

Wesley P. P. P.

2018 JUN 13 PM 1:15



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
June 12, 2018
6:00 PM
Griswold Senior Center
22 Soule 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: Todd Babbitt, First Selectman
Steve Merchant Sr., Second Selectman
Ed Burke, Third Selectman

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

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

- a. **May 22, 2018 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 regular meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **May 29, 2018 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2018 special meeting. **Motion carried. S. Merchant abstained.**

5. **Correspondence** - None

6. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on seven tax refunds for a total of \$2143.99 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to approve the seven tax refunds for a total of \$2143.99. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to apply for the 2018 Neglected Cemetery Account Grant** – T. Babbitt noted this grant comes out from the state and is on a first come first serve basis. It is all set to go out and just needs approval.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to authorize the chief elected official, Todd Babbitt, First Selectman, to apply for and accept, on behalf of the town, a grant from the Neglected Cemetery account, and to authorize Todd Babbitt, First Selectman, to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts and documents necessary to obtain said grant should the town be selected for a grant award. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on letter from Ventura Law regarding recovery of financial losses as a result of the opioid epidemic (tabled from 5/22/18)** – It was noted that Ventura Law was contacted and a brief description of what the Town could possibly try to recover as a financial loss. It was agreed by all BOS members that the town does not have enough prospective financial loss to move forward.

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

- a. MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action the item of forming a committee of residents and/or businesses in town to evaluate the continuation of the Borough. **Motion carried unanimously.**

E. Burke noted he was wondering if it is a benefit for the Town of Griswold to continue with the Borough as a separate entity. He has been asking around and has not heard a benefit as of yet. He noted there was the possibility of being able to separately apply for grant money. He also expressed people don't recognize Griswold, but do recognize Jewett City and feels like the identity of Griswold has been lost and would like to identify the benefit of the Borough of Jewett City within the town. He also noted he does have several people who are interested in serving on a committee for this purpose.

(Audio recording ceased at this point due to battery failure.)

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt to table action on this item. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action the item of having a Town Manager/Board of Selectmen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted there has been information on this topic supplied previously and that he also has an upcoming meeting with Norwich and New London. It was discussed tabling this until the last meeting in August, when more information can be provided.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to table discussion on this item to the last meeting in August. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Public Forum

Tim Skidgel - Sheldon Rd (spoke twice). – Expressed his concern about historical bicentennial plaques being repaired or replace. Also noted concerns at GHS of a rodent problem and the temperature of the hot water in the bathrooms being 100 degrees to wash your hands.

Larry Laidley – Ashland St. – L. Laidley noted money that was left over from the bicentennial evets had been voted on to be donated to the Griswold Historical Society before the request to replace/repair the historic signs. He did offer to work through the Historical Society to help fund raise money for the needed improvements. T. Babbitt mentioned there has been some grant money received.

Renee Bergeron – Breakneck Hill Rd. (spoke three times) – R. Bergeron noted just the other night she was fortunate to see a cougar crossing the road out by the forest. She also wanted to know if during the staged shooting regarding the gun range there would be someone on Breakneck Hill Rd. monitoring sound and also what was meant by future expansion on the displayed on the slide show at the scoping meeting last week.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. (spoke five times) – D. Vieaux noted, for the school issues brought up earlier, that they have their own facilities group that should address those issues and not the town Public Works department. He also noted he is interested in the combining Jewett City Borough and Town of Griswold issue. He also offered information on testing for noise and reading the results as well as noting there is an app that can be downloaded to your phone for doing so. He inquired if anyone from the town has given permission for ATV's or motorcycles to be using the town lot located behind his house. T. Babbitt noted he has not and will look into it.

James Barnie – Hopeville Rd. – J. Barnie wanted to know if investigating the possibility of a Town Manager would be in conjunction with a BOS. T. Babbitt noted the Town Manager would be the acting official and would have to report to the BOS.

Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd. (spoke three times) – S. Viadella inquired about the money for road signs put up by her house. T. Babbitt noted there was money received from a grant in an effort to make town signs compliant. S. Viadella donated a book Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps Camps to the Town and to be kept in the First Selectman's Office. S. Viadella noted several concerns in regards to the staged shooting at the proposed gun range site. Her concerns included the sand that was delivered is not enough sand for the group to conduct test shooting from all directions; details of how the sound test would be done; whether or not there would be any stipulations on Todd Babbitt or Tracey Hanson while they

observed the shooting on behalf of the residents; if the dirt roads and trails would be open during the shooting; why are so many shooting lanes being proposed if the maximum shooting at one time will be 15; can there be an independent study done for noise; is anyone on the BOS sending in any questions in regard to the scoping meeting; any idea what the cost of a police cruiser is; why the anticipated completion date for the EIE has been moved up to early 2019; and can the follow up meeting after the EIE start at an earlier time? T. Babbitt responded to her concerns with the information he had available.

Thomas Gaudreau – Bitgood Rd. – (spoke twice) – T. Gaudreau wanted to know if the test shooting would be performed from all directions and why they will not share all the information with the Town. T. Babbitt noted he would inquire.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**