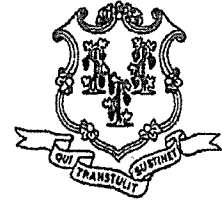


J. O'Neill, Esq., asst.  
2018 APR 12 PM 4:36



**Town of Griswold**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 10, 2018**  
**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 First Selectman, Todd Babbitt

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

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

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

- a. **March 27, 2018 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to approve the March 27, 2018 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Correspondence – Letter from Alan Geer not seeking reappointment to the Recreation Commission** – Letter was noted as accepted.

6. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to approve the two tax refunds for a total of \$350.01. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Kenneth Willey to the Recreation Commission as an alternate member for a one year term of 5/1/18 to 4/30/19 and reappointment of alternate member Jay Rainier for a term of 10/27/17 to 10/26/18**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to appoint Kenneth Willey to the Recreation Commission as an alternate member for a one year term of 5/1/18 to 4/30/19 and reappointment of alternate member Jay Rainier for a term of 10/27/17 to 10/26/18. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. Discussion and possible action on request of Avalonia Land Conservancy for approval of abatement of taxes and interest paid by ALC in the amount of \$14,056.63 – T. Babbitt noted that ALC purchased the land and paid the taxes due on the properties. There were seven waterfront lots and the seller reserved the right of use for three of those lots. The four owned outright by ALC will be combined into one lot and the three lots the previous owners retained use of will be combined into one lot. The lots being retained for use by the prior owner, do not qualify for abatement. T. Babbitt noted the taxes due at time of purchase should have been paid before the transfer.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to not approve the abatement of taxes or the interest. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 7. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on update on Earth Day Clean Up as presented by Tina Falck and Ed Berdick – E. Berdick noted that progress is being made but still working on volunteers and getting organizations/residents to adopt roads. E. Berdick asked if there were any special guide lines they should be aware about as far as bringing stuff to the transfer station. T. Babbitt noted only hazardous materials would not be accepted and regular household trash and they would be open till 1 PM. E. Berdick is encouraging pre-planning and discouraging children from cleaning on the side of the roads. T. Falck noted that she is trying to get GVFD to clean the wall area in front of Pachaug cemetery and will be passing out flyers to residences in the area. E. Burke noted the telephone pole in the brook at Lily Pond and it may be hazardous.**
- b. Discussion and possible action on amended proposed Blight Ordinance – T. Babbitt noted E. Burke worked with the Town Planner and there have been minor corrections to the ordinance and he is ready to move it forward to the ordinance committee. S. Merchant noted it was briefly discussed at the last ordinance meeting and there was concern over the ability of enforcement. It was noted the building official has begun enforcing issues and there will also be a non biased hearing officer appointed by the selectmen.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to move the proposed Blight Ordinance onto the ordinance committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to bring the item of Bingo, Raffle and Bazaar permits onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted that the state has now transferred all the responsibility of permitting and monitoring for these events onto the town. It was noted a permit has to be created and a fee schedule has to be accepted. He noted most other towns are going with the maximum fees and we only usually see one bingo permit a year which is the senior center. T. Babbitt also noted the attorney has provided sample ordinances for our review. It was also noted that it is now the duty of the First Selectman to determine if the raffle verification is accurate and monitor activity to make sure they abide to the details of the permit.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to accept the sample raffle permit and the fee schedule at the maximum allowed amounts.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

## 9. Public Forum

John Connelly – Carely Ave. – J. Connelly wanted to know if the proposed blight ordinance would include the borough and who would enforce it and his concern for who is determining blight. T. Babbitt noted he does not believe the proposed ordinance includes the borough and also mentioned the person doing the enforcement is not a resident and the proposed ordinance includes a hearing officer if need be, both of which should be helpful. J. Connelly also asked if the Senior Center has a lot of non-residents that play bingo. T. Falck noted that membership is reciprocated with neighboring towns.

Steve Douglas – Bitgood Rd. – S. Douglas inquired about the two barrels on East Main Street across from the new medical center. T. Babbitt noted it is part of the remediation for that site and the DEEP is aware of those containers. It was also noted for S. Douglas that registered non-profits do qualify for raffle permits.

Ed Berdick – Voluntown Rd. – E. Berdick noted his concern about the public not being adequately informed and having enough knowledge about what is going on with the state and the town budget and how it affects the mill rate. T. Babbitt noted that E. Berdick was the only person who attended the recent BOF annual public hearing on the budget that was not associated with the BOE or town committee. Scott Davis, BOF chairman, noted his opinion is most people wait till the budget and mill rate come out and unless there is an issue that really pulls the residents heartstrings you don't see many people till it is time to vote.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux wanted to know if the proposed blight ordinance would apply to commercial as well as residential or those running businesses out of their homes. T. Babbitt explained if they have a business and it is in a commercial zone that would fall under planning and zoning. If they have a business at their residence and it is not commercially zones that would fall under blight.

Tom Gaudreau – Bitgood Rd. – T. Gaudreau asked if a final mill rate has been reached. T. Babbitt noted there has not. T. Gaudreau also noted an article for the clean-up listing who to contact for a certain street would be helpful.

Scott Davis – Haley Meadow Rd. – S. Davis, BOF Chairman, announced the special BOF meeting tonight and the regular meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> at which there would be public forum.

Ken Willey – Rixtown Rd. – K. Willey wanted to know if a dump pass would be needed for the clean-up and if there would be anything printed for guidance on separation of stuff collected. T. Babbitt noted there would be no pass required and the guys working the transfer station would be able to direct those coming in.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd. – R. Young noted the condition of Rixtown Rd. and the number of pot holes. R. Young also wanted to know if there is a provision for the school should the supply of natural gas not be available.

S. Merchant – BOS – S. Merchant noted the youth group at the church may be available to help with the clean-up day.

James Barnie – Hopeville Rd. – J. Barnie noted for R. Young that the road study determines what roads are to be done first and the best and affordable method of repair. He also noted enough money has not been allocated to follow the proposed plan of the road study. He then noted he suggested at least the newer burner at the elementary school be dual conversion to burn gas or fuel.

Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd. – S. Viadella asked if Pachaug gun club had been contacted about clean-up and she volunteered to pick up Banjo Sullivan and also supply her truck. She also noted an article from the state regarding coordination of the EIE. T. Babbitt confirmed there was no new news on the gun range.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd. – R. Young wanted to know what would happen if only one of the schools was operational and how the other schools would be handled.

Alan Cornelius – Hopeville Rd. – A. Cornelius wanted to know if any of the selectmen were involved with the scoping process supposedly starting in May by the State and if anyone from Town has reached out to Wellington or their legal counsel. T. Babbitt he has met the former First Selectwoman and will reach out to her.

Tom Gaudreau – Bitgood Rd. – T. Gaudreau noted the website for the Council of Environmental Quality has a lot of information about scoping process and is very informative.

Steve Douglas – Bitgood Rd. – S. Douglas noted the Environmental Monitor is printed every two weeks by the CEQ and you can subscribe to get that by email. He also asked if the legal notices put out by the town always include a disclosure regarding intent. T. Babbitt confirmed the First Selectman's office does not, but he will check with the Town Clerk. T. Babbitt also noted he did forward the information regarding state statute overriding local

ordinances, from Mr. Douglas to the Town attorney. S. Douglas wanted to know if a taxpayer has the right to ask BOF members how they voted on a certain issue. T. Babbitt noted he believes that a taxpayer does have that right and the record of votes for a motion should be included in the minutes, unless the vote is unanimous.

Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd. – S Viadella wanted to know if the First Selectman ever tried to reach out to Mr. Button about the property. T. Babbitt did and noted the response was the same that was made public and that was that there is a purchase agreement in place.

## 10. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant