

**TOWN OF GRISWOLD
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 14, 2019
AND
REFERENDUM VOTE ON MAY 21, 2019**

The Special Town Meeting held at the Griswold Middle School Auditorium, 211 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT on May 14, 2019 at 7:00P.M. was called to order by First Selectman Todd Babbitt.

Present: Selectman Steven Merchant Jr. Absent: Selectman Edmund Burke.

Also present: Mario Tristany Town Planner, Tom Giard Director of Economic Development, James Barnie Municipal Gas Line Project, Frank Everett Municipal Gas Line Project, Tina Falck Senior Center Director, John Barry Norwich Bulletin Reporter and about 60 interested townspeople.

NOMINATION FOR MODERATOR:

Selectman Merchant made motion to nominate Leona Sharkey as Moderator, 2nd by Mario Tristany. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Moderator Sharkey noted that it is a lengthy call of the meeting, unless there is a motion to waive the reading of the call the Town Clerk would have to read it in its entirety.

WAIVE READING OF THE CALL OF THE MEETING:

Stuart R Norman Jr made motion to waive the reading of the call of the meeting, since everyone has a copy of it, 2nd by Tim Sharkey. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Moderator read "The return of posting and publication of the notice, on file and of record, states that said Notice, bearing the written signatures of all the Selectmen, had been posted on the Town's Signpost or other exterior place near the office of the Town Clerk on May 8, 2019, and a copy thereof had been published in the Norwich Bulletin, a newspaper having substantial circulation in said Town, in its issue of May 8, 2019.

Since the Selectmen voted to submit the questions on the call of the meeting to a referendum vote, this meeting will continue for purposes of **discussion only** with respect to the three resolutions (items 1, 2, and 3) in the handouts.

The next item on the Agenda is the Town's Sewer and Water Systems Project Resolution.

Communications were received from the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen that each of the resolutions on the agenda tonight was adopted and recommended by both Boards for adoption by the legal voters of the Town, and they will be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting.

I will introduce the Town's Sewer and Water Systems Project, **ITEM 1** on the call for consideration tonight:

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$6,070,000 FOR THE EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TOWN'S SEWER AND WATER SYSTEMS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$6,070,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

A copy of the resolution is available at this meeting. Is there a motion and a second to waive the reading of the resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting for Item #1?

Motion made by Stuart Norman, 2nd by Timothy Sharkey. One opposition. Motion carries. The vote was taken by a voice vote.

Is there a Motion and a Second to adopt the Town's Sewer and Water Systems Project Resolution, with the understanding that the vote will be taken on May 21, 2019? The remainder of this meeting will continue for discussion of the resolution only.

Motion has been made by Stuart Norman, 2nd by Timothy Sharkey. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

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Moderator Sharkey opened Item 1 up for discussion but would like to have First Selectman Babbitt and the Town Planner Mario Tristany give a presentation of #1, so everyone has a clear understanding before going to the referendum vote.

T. Babbitt noted that there are 2 areas of town for this infrastructure. Route 164 (Preston Road) which would include water and sewer. Water would be from Slater Avenue up to the area of the River Ridge Golf Course, sewer would be from Robert Street to the golf course.

Route 201 (Hopeville Road) water is already present so they would start sanitary sewer line at Monroe Avenue. A new 12 inch sanitary sewer line would be installed from the existing pump station and extending out to Exit 24 of Interstate 395.

Route 164 would include approximately 1,600 LF of 8 inch PVC gravity sewer and 1,400 LF of 6 inch PVC, a Sanitary Pump Station and a 70KW 3 phase Generator to power the pump station for emergency backup power. There would be approximately 1,950 LF of water line. Water line extension would include crossing over Interstate 395 which also would include a 500,000 gallon water tank.

Route 201 would include roughly 5100 LF Gravity main for the sewer and 1,140 LF Main line. There would be additional cost for the existing Sanitary Pump Station.

At this time Mario Tristany took over the presentation. He noted that significant projects have been lost because of the much needed infrastructure to the town.

Tom Giard thanked everyone who came out to tonight to listen to what is being proposed. A number of projects have been worked on but the infrastructure is not there. He spoke on Heritage River and how much would come back to the town in revenue, including permits, employees, etc.

Jim Barnie spoke on the State of CT sending developers to us, but went elsewhere because of the lack infrastructure. He also noted many businesses, had looked at Griswold, but went elsewhere.

Moderator opened it up for discussion. Many of the people that spoke are in favor of going forward with this project. There was one resident on Route 201 that was not in favor of the project. She didn't want the sewer line going by her house or pay a tie in fee.

Selectman Babbitt noted that all three projects would add about 1.15 mills if bonded over 30 years and 1.25 mills if bonded over 20 years.

Moderator asked for further discussion, hearing none closed the discussion. Motion made by Tim Sharkey to close discussion, 2nd by Judy Merrill. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Moderator Sharkey read the next item on the Agenda is the Griswold Public School Complex Gas Line Project Resolution.

ITEM #2

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$1,560,000 FOR THE GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPLEX GAS LINE PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$1,560,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOFF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

A copy of the Resolution is available at this meeting. Is there a motion and a second to waive the reading of the resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting?

Motion made by Selectman Merchant, 2nd by B. J. Curran. All in favor, aye. Motion carries. Vote was taken by a voice vote.

Moderator Sharkey asked if there was a motion and a second to adopt the Griswold Public School Complex Gas Line Project Resolution, with the understanding that the vote will be taken on May 21, 2019? The remainder of this meeting will continue for discussion of the resolution only. Moved by Clarence Merrill, 2nd by Betty Knox.

Moderator Sharkey opened it up for discussion but first Moderator Sharkey had Frank Everett to come up and speak on the project. After his presentation Ed. Berdick commended Frank on the presentation. There was discussion on why the kitchen was not included in the project, also the safety of going to gas.

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Moderator closed the discussion, motion by Maria Heimberg to close the discussion, 2nd by Betty Knox. All in favor aye. Motion carries.

Moderator Sharkey read the next item on the agenda is the Griswold Senior Center Project Resolution.

ITEM #3

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$7,600,000 FOR A GRISWOLD SENIOR CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$7,600,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

A copy of the Resolution is available at this meeting. Is there a motion and a second to waive the reading of the resolution incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting?

Motion made by Judy Merrill 2nd by Helene Stearns. All in favor, aye. Motion carries. Vote was taken by a voice count.

Moderator Sharkey asked is there a Motion and a Second to adopt the Griswold Senior Center Project Resolution, with the understanding that the vote will be taken on May 21, 2019? The remainder of this meeting will continue for discussion of the resolution only.

Motion made by Judy Merrill, 2nd by Ed. Berdick. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Moderator introduced Tina Falck, Director of the Senior Center to say a few words. Tina noted the many programs that the center offers, lack of space and privacy. She noted that the building now is less than 4,000 sq. feet. The new one will be approx. 15000 square feet.

Much discussion followed regarding the lack of space, parking, and privacy at the center now. The new center would have an increase of seniors that will be using the center, more parking, larger kitchen space, private rooms etc. Many of the seniors think of the center as a home away from home.

Paul Lach noted that the seniors have paid for the school complex and that now is the time for the younger residents pay if forward.

Moderator asked for any further discussion, hearing none, moved to close discussion. Motion made by Tim Sharkey to close discussion, 2nd by Maria Heimberg. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

There being no further business to conduct, is there a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Tim Sharkey and 2ND by Helene Stearns. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Meeting duly adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk

