Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
September 10, 2019
6:00 PM
Griswold Town Hall
28 Main St., Jewett City, CT 06351

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll – Meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

   Members Present: Todd Babbitt, First Selectman
   Steve Merchant Sr., Second Selectman
   Ed Burke – Third Selectman

   Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
   6 interested citizens

2. Notification of Emergency Exits – Emergency exits were noted

3. Pledge of Allegiance – Pledge was cited

4. Approval of Minutes

   a. August 27, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

      MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to approve the August 27, 2019 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Correspondence – It was noted a letter was received from the Superintendent with a recommendation of appointees to the Feasibility Study Group of Old Senior Center.

6. New Business

   a. Discussion and possible action on 21 tax refunds for a total of $2,776.48 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector

      MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, T. Babbitt, to approve the 21 tax refunds as submitted for a total of $2,776.48. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on the offer of St. Anne’s Church in Glasco – E. Berdick noted he visited the site a couple of times and would like to recommend to the BOS to acquire the property. He noted there is some work that needs to be done out there and some foundation work required. E. Berdick also passed out a letter with scope of possible uses and feels the site could become a destination site. E. Berdick suggested the possibility of groups coming together to get some of the work done on a volunteer basis. He also further specified the foundation issues are related to the grading of the site. T. Babbitt also noted the sills need repair. T. Babbitt also noted there may be some possible money available from the State Historic Commission. He also noted this would have to go to town meeting.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to send this item forward to town meeting for possible acceptance of the property. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board

a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring the item of possible release of a 1986 welfare lien onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted the request to release this lien came into the office last week. This type of lien was common back at the time it was placed to not list an amount and was left open. However, since 1986, the welfare records are no longer available thus an amount cannot be verified. The attorney representing the person with the lien, draw up a release that has been approved by our town attorney. A similar situation happened back in 2014 with the releasing of the same kind of lien.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the release of welfare lien against Carolyn Mackin. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring the item of Space Needs Committee for the Alternative School and review of the current senior center as a possible location, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt noted a letter was received from the Superintendent with the appointments from the Board of Ed for two members for this committee and a suggestion that Christopher Champlin, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services also serve on the committee, as there is no teacher at the alternative school who is also a resident. T. Babbitt noted he received a letter from Dave Vieaux willing to serve as a member at large.
MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to appoint Mary Beth Malin and Marty Osga from the BOE to serve on the Space Needs Committee and Christopher Champlin as a non-voting member and David Vieaux as a member at large. **Motion carried unanimously.**

c. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring the item of setting a town meeting date for the acceptance of the Glasgo Church property onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There was brief discussion to have the meeting before the first regular BOS meeting in October.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to set a town meeting date for October 8, 2019 at 5:30 PM to vote on acceptance of the Glasgo Church property. **Motion carried unanimously.**

d. E. Burke mentioned the possibility of sending a letter to Congressman Courtney’s office requesting that the Jewett City Post Office be renamed the Griswold Post Office.

e. **MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to bring the item of adding a possible public forum to the beginning of the agenda, for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

E. Burke noted he received a request to have public forum in the beginning of the agenda so that the public may have a change to comment only on items on the agenda before the BOS acts on them. T. Babbitt noted he would like to check on the legality of limiting that action to only items on the agenda.

9. **Public Forum**

**Dave Vieaux** – Leha Ave. D. Vieaux commented that if public forum is added to the beginning of the agenda that it also is kept on the agenda for the end of the meeting. He also noted that with the ordinance committee there was public forum before the rest of the agenda items and it may not be beneficial unless the public has a complete understanding of what the agenda item is.

**Ed Berdick** – Voluntown Rd. – E. Berdick noted he received the tree is ready for pick up and when the planting takes place they would like to see some kind of media activity. E. Berdick noted he liked the idea of two public forums so that people would not have to wait to the end when the meeting is long.
Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd. – S. Viadella asked for an update on the cemeteries for R. Snide. She also wanted to know the update on the cleanup by Armaun at the park and if the town had any other means of promoting the dedication ceremony of the CCC statute. T. Babbitt noted there was no update on the cemetery but did provide an update on the clean up being done at the park. He also noted he would reach out to Mr. Barry at the Norwich Bulletin for the dedication ceremony.

10. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant