

Valeri Prawal
2021 MAR 19 AM 9:19



Town of Griswold

28 Main Street
Griswold, CT 06351



**Board of Selectman
Special Meeting
Downstairs Meeting Room
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
5:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

Members Present: T. Babbitt, First Selectman
R. Grabowski, Selectman
J. Picco, Selectman

Others Present: Erik Christensen, Finance Director
Ryan Aubin, Recreation Director
Cynthia Martin, Registrar
Jennifer Gauthier, Registrar

2. **Executive Session: Discussion on content of documents pertaining to a financial matter that is exempt from disclosure**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to enter into executive session at 5:02 PM to discuss documents pertaining to a financial matter that is exempt from disclosure. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to amend the previous motion to invite in Erik Christensen, Finance Director and Town Counsel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to come out of executive session at 5:50 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Discussion and possible action on above financial matter** – There was no action or further discussion on this item.

4. Discussion and possible action on 2021/2022 departmental budgets

Recreation – Ryan Aubin presented the budget. R. Aubin noted the increases of contractual, union, minimum wage, summer camp and fireworks. He noted last year there was no summer camp, so it was taken out and put back in this year. This year there is also an increase as a staffing requirement and the need to separate to two or three locations. R. Aubin went into further detail about the summer camp guidelines. J. Picco asked if the director's salary increase was contractual. T. Babbitt questioned supplies and subcontractors. R. Aubin noted there is an increase due to the lack of the materials last year. There is also a contingency line of \$10,000 for unexpected requirements that may be needed as a result of the continuing pandemic. All field trips have been taken away and that money has been put into entertainment so that people come to us. R. Aubin noted for J. Picco that the amount for the field trip line is usually \$10,000. R. Aubin also noted for R. Grabowski, that portable toilets may not be needed at the school, but it is unsure at this time.

Registrars – Cynthia Martin and Jennifer Gauthier, Registrars, presented the budget. A power point presentation was handed out showing what was accomplished this past year through the pandemic and what the projections are moving forward. J. Gauthier noted they are planning for a full canvas next year. Contractual and temporary help was increased due to a calculation of two regular elections and two referendums. Mileage is what it has been at \$500 which has not been completely used in the past. Dues includes training and conventions at \$3100. Annual canvas went up \$50 for mailing labels. Elections supplies, \$12,000, includes all materials for elections. Service contracts and postage were noted. Election official salary was increased. J. Gauthier noted that they put in about 900 hours a year and based on the current salary that equals about \$11/hour. She also noted they have two years to become certified which requires 200 hours of training. They also noted they do a lot of work from home and they also do not receive a separate pay for the hours put in during an election. R. Grabowski noted he does agree the Registrars put in more hours than one would expect. J. Picco agreed, however, he did want to note for the record that his girlfriend is an assistant. J. Picco, noted to be consistent, his hesitancy against non-contractual raises at this time. J. Gauthier noted their duties are not permissive and that the turnover in the office may be due to the lack of pay for the amount of work. T. Babbitt noted there has been quite a bit of turnover and the last election with covid was certainly more than expected. He also noted it is a large increase but they will have to discuss and consider it.

Contributions – E. Christensen noted the Community Renewal request and the homeless shelter request did not specify an amount.

TVCCA – asking the same, kept the same at \$3,000

Slater Library – asking for \$5,000 increase, agreed on \$2,500 increase total \$92,500

Safe Futures – asking for double, agreed to keep as last year at \$1,500

Veteran's Council – asking for \$2,000 which it was at one point, agreed on \$2,000

Eastern Conservation District – asking \$1,000 have never funded, agreed not to fund
Legion Baseball – This is in a different area, next year will return here, kept at \$10
Snowflake Festival – asking for same, kept the same at \$700
Little League Baseball – asking for same, kept the same at \$1,500
Youth Soccer – asking 2,500, was taken out a while ago, need to provide more info
Homeless Hospitality Center – did not request an amount, agreed not to fund
Sexual Assault Crisis – asking for same at \$500, kept the same at \$500
UCFS – asking for \$298,654, agreed to increase from last year to \$5,000
Children’s First – not funded
Community Renewal Team – did not request an amount, agreed not to fund

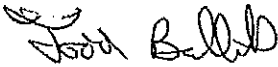
There was discussion about putting the request of the Recreation Director for Fireworks under contributions, like the Snowflake Festival. It was agreed to discuss with the Finance Director. They noted they are also going to confirm if the Borough is going to match funds for Fireworks and the Snowflake Festival.

It was noted Planning, Fire Marshal and the two fire departments still need to be addressed, as well as looking at uniformity on salaries, including the Registrars. Recreation budget was also discussed and noted that the increase seems so large due to the fact that programs were taken out last year because they did not run. It was also noted the worse case scenario was presented as far as summer rec goes. It is unclear at this point if any money or how much money from the American Rescue plan may be available and be earmarked for or be able to be used toward recreation.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by T. Babbitt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



**Todd Babbitt,
First Selectman**