



# Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
September 22, 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, Second Selectman (via zoom)  
Jared Picco, Third Selectman (via zoom)

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant (via zoom)  
Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector (via zoom)  
6 other interested citizens (via zoom)

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **September 8, 2020 –Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the September 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - None**

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on fourteen tax refunds for a total of \$4854.07 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the fourteen tax refunds for a total of \$4854.07 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on approval of 2021 BOS regular meeting dates**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by T. Babbitt, to approve the 2021 BOS regular meeting dates as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on request of Tax Collector regarding increase of work** – The Board agreed to discuss this item under executive session as it relates directly to employee matters.

*C. Duane-Cotter, a/f*  
2020 SEP 23 PM 12:10

- d. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to execute contract with Vision Government Solutions Inc for revaluation of all property –** There was brief discussion.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to authorize the First Selectman to execute a contract with Vision Government Solutions Inc. for revaluation of all property. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on a social media policy for the town –** It was noted sample policies from other towns were received and reviewed. J. Picco noted they pretty much say the same thing. One point was that any social media platforms opened must have the permission of the town. R. Grabowski noted the same with the exception that any pictures of town property or town owned insignia may not be used on personal sites and if there were any penalties as a consequence, that those penalties be made clear. T. Babbitt noted taking the comments put forward and editing them with the proposed policy. It was then suggested a final copy be sent to town counsel.
- b. **Discussion and possible action on update of Patrylo property –** T. Babbitt noted the contact name of those he is trying to reach have been sent to J. Picco, as T. Babbitt has not had much success getting in touch with anyone. J. Picco said he will work on it and try to have the legislative liaison reach out to coordinate.
- c. **Discussion and possible action on update regarding the new senior center –** T. Babbitt noted the project is 12-14 weeks behind schedule, mostly due to the COVID impact. T. Babbitt also noted, as some point, we could invite the chairman of the building committee in for an update.
- d. **Discussion and possible action on hiring status for the Assessor and Public Works position –** T. Babbitt noted both of those positions have been posted with the unions and were in the Norwich Bulletin on Sunday. He did comment that one application from in-house was received.
- e. **Discussion and possible action on progress of creating a new website –** J. Picco noted he has spoken with Erik regarding the financial aspect and noted he has reached out to some and will be reaching out to other website developers

## 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 reappointment of Paul Lach to the Public Health & Safety Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to reappoint Paul Lack as a member of the Public Health & Safety Committee for a term of 7/1/20 – 6/30/26. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION**: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, the appointment of Joe D'Errico from an alternate member of the Ethics Commission to a regular member position to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 1/14/2018 to 1/31/2021. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION**: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to appoint Joe D'Errico from an alternate member position to a regular member position of the Ethics Commission for a term of 1/14/2018 to 1/31/2021. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **MOTION**: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, the hours of the town hall going forward. **Motion carried unanimously.**

R. Grabowski noted many concerns were expressed by town staff as far as completely opening the town hall. It was suggested that the building operate as it currently is and that is by appointment only. R. Grabowski agrees with the town employees as far as the increased possibility of illness with full operation, he did, however, express that he had many concerns of the town clerk's office being accessible. T. Babbitt noted he spoke with the Town Clerk this afternoon and she noted that they are only booking out one week at this point, if it should get to be further out than that, he suggested looking at additional hours. J. Picco noted he agrees as far as staying by appointment only but does certainly want to make sure the appointments are offered to meet the needs of the residents. T. Babbitt also noted he discussed with the Town Clerk coming up with a contingency plan should someone in that office become ill. T. Babbitt also noted he has been asking residents if they have any problems with services being offered at the town hall and except for the town clerk's office, he has heard none.

**MOTION**: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to continue operating the town hall hours by appointment only. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **MOTION**: Motion was made by T. Babbitt to go into executive session under any other business to discuss personnel matters after conducting public forum. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 7. Public Forum

Dana Bennett – D. Bennett expressed her concern about the town hall and Pachaug not being open for in person meetings and wants to know if there is a plan in place to open for meetings. T. Babbitt noted Wetlands and Zoning meetings are being planned for October. He must work with the school for space as we are unable to anticipate how many people will attend.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux expressed a concern in being able to send students back to school, but not being able to open the town hall. He also mentioned the lack of enforcing the use of storage containers in town. T. Babbitt noted he will email the P&Z chairman

Ryan Snide – Tatro Rd. – R. Snide thanked the BOS for bringing public forum back onto the agenda.

Chat items – T. Babbitt noted there were a few chat items. There were two items regarding town hall hours, such as the school being open and wondering why the town hall is not open and if the town hall is open if there are different hours for different departments. T. Babbitt noted offices are open by appointment during regular operating hours except for use of the Town Clerk's vault. The Town Clerk noted her issue is being only able to have one person in the vault space at a time and the cleaning that is required following appointment. They make appointments for everything else throughout the week.

Leona Sharkey – L. Sharkey wanted to know if she would be invited into executive session pertaining to herself. T. Babbitt noted she would

Chat item – T. Babbitt noted there was an item regarding Civics Plus website design and the possibility of the CARES Act covering funding for that. J. Picco responded he had been in contact with them previously and does plan to reconnect with them.

6. **Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board (cont'd)**

- e. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to go into executive session at 6:40 PM to discuss personnel matters and to invite in Leona Sharkey as Tax Collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to come out of executive session at 7:26 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Meeting ID: 750 8652 6800**

**Passcode: pm8jYM**

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant