

**TOWN OF GRISWOLD
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 22, 2016**

The Special Town Meeting held at the Griswold High School Auditorium, 267 Slater Avenue, Griswold CT 06351 on Wednesday June 22, 2016 was called to order by First Selectman Kevin Skulczyck at 6:00pm. (Delay of starting at 5:30pm due to the over whelming crowd of people checking in to vote). First Selectman Kevin Skulczyck, Selectmen Steve Merchant and Martin McKinney were present. Also present, Town Clerk Valerie Pudvah, Registrar of Voters, Bulletin reporter and approx. 525 interested townspeople . First Selectman Skulczyck gave instructions on how the vote will work, also if people would like to speak that they must come forward and state name and address and speak into the microphone.

Motion made by Richard Grabowski to nominate Leona Sharkey as moderator, 2nd by Alan Geer.

VOTE UNANIMOUS

LEONA SHARKEY WAS DULY CHOSEN MODERATOR

WARNING was read by Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk.

SHALL THE TOWN SUPPORT THE PROPOSED STATE OF CONNECTICUT SHOOTING FACILITY, HERE IN GRISWOLD?

MODERATOR Sharkey reread the warning.

Moderator Sharkey noted that it was nice to see so many people attending this meeting. Noted it is entirely up to the people if they would like to do the vote first and have discussion after the vote but that a motion would be needed.

Motion made by Jim Coutu, 40 Chiou Drive to vote on the question, 2nd by Dennis Woodworth, 15 Edward Avenue. All in favor? Motion went to a vote the ayes have it.

Dennis Woodworth voted for a hand count.

Dennis Woodworth moved the motion to amend it to cast ballot and still have discussion.

Anthony Cardin questioned if it was possible to open the discussion and vote at the same time? NO because it would be too confusing to do both at the same time.

Moderator Sharkey had Mr. Woodworth come forward so he can make his motion to vote and have discussion after, 2nd by Ken Willey, 405 Rixtown Road. Overwhelming vote by hands for ayes, 35 voted nays. The ayes have it. No abstentions at this time.

Moderator Sharkey read the question again so everyone in the audience could understand the question . Sharkey also stated that it is a **YES** or **NO** question. Sharkey again stated that there will be time to speak after the vote. This will be a paper ballot vote.

While the votes were being counted,

Moderator Sharkey asked if anyone would like to speak at this time.

Renee Bergeron- 466 Breakneck Hill Road: stated that at last BOS meeting the First Selectman stated that there would be discussion first and everyone would be well educated. First Selectman Skulczyck stated that there was a motion from the floor and he has no control over the town meeting, the moderator does.

Ed Berdick- 764 Voluntown Road: noted that the meeting tonight turned into a referendum. He suggested that a bad civil message was given out tonight.

Tom Gaudreau- 366 Bitgood Road: wanted to know if there would be other people doing the count other than poll workers. He suggested having someone watch over them.

Steve Douglas- 356 Bitgood Road: spoke on how many houses have been put up for sale since May 1, 2016. Also concerned about the decibel level at the range if it is put there.

Dori Dougal- 99 Osga Lane: wanted to know if the state would take care and maintain the roads. Also, will this vote mean anything at all to stopping the facility being put here.

GUN RANGE- SUBJECT

Melissa Wooten-10 Zvingilas Court: noted that this project from the state is very fiscally irresponsible. She noted that property is meant for people from all over the state to use to hike, bike etc at the state forest.

Diater Bromkamp-160 Kenwood: read a letter from Joe Courtney in response to a letter his 13 yr. daughter wrote to him regarding the gun range.

Karen Brickey- 634 Hopeville Road: was confident that it will be a no vote and that we need to be firm with the state and tell them no that we do not want their range here in Griswold.

Tim Skidgel I- 197 Sheldon Road: Asked the date of the letter to Joe Courtney. (June 13, 2016). Spoke on the state not having another option for this range.

First Selectman Skulczyck spoke on visiting the gun range in East Haven. He went with Kathy Osten. He noted that it is a beautiful facility. He spoke about the baffle system that they have. The troopers do not want to shoot with the baffles they need real life to train with.

Barbara Cornelius- 1115 Hopeville Road. Noted that Joe Courtney will be available at the VFW in Jewett City on Monday night, 6-8pm.

Ranson Young-Rixtown Road: spoke about 2nd amendment rights.

Doris Zimmerman-212 Lester Road: wants proof that the Simsbury range can't be fixed.

Susan Lane-501 Stone Hill Road: wanted to know if the application had been filed for preservation of farmland. Kevin noted that it had been.

Pauline Marzec-99 Colonel Brown Road: disappointed about not having a public forum tonight.

Ryan Snide-50 Tatro Road: communication is the key, the town is a business, the town needs to be represented . Mr. Snide noted that he is ashamed to be part of this town.

Moderator asked for a motion to close discussion and we will hear the results of the vote. Al Geer made motion to close discussion, motion was 2nd by Thomas Gaudreau . Motion carries. 1 abstained ,ayes have it,

At this Cathy Briody, Registrar of Voter came in with the results of the vote. Moderator Sharkey read the outcome of the vote.

RESULTS OF VOTE

YES	63
NO	437

Voters checked in	513
Voters having cast a ballot	500
Ballots not counted	2

Motion to adjourn made by Alan Geer, 2nd by Diater Bromkamp. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Meeting duly adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk