

2021 MAY 26 AM 11:47
Lauri Purwad



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Downstairs Meeting Room
Town Hall – 28 Main Street
May 25, 2021 – 6:00 PM



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
Richard Grabowski, Selectman

Members Absent: Jared Picco, with notification

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **May 11, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to approve the May 11, 2021 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - Information pertaining to Fair Rent Commissions** – It was noted that information was received for review.

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on one tax refund for a total of \$6.17 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to approve the one tax refund for a total of \$6.17 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on re-appointment of Thomas Giard Jr. and Kenneth Bousquet as regular members of the Economic Development Commission for a term of 1/25/2021 – 1/24/2026** – T. Babbitt noted the two names on the agenda were for reappointment and there had been no resignation. He did note two other names were submitted.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to re-appoint Thomas Giard Jr. and Kenneth Bousquet as regular members of the Economic Development Commission for a term of 1/25/2021 – 1/24/2026. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on acceptance of cul-de-sac located on St. John Road** – T. Babbitt noted the town received a request to create a cul-de-sac at the end of St. John Road due to some damages being caused by buses and garbage trucks turning around. The property owners are willing to give the property to the town to create the cul-de-sac. The town attorney has reviewed the request, found the paperwork to be in order and noted the town may move forward with town meeting to accept the property. This could be added to the other two properties going to town meeting on June 8th. T. Babbitt confirmed for R. Grabowski there is currently no cul-de-sac and that they are turning around in the old farm driveway. He also states the cul-de-sac would be gravel.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to add to the town meeting of June 8, 2021, at 7 PM, the acceptance of land on St. John Road to create a cul-de-sac. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on request by PAC Group to sign MOU regarding agenda** – T. Babbitt noted that the MOU is linked to the letter of intent that came from the Finance Office and the figures outlined in that letter are what was approved by the BOF.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the MOU with PAC Group LLC for the additional construction work at the Griswold Senior Center at 220 Taylor Hill Road. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action on adoption of the continuing Fair Housing Resolution and Policy** – T. Babbitt noted the package was provided by the Town Planner. It is the same as it was in the past, however, updates need to be required and signed every few years.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the adoption of the continuing Fair Housing Resolution and Policy as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **Discussion and possible action on setting a special BOS meeting to address setting annual town meeting date** – It was noted that the BOF will be meeting on the 26th, and possibly the 27th, if needed to finalize the budget. It will then need to go before the BOS to send to annual town meeting. It is suggested to have the annual town meeting on June 8, 2021, immediately following the special town meeting which begins a 7 PM.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to set a special Board of Selectmen meeting for 10 AM on May 28, 2021 via zoom to address setting the annual town meeting date. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on Social Media Policy**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to table this item until the next regular meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action the continuation of the mandate to wear masks while in town buildings. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted the SCCOG is compiling a survey but have not posted it yet. Some towns are continuing to wear masks and some are going without it. R. Grabowski noted his opinion is the state has opened up quite a bit and most places are leaving to each individual's discretion. T. Babbitt noted it is the honor system as far as someone coming into the building because you cannot ask them if they have been vaccinated. T. Babbitt noted that if the masks are allowed to no longer be worn that we revisit the topic in two weeks at our next meeting.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to open up the town buildings for business without a mask for the period of time through our next meeting of June 8, 2021 and re-evaluate. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to bring onto the agenda for discussion the Glasgo Water Pollution Control Authority and possible vacant position. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted that a member has verbally resigned but a letter has not yet been received. When it is received, we will advertise the vacancy. There has been one letter of interest received at this point.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to table this item to next meeting to give the person an opportunity to submit the resignation and opportunity for us to advertise the vacancy. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action the possibility of establishing a FAIR Rent Commission. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted information was received for review. There is some reference to state statutes that needs to be researched.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to have the selectmen review the information and table this item until the next meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Public Forum

Jennifer Gauthier – Talcott Ave. – J. Gauthier asked if the mask applies to public meetings that occur within the buildings or just employees conducting business. T. Babbitt noted it is for anyone coming in the buildings. J. Gauthier also noted that as far as the EDC re-appointment, according to the statute 7-136 it is a new appointment, you are only allowed to serve for five years. She is morally concerned about the re-appointment since there are two other people willing to serve. T. Babbitt noted an opinion from the town attorney was received that noted as long as there was no resignation a re-appointment was allowed. It was noted the other two interested candidates were Martin McKinney and Richard Waselik whom were both contacted.

Cheryl Lee – Hopeville Road – C. Lee noted that a petition has been started to establish a FAIR Rent Commission. It was noted she should file that with the Town Clerk. She also asked about what statutes would be reviewed to form a Fair Rent Commission. T. Babbitt noted it is 7-148b. She was also given a copy of the information the BOS received. T. Babbitt also noted is C. Lee wanted to supply more information that would be fine.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Road – R. Young noted he thinks the guard rail protecting the culvert on Rixtown Road has been taken down. T. Babbitt replied to his question about the bridge on Sibickey Road. R. Young also noted that he called GE and they may no longer allow for appliance coils to be replaced in equipment that uses freon if freon is banned. This should be considered when purchasing new appliances.

James Barnie – Hopeville Road – J. Barnie read parts of the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) under which the masks fall. He noted the EUA products are experimental and require the right for anyone to refuse....

Dana Bennett – Dina Lane – D. Bennett asked if a second opinion could be requested regarding the EDC re-appointments. T. Babbitt noted he is not sure of getting a second opinion but is willing to research the state statute that was mentioned earlier by J. Gauthier.

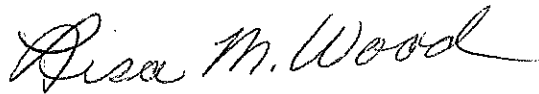
Tina Falck – Cook Hill Road – T. Falck noted the FOI workshop that was held this week for employees and how informative it was. She also asked why the social media policy has been held up. T. Babbitt noted it was pretty close to done. However, it then was brought up on looking at how the policy affects elected/appointed officials. The Town Attorney is

supposed to be reviewing the policy for that specific reason. T. Falck noted the FOI presenter strongly suggested the connection of Ethics involved with the use of personal social media by employees. T. Babbitt noted it is not a bad idea for the Ethics Commission to review that policy, but that has not yet been discussed with the other selectmen. T. Babbitt noted it can be added to the BOS agenda for the next regular meeting.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Wood".

Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant