

**TOWN OF GRISWOLD  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

The Special Town Meeting held at the Griswold High School auditorium, 267 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT on November 15, 2016 was called to order at 6:00pm by First Selectman Kevin Skulczyck. Also present, Selectmen Steven Merchant Sr., Martin McKinney Jr., and approx. 75 interested townspeople.

**NOMINATION FOR MODERTOR:**

Todd Babbitt made motion to nominate Ed. Berdick as moderator, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty Knox.

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

**WARNING** was read by Town Clerk, Valerie Pudvah as it appeared in The Bulletin.

The meeting was held for the following purpose.

**1.SHALL THE TOWN OF GRISWOLD APPROVE THE SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 380 EDMOND ROAD FOR THE SUM OF \$3,000?**

**2.SHALL THE TOWN OF GRISWOLD APPROVE A REVISION TO SECTION 10-3 "ANNUAL BUDGET MEETINGS AND BOARD OF FINANCE HEARINGS" OF THE TOWN OF GRISWOLD CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

**3.SHALL THE TOWN OF GRISWOLD APPROPRIATE \$114,500 FROM THE GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE FOR REQUIRED MATCH FUNDING FOR A GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW SENIOR CENTER?**

Moderator Berdick reread item #1.

Moderator Berdick opened the meeting up for discussion for Item #1.

Motion was made by Robert Parrette and seconded to open the question for discussion.

Garry Bressani asked if there was a legal description (SCHEDULE A) for this property. (There is no deed available tonight). His concerns were about some unmarked cemetery stones on this property. Todd Babbitt explained that there are 2 parcels but there is a 20' strip between the 2 and the property that is being sold is not the cemetery. Also, questions were asked regarding the market value of the property and the appraised value. First Selectman Skulczyck gave a brief synopsis of how long the Holowaty family has been living on the adjacent property for over 65 years and that he has been maintaining the property as a farm setting. It is not a buildable piece of property. It will be on the tax roll if it is purchased by Mr. Holowaty.

James Barnie was concerned with the process of this going for sale.

After further discussion, moderator Berdick asked for a vote. Todd Babbitt was named the counter for the vote by hand.

**YES 57 NO 0 ABSTAINED 1  
MOTION PASSES**

Moderator Berdick reread item #2. Moderator opened up item #2 for discussion.

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Motion was made by Rob Parrette , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Merrill to open up for discussion.

Erik Christensen, Finance Director explained what they are looking to do with the changes. The first thing is to push the Annual Budget Meeting to **no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month of May** instead of the first Monday in case there is a problem with the state not passing their budget in a timely manner. This way we are not mandated to meet the first Monday in May. The second change would be to have the hours of voting between 6am to 8pm. He read the change **"the hours of such vote shall be between 6:00a.m. and 8:00p.m. In the event that the proposed appropriation is defeated, the Board of Finance shall promptly prepare a revised proposal which will be considered and adjourned to a vote on the voting machines as set forth above.** This would eliminate the need to go to a town meeting again if the budget fails. It would go back to the Board of Finance and then directly to another referendum. This would help in saving in advertising and other costs. Moderator Berdick noted that by doing this the townspeople would lose any other opportunity for any additional comments on the budget.

Moderator asked for further comments.

Selectman Skulczyck suggested changing some language. E. Christensen explained that the hours are 6a.m. to 8p.m. Additional language to be added. **"adjourned to a referendum to be held on a date not less than seven days nor more than 14 days thereafter"**. He noted that the process will follow as above. So the new language will read **"the hours of such vote shall be between 6:00am to 8:00pm. In the event that the proposed appropriation is defeated, the Board of Finance shall promptly prepare a revised proposal which will be considered and adjourned to a referendum to be held on a date not less than seven days nor more than 14 days thereafter."**

Moderator asked for a motion to amend the motion. Todd Babbitt made motion to amend the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Philip Anthony. All in favor, aye.

Moderator asked Todd Babbitt to do the hand count.

**YES 55 NO 1 ABSTAINED 2  
MOTION PASSES**

Clerk Valerie Pudvah read the language back. "adjourned to a referendum to be held on a date not less than seven days nor more than 14 days". Moderator asked for a motion to vote on the amended language. Motion was made and seconded. Todd Babbitt was elected to do the hand count again.

**YES 55 NO 1 ABSTAINED 6  
MOTION PASSES**

Moderator Berdick reread item #3.

Moderator asked Tina Falck if she would explain, she referred it to Todd Babbitt.

Mr. Babbitt explained the request for the \$114,500 is a matching percent of 1/3 to a grant that was received from the bond commission for plans developed for the senior center. The original grant was for \$343,000, they were unaware that it was a 1/3 match.

Moderator asked for a motion to move the question.

Philip Anthony made motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Barnie. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Moderator recognized Tina Falck to speak. Tina Falck Senior Center Director, spoke on all the items that senior center does for their community. (see attached).

The moderator asked for any discussion.

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Ali Bakhshalizadeh spoke on the gun range issues and not given the money to fight that.

Tina Falck spoke on the size of the center and what usually goes on during the course of a day. She noted that the \$114,500.00 will allow them to develop shovel ready plans to go out to seek grant money to build a new senior center. The building would be located next to McCluggage Manor on Taylor Hill Road.

Ali Bakhshalizedeh noted that a yes or no right now with this number of people is not a proper vote.

Frank Everett asked what happens if the town does not approve the \$114,500? Tina answered that we would lose the \$343,000. She also addressed Ali Bakhshalizedeh about sending this question to referendum on November 29, 2016. Tonight's vote is only to send the question to a referendum.

Further discussion was held on this issue. Kevin thanked everyone for a great discussion on this issue. He stated that there is a need and if we don't act now, we may not have this opportunity again.

Philip Anthony made motion to close the discussion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ricky Bevis. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Kevin Selectman made motion to modify the call to state to move to a referendum on 11/29/2016 to appropriate the \$114,500., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Philip Anthony.

Todd Babbitt was elected to count the hands.

**YES 72      NO 1      ABSTAINED 1**  
**MOTION PASSES**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by First Selectman Kevin Skulczyck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Martin McKinney. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Meeting duly adjourned at 7:05pm.

**Respectfully submitted by,**

Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk