

**TOWN OF GRISWOLD
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2019**

The Special Town Meeting held in the Griswold Middle School Auditorium, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT on January 3, 2019 at 6:00pm was called to order by First Selectman Todd Babbitt. Also present: Selectmen Steven Merchant Sr. and Edmund Burke, Registrar of Voters Pamela Reinholtz and Pamela Patalano, Norwich Bulletin reporter John Barry and approximately 30 interested townspeople.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

First Selectman Babbitt noted the Emergency exits.

Nomination for Moderator:

Stuart Norman Jr. nominated Todd Babbitt as moderator, First Selectman Babbitt declined. Ed Berdick volunteered to be moderator. First Selectman Babbitt asked the board if this was okay with them. Hearing no objection, nominations were closed.

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

WARNING was read by Town Clerk, Valerie Pudvah.

- 1. Replacement of Chapter 124 (BLIGHT)**
- 2. Replacement of Article V Business Incentive Tax Abatement of Chapter (TAXATION).**

Moderator Berdick read over the key points of the changes to the Blight Ordinance.

Moderator asked for a motion to open discussion on **ITEM #1 BLIGHT**, Tom Giard made motion, 2nd by Jim Barnie. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Residents spoke out against the changes to the Ordinance, mainly because it would put a hardship on the elderly residents and the poor of the town.

Residents spoke in favor of it hoping it would protect the property values for everyone.

Laurie Sorder questioned *124-7 about whether or not the complaint needs to be in writing.

Ariste Johnson noted the small number of people in attendance, thought that it should be put on the November ballot.

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

Moderator Berdick asked for a vote by a show of hands.

YES	NO
12	12

VOTE FAILED

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Moderator Berdick asked for a motion for **ITEM #2, REPLACEMENT OF BUSINESS INCENTIVE TAX ABATEMENT OF CHAPTER (TAXATION)**. Tom Giard made motion to open discussion on **Item #2, 2nd** by Jerry Doyon. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Moderator Berdick asked Mario Tristany, Town Planner, to explain the program to the audience. Tom Giard, Chairman of Economic Development Committee, explained why the Town needs this Tax Abatement Program. It would allow the current tax abatement program to conform with changes in state law. It would offer tax abatements for developers that are interested in coming to Griswold instead of going up the road or down the road. Also it would help bring tax revenue to the Town.

Discussion followed.

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

Moderator asked for a show of hands for a vote.

YES
19

NO
0

VOTE PASSES

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Tom Giard, 2nd by Stuart Norman, Jr. All in favor, Motion carries.

Meeting duly adjourned at 7:07pm.

Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk