



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
February 28, 2017
6:00 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 PM by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

Members Present: Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman
Steve Merchant Jr., Second Selectman
Martin McKinney Sr., Third Selectman (arrived at 6:11 PM)

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent
Erik Christensen, Finance Director
Paul Brycki, GHA Chairman
16 other interested citizens

2. **Notification of Emergency Exits** – K. Skulczyck noted the location of the exits.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Pledge was cited.
4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **February 14, 2017 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to approve the February 14, 2017 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Correspondence** – None

6. 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 the tax refunds for a total of \$72.64, as submitted by the tax collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

***MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to move New Business item c before item b. **Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Discussion and possible action on presentation by Paul Brycki regarding sewer drainage easements and the Urban Act grant – Paul Brycki, GHA Chairman gave a brief presentation on the sewer drainage easements that after many years, have finally been established. The easements were a necessity to establish the sewer line. This led into discussion about moving forward with the Urban Act Grant for funding of the sewer line project. Transitioning out of the STEAP program and into the Urban Act was discussed and noted that should take place in about a month. The grant would allow to put the sewer line in plus drainage from the top of Taylor Hill to the elderly house and dumping out behind the elderly housing to a retention pond. Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent, presented the proposed sidewalk and roadway improvements that would go along in conjunction with the sewer line project. Both projects total about 1.3 million.

***M. McKinney arrived at 6:11 PM.**

T. Babbitt commented the sewer and road/sidewalk project tie in with the proposed Sr. Center project. He also noted for M. McKinney the proposal is for curb to curb. K. Skulczyck noted an RFP would go out for a consultant to advise the town on the project and that a letter would be initiated to the state to leave STEAP by April.

MOTION: Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to send a letter opting out of the STEAP program and into the Urban program, once the State notifies us we are eligible to do so. **Motion carried unanimously.**

***MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney to go back to New Business item b. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Presentation of donation check by Home Energy Solutions Outreach Campaign – The program gave \$25 for each residence that participated in the town wide energy audit. The donation check was presented to Griswold Pride for a total of \$550.

d. Discussion and possible action on request of East Coast Auto Group to be considered for the tax abatement process – K. Skulczyck commented there is an ordinance adopted in 2012 that allows certain tax abatements. He also suggested the

request go before the EDC, who initiated the ordinance, for their review and recommendation.

MOTION: Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to send the request to the EDC and Mario Tristany for their review and recommendation.

Motion carried unanimously.

- e. **Discussion and possible action on resolution authorizing the First Selectman to execute documents pertaining to the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Capital Improvements Bond Fund Grant Program** – E. Christensen, Finance Director, commented the paperwork is the agreement required by the state to release the bond funds for the new Sr. Center.

MOTION: Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to authorize K. Skulczyck, First Selectman to execute the documents pertaining to the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Capital Improvements Bond Fund Grant Program. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **Discussion and possible action on the recommendation by the DTC to appoint Gary Beaulac to fill the unexpired portion of a ZBA alternate term of 11/17/2015 to 11/21/2017**– L. Wood noted the recommendation came from the DTC, as the seat vacated was an elected position and held by the Democratic Party. It is procedural for the BOS to make the appointment.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to appoint Gary Beaulac to fill the unexpired portion of a ZBA alternate term of 11/17/2015 to 11/21/2017. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Old Business - None

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

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to bring the item of the new meeting room carpet onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of allowing food and beverage in the meeting room as the rug that was replaced was quite stained. It was also noted the old rug had been there since the town hall opened. It was also noted that this carpet has replacement squares available. It was agreed to monitor the situation and no action was taken.

9. Public Forum

Erik Christensen – Danika Way – E. Christensen noted that Malloy did not fund the STEAP grant in his proposal and unlikely it will be funded in the near future. He noted that going into the Urban Fund is the way to go.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux noted when the ordinance for tax abatement was adopted we were not a distressed community and that should be looked at more thoroughly before applicants for the program are approved.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd. – R. Young as if the legal status of Rixtown cemetery has ever been established. K. Skulczyck commented it is being sent out to the attorney for legal opinion.

Paul Brycki – Taylor Hill Rd. – P. Brycki commented there used to be a small fund available from the state for towns to help maintain cemeteries. E. Christensen noted last year the funds were cut off before the deadline date to apply and there is no money funded for it this year.

Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd. – S. Viadella asked if there was any new information on the gun range. K. Skulczyck noted the questions have been sent to her and the Attorney General from the legislature. She did not have to answer the questions when asked by the position of First Selectman, but will be responding to those questions now.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion as made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**