



**Town of Griswold**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 12, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**  
**VIA ZOOM**



**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 (via zoom)  
Richard Grabowski, Selectman (via phone)  
Jared Picco, Selectman (via zoom)

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant (via zoom)  
Erick Christensen, Interim Finance Director (via zoom)  
1 member of the press (via zoom)  
4 other interested citizens (via zoom)

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **April 28, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to accept the April 28, 2020 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **April 29, 2020 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to accept the April 29, 2020 special meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - None**

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on one tax refund for a total of \$1739.13 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the one tax refund for a total of \$1739.13 as presented by the tax collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

*J. D. O'Neil, Esq.*  
2020 MAY 13 PM 2:07  
asst.

- b. **Discussion and possible action on request by Senior Center Director to apply for a 5310 grant** – T. Babbitt noted they applied last year for a wheel chair accessible van and it was denied. J. Picco asked if there was any fee associated with the grant. T. Babbitt noted the grant would pay for 75% reimbursement and last year the BOF was in favor as the vehicle does need to be replaced.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by T. Babbitt, to allow the Senior Center Director to apply for a 5310 grant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Ricky Bevis as an alternate member of the Recreation Commission for a one year period of 2/28/20 to 2/27/2021**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt to re-appoint Ricky Bevis as an alternate member of the Recreation Commission for a one year period of 2/28/20 to 2/27/2021. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Carol Mauro as a regular member of the Recreation Commission for a term of 5/16/20- 5/15/2024**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to reappoint Carol Mauro as a regular member of the Recreation Commission for a term of 5/16/20- 5/15/2024. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action on FY 2020/2021 budget** – T. Babbitt noted some proposed cuts that were previously discussed and presented by E. Christensen that get us where the BOF would like us to be. Those cuts would be a total of \$202,103 this would result in a ½ mill increase.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the cuts as presented by the acting finance director for a total of \$202,103 and to be sent back to the BOF.

**MOTION AMENDED:** Motion on the floor was amended by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to add the cut of \$625,474 from capital as well as the \$202,103 from the general government budget, as presented by the interim finance director and send back to the BOF. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**\*See ADDENDUM “A” attached**

**5. Old Business - None**

**6. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board**

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Christensen, to motion onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, the proposal by the acting finance director to be paid as a contractor rather than an employee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted the proposal saves about \$2000 from now to the end of the fiscal year and about \$1500 per month after that.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to bring Erik Christensen on as a contractor for 28 hours per week. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action on the request by the cub scouts to use the parking lot for a plant sale. **Motion carried unanimously.**

It was noted the boy scouts just did something similar and it went well and they followed social distancing guide lines. The cub scouts are looking to do the same thing before the end of May and would follow the social distancing guide lines laid out to them.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to allow the cub scouts to use the town hall parking lot for a plant sale by the end of May with the same guide lines required by the boy scouts. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring onto the agenda the letter from the Superintendent of Schools as it pertains to Town Ordinance, for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted the letter referred to Chapter 10-1D(6) of the Town Code of Ordinances. It allows the BOS to waive the budget requirement under certain situations. R. Grabowski also noted section B is similar. E. Christensen noted this was brought up before by the auditors because it was not being followed. He noted the Superintendent feels we may have more than the allowed amount in expenses to get the school up and running with following the possible COVID emergency situation. It has to do with the increase in revenues as it relates to the increase of the grand list and how much the budget can go up. R. Grabowski noted he would like to have a conversation with the auditors about this in the future. J. Picco wanted to confirm that the superintendent's request is due to the anticipated increases for going back to school and forcing the budget to go over what is allowed by the ordinance.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to authorize the First Selectman and the interim Finance Director to draft a letter to the BOF asking them for a waiver of ordinance chapter 10 budget appropriations so we can achieve the ½ mill increase they suggested. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to bring onto the agenda, the letter from the chairman of the BOF for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted the letter was a request to the BOS to reach out to the collective bargaining units in an effort to ask them if they would consider wage concessions in their labor agreements. T. Babbitt noted they have already had conversations with the union.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to write a letter back to the chairman of the BOF and notify we have had discussions with the unions and will continue to have discussions with the union in that regard. **Motion carried unanimously.**

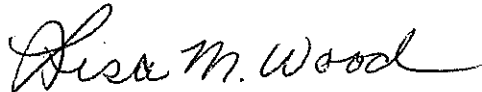
## 7. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Residents that wanted to listen to the meeting were invited to sign in with Zoom.**

Meeting ID: 760 2823 5194  
Password: 7aVBSd

Respectfully Submitted,



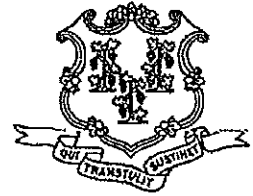
Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant



# ADDENDUM "A"

## BOS 5/12/20 minutes

### Town of Griswold



Finance Department  
28 Main Street  
Griswold, CT 06351  
Phone: 860-376-7060, Fax: 860-376-4820

May 11, 2020

RE: FY 20/21 Budget Cuts

Dear Board of Selectman,

After discussions with the former Finance Director and First Selectman, we all came to a consensus on budget adjustments to be made to satisfy the requested cuts by the BOF. The capital budget was already reduced by \$625,474 to \$1,017,422, which is \$63,733 below last year's capital budget. The amount the total budget needs to be cut to get to a .5 mil increase after accounting for the decrease in the capital budget is \$925,000. Of that \$925,000, based on the prior year budget percentages, the General Government budget needs to be reduced \$203,500 and the Board of Education needs to be reduced \$721,500. Below are possible adjustments to the figures originally forward to the BOF from the BOS:

Finance Director Salary – (4,152)  
Correction for Insurance (Finance dept) – (17,786)  
HR Director Salary – (70,000)  
HR Director Benefits – (48,160)  
BOS Advertising – (1,000)  
Workers compensation insurance – (5,000)  
Public Works Director insurance – (30,150)  
Grant Writer – (40,000)  
Planning Secretary salary – (20,898)  
Planning Secretary benefits – (1,599)  
Asst Tax Collector insurance – 21,852 increase  
Insurance rate increase (All Depts) – 14,790 increase

The adjustments above total \$202,103, enough to bring the mil rate increase down to a .5 mil increase.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (860) 376-7060 ext. 2206.

Sincerely,

Erik Christensen