

**TOWN OF GRISWOLD  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
MARCH 26, 2019**

The Special Town Meeting held in the Griswold Town Hall, Main Meeting Room, 28 Main Street, Griswold, CT on March 26, 2019 at 5:00pm was called to order by First Selectman Todd Babbitt. Present: Selectmen Steven Merchant, Sr. and Edmund Burke. Also present: Registrar of Voters Pamela Patalano, Deputy Registrar Melissa Wooten, Norwich Bulletin Reporter John Barry and approximately 45 interested townspeople.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**WARNING** was read by Town Clerk, Valerie Pudvah.

**1. Replacement of Chapter 124 (BLIGHT)**

**2. Amendments to § 10-1 and § 10-3 of Chapter 10 (BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS).**

**NOMINATION FOR MODERTOR:**

Scott Davis made motion to nominate Leona Sharkey as moderator, hearing no further nominations, First Selectman Babbitt made motion to close nominations and appoint Leona Sharkey as moderator.

**VOTE UNANIMOUS  
LEONA SHARKEY WAS DULY CHOSEN MODERATOR**

**ITEM #1**

Moderator Sharkey asked for a member of the Ordinance Committee to come forward and to go over the key points of the existing blight ordinance.

Jim Barnie came forward and went over §124-9 the appointment of (3) hearing officers that are not in the previous ordinance. Also, in §124-10 the fine went from \$100.00 per day to \$50.00 per day. No fine shall commence until 30 days have elapsed, after the hearing Officers have rendered a decision.

Moderator noted that everyone will be allowed to speak but there will be a 2 minute time limit and only will be allowed to speak twice on each item .

Moderator asked for motion from the floor to open up for discussion, Larry Laidley made motion to open for discussion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Sharkey. All in favor, motion carries.

Ed Berdick- Voluntown Road –supports the resolution. Would like to clarify that the mold has been eliminated, the \$100.00 fine has been reduced and that tarps have been brought to 180 days.

Dave Vieux- Leha Avenue- supports it. Previously we were at the whim of the P & Z with no judicial process other than going to the state courts.

Judith Merrill- Edmond Road- supports it as well. Hopefully this will keep the town in good condition.

Larry Laidley- Ashland Street- concerns with the height requirement of 12” for vegetation and how to enforce it.

Jay Bokoff-Stone Hill Road- asked when was the Blight Ordinance established. Mario Tristany noted that it was 2010.

Lynn Johnson- Sheldon Road- asked if it is just the property owner that would get fined not the tenant.

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Rich Mackin- Glasgo Road- would like to know that if this passes tonight, then there would be no further discussion on this. That would be correct.

Moderator Sharkey asked for further discussion, hearing none. Ken Willey made motion to close discussion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Laidley. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Vote was taken by paper ballot.

<b>YES</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>9</b>

**MOTION PASSES**

**ITEM #2**

Moderator Sharkey asked if anyone would like to come forward and speak about Budget and Appropriations.

Scott Davis, Board of Finance Chairman, came forward and gave a little history of what these changes will do. It helps clean up the language and helps not be in violation of the ordinance.

Moderator reminded everyone two minutes to speak and only twice.

Larry Laidley made motion to open for discussion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerald Doyon, all in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Steve Mikutel – Bethel Road – noted that this will give the Board of Finance more flexibility if the State is not on time.

Larry Laidley- Ashland Street- second Monday of June is the latest? Correct

Ed Berdick- Voluntown Road- supports the changes.

Moderator asked for further discussion, hearing none Larry Laidley made motion to close discussion. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Vote was taken by paper ballot.

<b>YES</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>1</b>

**MOTION PASSES**

Motion to adjourn by Gerald Doyon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Vieux, All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Meeting duly adjourned at 5:51pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valerie Pudvah, Griswold Town Clerk