

**TOWN OF GRISWOLD
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2020**

The Special Town Meeting held in the Griswold Town Hall, Main Meeting Room, 28 Main Street, Griswold, CT on January 28, 2020 was called to order by Selectman Richard Grabowski at 5:15pm. Selectman Jared Picco was also present. Selectman Picco made a motion to adjourn the Special Town Meeting and to reconvene at the Griswold Middle School, Auditorium, at 6:00pm, 2nd by Selectman Grabowski. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Due to the large turnout of electors/taxpayers, Selectman Grabowski gave an additional 15 minutes for the Registrar of Voters to check everyone in.

The reconvened Special Town Meeting, Griswold Middle School, Auditorium, 211 Slater Avenue was called to order at 6:15pm by Selectman Picco, 2nd by Selectman Grabowski. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

PRESENT: Selectman Todd Babbitt (arrived at 6:20pm), Selectmen Richard Grabowski and Jared Picco. Also present: Clerk Valerie Pudvah, Registrar of Voters Pamela Reinholtz and Pamela Patalano and approximately 300 interested townspeople.

NOMINATION FOR MODERATOR:

Ryan Snide made motion to nominate Ed Berdick as Moderator, 2nd by Matt Picco. Selectman Grabowski asked for any other nominations, hearing none, nominations were closed.

**VOTE UNANIMOUS
ED BERDICK WAS DULY CHOSEN MODERATOR**

WARNING was read by Clerk Valerie Pudvah.

- 1. Replacement of Chapter 147 FIREARMS**
- 2. Amendment of Chapter 198 SOLID WASTE**

Moderator entertained a motion to move **ITEM #2** up before **ITEM #1**. Motion declined.

ITEM #1 REPLACEMENT OF CHAPTER 147 FIREARMS.

Moderator Berdick entertained a motion to open **ITEM #1** for discussion.

Before discussion started Selectman Picco thanked everyone for coming out tonight, noted that this is what democracy is all about.

Dave Vieaux gave an explanation of why this ordinance was proposed. He noted that there had been a couple of incidents within the Town ie. Senior Center and the Veteran's Memorial Park, that concerns were raised. The Ordinance Committee came up with an ordinance that mimic's the State's ordinances that are already in effect. An exemption was included for parades, Honor Guards, historic re-enactors and presenters.

First Selectman Babbitt explained the 2 incidents that took place at Youthtopia and at the Senior Center .

Moderator asked for anyone to speak for or against the ordinance. A number of people got up and spoke against the ordinance.

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Tina Falck, Senior Center Director noted that she was the one that had started this conversation about a Firearms ordinance change. She explained the reason why she thought that an expanded gun ordinance should be adopted after an incident that happened at the center. Ms. Falck was asked by the seniors if a “No Firearms” sign could be posted at the center. Ms. Falck then went to the Board of Selectmen meeting regarding this incident and the Board of Selectmen in turn sent it to the Ordinance committee.

Moderator Berdick asked for any further discussion.

Kevin Skulczyck, after speaking about our rights to bear arms, asked for a motion to close discussion and to move for a vote.

After hearing no further discussion, motion was made to close further discussion and to vote by a show of hands, 2nd by Ryan Snide. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Motion was made to vote by a show of hands for

ITEM #1 to ADOPT FIREARM ORDINANCE

2 IN FAVOR

Motion was made to vote by a show of hands for

ITEM #1 to OPPOSE FIREARM ORDINANCE

Approximately 300 IN OPPOSITION

FIREARM ORDINANCE

FAILED

ITEM # 2 AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 198 SOLID WASTE

Moderator Berdick asked for a motion to open **ITEM # 2**, for discussion. Motion made by Matt Picco to open up for discussion, 2nd by Jacob Valentine. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Todd Babbitt spoke about the Solid Waste ordinance changes. It changes the flow of waste from the Preston incinerator to the Wheelabrator facility in Lisbon. He explained that all garbage would go to Wheelabrator Lisbon Inc. He spoke about the pricing for this. If it goes to Lisbon it would be \$58.00 a ton, but if it went to the Preston Plant it would be \$72.00 per ton to dispose of it.

Moderator Berdick opened the Amendment up for discussion.

After discussion Moderator Berdick noted a correction that should be made to 198-7 (H) line 5 the word **as** should be **at**. Motion made by Dave Vieaux to change the word **as** to **at** 2nd by Matt Picco to adopt the typographical change. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Moderator Berdick asked for any further discussion.

Gary Serdechny questioned if all 16 towns are needed to go ahead with this. Selectman Babbitt noted that we don't need all 16 towns but we would be the only one staying at the Preston facility at this point. He noted that other towns are in the process to move to Lisbon.

Discussion followed.

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Moderator Berdick asked for any further discussion, hearing none, moderator closed the discussion.

Moderator Berdick asked for a motion for **ITEM #2**, Matt Picco made motion to ADOPT the Solid Waste Ordinance as presented with the changes, 2nd by Gary Serdechny. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Motion was made to vote by a show of hands for **ITEM #2**

VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS

SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE

PASSED

Motion to adjourn made by Henry Tabor, 2nd by Matt Picco. All in favor, Motion carries. Meeting duly adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie Pudvah, Griswold Town Clerk