



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

September 8, 2020

6:00 PM

VIA ZOOM



MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6:01 by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

Members Present: Todd Babbitt, First Selectman (via zoom)
Richard Grabowski, Selectman (via zoom)
Jared Picco, Selectman (via zoom)

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant (via zoom)
2 other interested citizens (via zoom)

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **August 25, 2020 –Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the August 25, 2020 regular meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence** – None

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on ten tax refunds for a total of \$1085.55 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to approve the ten tax refunds for a total of \$1085.55 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to sign application for the Neglected Cemeteries Grant** – T. Babbitt noted the town

received this grant last year. It is for a maximum of \$2000. The town does not have to contribute anything. The funds must be used for overtime wages for care and maintenance of neglected cemeteries.

MOTION: Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to authorize the First Selectman to sign and submit the Neglected Cemeteries Grant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

R. D. U. L. E. R. O. B. I. T. T. 2020 SEP -9 AM 9:59

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on a social media policy for the town** – J. Picco suggested checking into other local towns for research on any existing policies they may have. T. Babbitt suggested contacting CCM for data.

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by R. Grabowski, to bring the item of 30-day time limit for displaying political signs, prior to the election, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted that he received a letter from Leona Sharkey, DTC Chairman regarding the timing of placing political signs for the upcoming election. The Town ordinance currently states signs cannot be placed prior to 30 days before the election. Since voting is starting early due to COVID, she is inquiring if that can be changed. T. Babbitt noted he did not know if the BOS has the authority to override the ordinance. J. Picco noted he is not opposed to changing it if it can be done legally and it does not take great expense to get the answer. T. Babbitt agreed and if the BOS has the authority believes the ordinance should be modified.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by J. Picco, to check with legal counsel to see if the BOS has the authority to modify the ordinance to allow for sign placement for political reasons more than 30 days before the election. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

T. Babbitt noted the last two pieces of plexi glass went in today. A staff meeting is being planned for Thursday to make sure they are on board. The town hall will open for two weeks by appointment to get into the swing of things. He did mention however, that the past week and a half our COVID cases in town have been increased. The Youth Center was opened today and is following the school schedule and sees about 10-15 visitors a day. J. Picco thanked him for the update and would like to see the building opened as quickly and safely as possible, maybe one week by appointment if staff is comfortable.

- c. **MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to bring the Patrylo property onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

R. Grabowski wanted to know if any progress has been made about possibly moving forward with foreclosure. T. Babbitt noted he has been in contact with several people at DEEP to schedule a zoom meeting. The problem is that new people have taken positions there and it is a matter of getting them to commit to the meeting. J. Picco mentioned he would try to reach out to those people as well.

- d. **MOTION:** Motion was made by R. Grabowski, seconded by J. Picco, to bring the items of filling the public works and tax assessor position onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted he has asked Erik to post the Assessor position on the UCONN website, the state website and the town website. He also noted it both positions will be going in the newspaper soon.

- e. **MOTION:** Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring the item of the agendas on the town website onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

J. Picco noted the agenda section of the website is currently not working. T. Babbitt noted he was also aware that this happened very recently. L. Wood also noted some of the documents on that page are coming up but the computer was backed up today under a different user and that may have an impact on being able to link to certain documents and will check into it tomorrow. T. Babbitt inquired if J. Picco has looked into any web designers for a new site. J. Picco noted a lot of towns are using the CARES act and questioned if we are getting any, can we use it, and do we have any budgeted money for this. T. Babbitt noted he will check with the Finance Director tomorrow.

7. Public Forum

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux noted the problem with the agendas on the website, thanked R. Grabowski for bringing up the Patrylo property, and would like to see the town get back to regular meetings to keep our citizens abreast of what is going on.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by J. Picco, seconded by R. Grabowski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Meeting ID: 749 2412 6660

Password: 5E7nwJ

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant