



# Town of Griswold

Board of Finance

Special Meeting

April 25, 2016

7:00 PM

Griswold Senior Center

APPROVED MINUTES



**1. Roll Call/Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM**

**Board of Finance Members Present:**

Scott Davis - Chairman

Brian Baker – Vice Chairman

Peter Dorff

Gary Levy

Gail Rooke-Norman

Dan Webster

John Wolkowski

**Also Present:**

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance

Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

Steve Merchant Sr., Second Selectman

Eileen Duggan, Town Attorney

Stu Norman, Chairman, Board of Education

Susan Rourke, Interim Superintendent Griswold Schools

21 Other People

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**3. Old Business**

**b) Discussion and possible action on FY 16-17 budget.**

S. Davis stated that the Town Attorney was present to answer questions regarding her legal opinion on options to proceed with the budget. She said she understood the complications with trying to put out a budget with the information currently available. She stated she looked into amending ordinance 10-3 but time did not allow for that to solve the problem but it is going to be looked at in the future. The two options are to go forward as normal and use your best estimate at what the revenues are going to be or postpone the process. She stated the date of the annual budget meeting in the ordinance is directory rather than mandatory and is there for guidance. D. Webster stated when reading the ordinance his interpretation of the wording “that meeting shall be held the first Monday in May” is that we have to do it. E. Duggan responded that makes sense but under statutory interpretation in case law it states shall is not always mandatory but can also be directory and in this case it is directory. She also stated there is no express penalty which also makes it appear more directory than mandatory. G. Rooke-Norman stated this is not the first time budget numbers have been delayed and we owe it to the taxpayers to put a budget forth. She also stated it is a slippery slope if it is delayed. S. Davis asked E. Duggan what other municipalities were doing. She said most are just using guesstimates of what they are going to receive. S. Davis asked if we would be the first community to go against their ordinance. E. Duggan responded we would

be the first to delay the process. She would not consider lengthening the time frame as violating the ordinance. S. Norman asked E. Duggan if Griswold delayed the budget process his concern is any taxpayer that disagreed could bring us to court then what happens to the budget process. E. Duggan responded that the Town would be adding more process and does not think there would be any merit behind a lawsuit. S. Davis polled the members on how they would like to proceed. G. Rooke-Norman, G. Levy, B. Baker and S. Davis felt we should proceed. P. Dorff, D. Webster and J. Wolkowski felt we should wait. S. Davis asked E. Christensen where we stand on surplus and how much of the \$151,000 budgeted to be used this year will be used. E. Christensen responded that he projects we will use about \$107,000 of the \$151,000 budgeted. He also stated that expenditures are projected to be about \$207,000 under budget so we should add about \$100,000 back to surplus at the end of the year. Discussion followed regarding what figures we want to use moving forward. After deliberating for a while, S. Davis asked E. Christensen if we were to reconsider a postponement, realistically regardless of the situation of the State and their budget should we be reconvening to put forth a budget. E. Christensen responded that if they are not done by May 4<sup>th</sup> we will need to proceed regardless. After discussing dates to reconvene, B. Baker made a **motion** that was seconded by D. Webster to postpone any further action on the budget and reconvene on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All in favor with the exception of G. Rooke-Norman; **motion carried.**

#### 4. **Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by D. Webster seconded by G. Levy to adjourn. All in favor; **motion carried.** S. Davis adjourned the meeting at 8:03PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Erik Christensen**  
**Acting Recording Secretary**