



**Town of Griswold**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 13, 2016**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Griswold Town Hall**  
**Downstairs Meeting Room**  
**28 Main St, Jewett City, CT 06351**



**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

**Members Present:** Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman  
Steve Merchant Sr., Second Selectman

**Members Absent:** Martin McKinney Jr., with notification

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
Mario Tristany Jr., Town Planner  
19 other interested citizens

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Pledge was cited.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **August 23, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to approve the August 23, 2016 regular meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Correspondence – None**

5. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to approve five tax refunds for a total amount of \$105.94. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute a contract with Prime Electric as part of a \$370,000 STEAP grant to complete the Main Street Historical Lighting Project** – Town Planner, Mario Tristany outlined the work to be performed and gave a brief review of the bidding process and noted Prime Electric was the only bidder and they placed a bid on both projects, lighting and pavement. After all costs and changes are calculated there should be a cushion of \$5,000 - \$10,000. M. Tristany noted work could possibly start by the end of next week and hopes work to be done by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to approve the resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute a contract with Prime Electric as part of a \$370,000 STEAP grant to complete the Main Street Historical Lighting Project. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**6. Old Business - None**

**7. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by K. Skulczyck, seconded by S. Merchant, to enter into executive session at 6:37 PM to discuss possible legal action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to come out of executive session at 6:54 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck gave brief comment on information received from legal counsel regarding the proposed shooting facility.

**8. Public Forum**

**Dave Vieaux** (Leha Ave.) – D. Vieaux asked about the bonding money associated with the proposed gun range and options the town has if they state pays more than the appraised value for the property. K. Skulczyck noted the original bonding money for research of the project has been expanded with no additional bonding money being approved and the purchase price of the property will not be known till the property is already purchased.

**Lauren Churchill** (Roger Rd.) – L. Churchill noted her concern that the Plan of Conservation and Development may expire and have nothing in a plan for that piece of property and the ability of the state to use that to their benefit in utilizing the land.

**Steve Douglas** (Bitgood Rd.) – S. Douglas noted he also mentioned last month the Plan of Conservation and Development expiring. He also asked about a couple meetings that were on the Selectman's calendar. Noted he cannot find gun range info on the new website. He also explained scoping notices in relation to the gun range and what has been posted to this point. Also wanted to know if the town had submitted a resolution in opposition to the gun range.

**Katarzyna Bakhshalizadeh** (Dawley Rd.) – K. Bakhshalizadeh wanted to know what gut feeling the First Selectman has and if there is a deciding factor as far as date and how to move forward. K. Skulczyck commented no gut feeling and continue to move forward with the attorney.

**James Barnie** (Hopeville Rd.) – J. Barnie also noted difficulty in finding information on the new website. Another resident commented it is not mobile friendly.

**Norm Higgins** (Pleasant View) – N. Higgins commented the town residents are getting a civics lesson on how to go about working on a cause.

**Renee Bergeron** (Breakneck Hill Rd.) – R. Bergeron noted her concern that she is just going to walk into a meeting someday and find out the property has been sold.

**Alan Cornelius** (Hopeville Rd.) – A. Cornelius questioned can the state purchase without having done an EIE. K. Skulczyck not supposed to.

**Sharon Viadella** (Lester Rd.) – S. Viadella asked when the town attorney would be here. K. Skulczyck, hopefully next BOS meeting.

**Sheryl Jenschke** (Hopeville Rd.) – S. Jenschke asked what was going to happen to property values in the area of the shooting range? K. Skulczyck commented he is not sure, has no research.

**Anthony Cardin** (Bitgood Rd.) – A. Cardin noted he has been speaking with Shane Mallory at the state and he has been keeping them apprised of where the state is in the purchase process. State Statute does not allow the public to look at the studies but does not prohibit them from knowing where they are in the purchase process. Is going to contact the Attorney General tomorrow because they are not sharing the information.

**Ryan Snide** (Tatro Rd.) – R. Snide commented the state noted it was the Town's decision to not allow public to speak at the meeting at the school. It was not a scoping meeting as questions were not allowed to speak. Can we request a scoping meeting? K. Skulczyck commented it was the state's decision to not allow public comment and it was not listed as a scoping meeting.

**Barbara Cornelius** (Hopeville Rd.) – B. Cornelius suggested our lawyer contact the attorney general about the state not following the policies.

**Dave Vieaux** (Leha Ave.) – D. Vieaux commented the state website also had a place to sign up for email updates, which he did, and nothing has been received.

**Ransom Young** (Rixtown Rd.) – R. Young noted washout at Rixtown cemetery and questioned if Prime Electric was necessary for asphalt repairs for the last work done with Main Street.

**Steve Douglas** (Bitgood Rd.) – S. Douglas asked for as much information as possible to be shared on the website.

**Alan Cornelius** (Hopeville Rd.) – A. Cornelius asked if we request a scoping meeting and an EIE if timing should be considered as to when the EIE might be done in respect to winter or spring. K. Skulczyck will refer to attorney.

**Anthony Cardin** (Bitgood Rd.) – A. Cardin commented Jeff Beckham replied back stating all the questions the residents raised would be addressed in the EIE.

**Steve Douglas** (Bitgood Rd.) – S. Douglas noted a post-scoping notice where an EIE was not required as decided by the state, for a project where a bridge is going over a river.

**Renee Bergeron** (Breakneck Hill Rd.) – R. Bergeron commented that Congressman Courtney did note an EIE is not a requirement.

**Dave Vieaux** (Leha Ave.) – D. Vieaux noted the process of this has been slow and is going to frustrate the residents.

**Ryan Snide** (Tatro Rd.) – R. Snide noted the Keep Griswold Quiet Committee deserves some recognition for their effort on this issue that is going to eventually divide the town.

## 9. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant**