

J. O'Neill-Caten,
2019 FEB 27 PM 3:05



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
February 26, 2019
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: T. Babbitt, First Selectman
Steve Merchant Sr., Second Selectman
Ed Burke, Third Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director
22 other interested citizens

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

- a. **January 22, 2019 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to approve the January 22, 2019 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **January 31, 2019 – Special Meeting Minutes**
 - c. **February 5, 2019 – Special Meeting Minutes**
 - d. **February 7, 2019 – Special Meeting Minutes**
 - e. **February 14, 2019 – Special Meeting Minutes**
 - f. **February 20, 2019 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to approve the January 31, 2019, February 5, 2019, February 7, 2019, February 14, 2019 and the February 20, 2019 special meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Correspondence

a. Notice by Jennifer Vincent on resignation from the Ordinance Committee

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to accept the resignation of Jennifer Vincent. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Notice by Patricia Lapierre on resignation from the Public Health & Safety Committee

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to accept the resignation of Patricia Lapierre. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. New Business

a. Discussion and possible action on ten tax refunds for a total of \$4,109.91 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by T. Babbitt, to approve the ten tax refunds for a total of \$4,109.91. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Discussion and possible action on re-appointment of Katharine Petersen as regular member of the Ethics Commission for a three year term of 3/6/2019 – 3/5/2022

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to re-appoint Katharine Petersen as regular member of the Ethics Commission for a three year term of 3/6/2019 – 3/5/2022. **Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Joe D'Errico as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission for a term of 2/12/2019 – 2/11/2020 – Mr. D'Errico was present.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt to appoint Joe D'Errico as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission for a term of 2/12/2019 – 2/11/2020. **Motion carried unanimously.**

d. Discussion and possible action on 2019 Earth Day Clean up as presented by Ed Berdick – E. Berdick gave a summary of events that were planned last year relative to the first annual Earth Day Clean up. He made suggestions on how they may be able to improve on the event. It was decided that Saturday, April 27th from 7 AM to noon, would be this year's clean-up day. If trash is picked up sometime during the prior week, the town will pick up those bags. The transfer station would again accept bulky waste from town residents at no charge. He would like to divide the town into corridors along the major routes and also involve the scouts. E. Burke mentioned trying to solicit gift cards for gas for those who volunteer to use their trucks. It was

noted that a grant could be applied for through the Last Green Valley. If a contact number for pick-up can be provided, a flyer can be made and start to be distributed. An incentive, was discussed, for those who participate and pick-up the most trash. T. Babbitt offered to donate \$100 for this. It was also suggested by Mr. Wills of Roode Rd. to create stickers for those who participate and to maybe start in advance with a section in the borough that would be most visible and encourage others to participate. Melissa Cassidy, Campbell Rd., suggested neighborhoods work together and try to figure out who completes the highest percentage of clean-up in their neighborhood. Dave Vieaux, Leha Ave., encouraged to repeat the coordination of the pick-ups as was done last year with Tina Falck and some kind of placard to note the trucks volunteering.

- e. **Discussion and possible action on request by Sr. Center Director for approval of a class for the seniors** – There was brief discussion.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to allow the Sr. Center to conduct a classroom training. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **Discussion and update on Glasgo Sewer Authority** – T. Babbitt noted that at this point there is no Glasgo Sewer authority as the terms held from the last elections have expired. The authority has little money and should something fail and need repair the town would be responsible. Glasgo Sewer Authority has not had a rate increase in twenty six years. T. Babbitt has been in contact with the town attorney and at this point the option is the BOS take over the sewer authority from Glasgo and appoint a new committee and that committee would then decide if they want to continue to oversee that system or go to town meeting and let the Griswold Water Pollution Control Authority take it over.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, the BOS take over Glasgo Sewer Authority and advertise for people to be appointed to the new Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring the item of hiring a grant writer onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.** There was brief discussion regarding the interview of the grant writer at the special meeting held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to recommend hiring the grant writer interviewed at the special meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring the item of waiving the building permit for the job trailer in relation to state project 57-118 Norman Rd. and Sheldon Rd. bridges, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.** The job trailer is needed for the

upcoming bridge project and the trailer would be placed in the far corner of the parking lot at the Sheldon Road Field adjacent to the power pole. This would save the town money. The town has a 20% match obligation for the project and this cost would be 100% applicable.

MOTION: Motion was made by T Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to waive the town portion of the building permit for the job trailer for the bridge project 57-118 for the trailer to be located at 211 Sheldon Rd. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring the item of permission for the Sr. Center to apply for a section 5310 grant for a handicap accessible nine passenger van, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to allow the Sr. Center to apply for a section 5310 grant for a handicap accessible nine passenger van. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to bring the item of Blight ordinance onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.** E. Burke gave an update, noting the proposed blight ordinance failed to pass at previous town meeting. Changes have been made to the blight ordinance and he would like to bring it back to town meeting to be voted on.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring the amended proposed blight ordinance to town meeting to be held at town hall, and if needed moved to the Sr. Center and that vote be by paper ballot. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to bring the blight ordinance to town meeting on March 26th at 5 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring the item of Dial-A-Ride grant update onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.** T. Falck gave an update noting that there is no more funding available for dial-a-ride for this fiscal year ending June 30th. This will have an effect on the transportation services offered by the Sr. Center. It was noted that each situation will be evaluated on a case to case basis.

- f. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring the item of the Sr. Center applying for a grant onto the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.** T. Falck spoke noting that the grant is Title III Funding – Older Americans Act. The grant would provide \$5000 for podiatry care, on-site, to help with co-pays or those that need services and do not have insurance that covers those services.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to amend the above motion to allow T. Falck to bring the item of applying for Title III grant funding onto the agenda and to allow for action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to allow the Sr. Center Director to apply for grant for Title III funding in the amount of \$5000 to assist with podiatrist co-pays and those that don't have insurance. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- g. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring the item of the cemetery bank account onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.** T. Babbitt noted that the bank has contacted him regarding this account because all trustees listed on the account have passed away. T. Babbitt has spoken with the town attorney and state statute allows for the town to take control of that account.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to move forward with the recommendation by the town attorney on taking over the account. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. Public Forum

Pam Patalano – Hopeville Rd. and Jarred Picco of Senator Somers Office – Thanked T. Babbitt for all his support in helping to fight the gun range and presented him with a citation from the Senator's office. They also presented the town with a signature sign of all those that helped the cause. T. Babbitt thanked them and noted it is not a solo effort, there was a lot of help throughout the town.

Steve Douglas – Bitgood Rd. – S. Douglas noted a residence that could use some help with clean-up day. S. Douglas also offered to buy the stickers for clean-up day. He also noted his support for bonding for infrastructure improvements and urged to extend it down to exit 24. T. Babbitt noted the water company is not willing to contribute any money towards the project but there is a favorable grant funding opportunity through the USDA. T. Babbitt confirmed that two grocery stores were previously exploring the area of Rt. 164 corridor. T. Babbitt also noted for S. Douglas that the Griswold Historical Society did complete a walk-through of the church and it looks more promising that originally perceived that it may be able to house the historical society.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux noted it is disheartening that the water company does not want to contribute to the infrastructure project. T. Babbitt noted if the town funds the water line then the town would collect the tie-in fees. The town would own the lines until the financing is paid off.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd. – R. Young noted his concern regarding the infrastructure benefiting the value of properties it extends to.

John Connelly – Carely Ave. – J. Connelly noted his concern about the water rates doubling in the near future. T. Babbitt noted the increased use of the water line would help to offset the potential water rate increase and he also noted they are permitted for 1 million gallons of usage and are currently using half that amount.

Ed Berdick – Voluntown Rd. – E. Berdick appreciates the creativity of the town to secure funding for the infrastructure and wanted to know why the town cannot form its own water company. T. Babbitt noted that question was asked and the town is not allowed to do that within a certain amount of footage to an existing company. E. Berdick also urged people to get the word out about the clean-up day.

Steve Douglas – Bitgood Rd. – S. Douglas asked about out of town vehicles on clean-up day. T. Babbitt noted if we knew in advance it may be allowed.

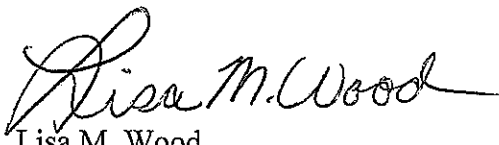
Ryan Snide - Tatro Rd. – R. Snide thanked the BOS for their efforts in the gun range battle and inquired as to the class that was referenced earlier for the senior center. T. Babbitt noted it was a class on medical marijuana usage.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd. – R. Young asked about if there was a rate for Glasgo Sewer. T. Babbitt noted it is \$144 per quarter.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant