Board of Selectmen to let the now current Board take action on this item.

Motion on the floor was voted on. **Motion failed unanimously.**

P. Zvingilas asked several times for a reason and it was noted the State Statute allows the Board of Selectmen to either appoint or not appoint.

P. Zvingilas left at 1:15 PM with E. Christensen.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to appoint Jack Cipriano as acting Building Official for a period not to exceed 180 days.

E. Burke suggested to add language indicating “until a replacement is found”.

MOTION (amended): Motion on the floor was amended by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to appoint Jack Cipriano as acting Building Official for a period not to exceed 180 days or until a permanent replacement is found. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



**Todd Babbitt,
First Selectman**