



**Town of Griswold**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**August 9, 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  
Martin McKinney Jr., Third Selectman

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
46 other interested citizens  
1 member of the press

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

\***MOTION:** Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring forward item 5b on the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 5b. **Recognition of Jewett City Little League Softball Team – K. Skulczyck commented on the success of this team and Certificates of Recognition were awarded.**

3. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **July 20, 2016 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to approve the July 20, 2016 special meeting minutes. **Motion carried.** S. Merchant abstained.

**b. July 26, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to approve the July 26, 2016 regular meeting minutes. **Motion carried.** M. McKinney abstained.

**4. Correspondence** – Update from Vision Appraisal was received and reviewed.

**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 M. McKinney, to approve the tax refunds as submitted by the tax collector for a total amount of \$593.10. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**b. Recognition of Jewett City Little League Softball Team** – see above

**c. Discussion and possible action on agreement with Plainfield for Regional Animal Control Backup Services** – K. Skulczyck note he is ready to discuss the contract and noted it was agreed to by the Plainfield BOS, as is, last night.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to table action on this item. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck noted although Plainfield is not in our Council of Governments it is a good step towards regionalization of services. He briefly outlined the proposed coverage and associated fees.

**d. Discussion and possible action on request of local Recognition Committee to use town seal** – Mike Minarsky represented the newly formed Recognition Committee. The Recognition Committee is a private committee formed to recognize individuals and businesses with the Griswold/Jewett City community. The goal is to recognize one individual and one business each year. The goal is to encourage and recognize good people and businesses in our community. The candidates would be nominated through a website and voted upon by the committee. The first year they would like to induct 10 people into the virtual hall of fame and also fundraise for an event. They would like to use the town seal for letterhead and promotional purposes to show they have the support of the town. They are not looking to use an embossed seal.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to approve the Recognition Committee to use the town seal.

It was discussed making a provision such as a timeline.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Motion on the floor was amended by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, that the Recognition Committee can use the town seal as long as they maintain a quorum of five active members. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**6. Old Business - None**

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring onto the agenda discussion of the American Legion Ambulance building. **Motion carried unanimously.**

M. McKinney noted there was a discussion that involved an offer of cash from the town to the American Legion to vacate the building and that the money received would be used to maintain Legion baseball for the future. Those fees would be paid on an annual basis for an offer of \$25,000. K. Skulczyck noted this is for the building previously used by the Ambulance Service that is on town property. The property has a 99 year lease and through an eviction process there was a court judgement that American Legion could use the building until they finish collection of their accounts. S. Merchant noted any agreement may need to be approved by the Board of Finance. K. Skulczyck commented that each party has an attorney and it would need to be agreed to before the BOS could possibly take any action.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to table any further discussion on this until the town attorney is consulted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Public Forum**

**Lyle Gabor** (14 Pond Lane) – Noted that his generator that is attached to the house is on the list to be taxed for next year. He does not feel it should be. It was noted it is not portable and it was explained he needs to appeal to the Board of Assessment.

**Ladonna Cardin** (300 Bitgood Rd.) – Asked the town to consider forming an Agricultural Commission. She presented a lot of supporting information and has done a lot of research. K. Skulczyck commented this is a good time to consider such a commission as we are in the process of reviewing the Code of Ordinances and noted we would gather information from CCM on what other towns have for Agricultural Commissions. There was brief discussion on grants that can be acquired through such Commission.

**Alan Geer** (39 Hill St.) – Asked for an update on the Main Street Lighting Project. K. Skulczyck noted that another visit by the state for historical purposes was just completed. The lights are in and bids will be going out this week for the install. Hope to have them up by October.

**Ransom Young** (Rixtown Rd.) – Noted there was an accident by the cemetery at Rixtown Road and damage was done to the cemetery wall. He was informed to call the state police if he was witness to an accident.

**James Bernie** (735 Hopeville Rd.) – Wants to support the creation of an Agricultural Commission.

**Ryan Snide** (36 Tatro Rd.) – Wanted to know if there was any town cost associated with the Recognition Committee. K. Skulczyck commented there would be no cost they would only be allowed to use the town seal. R. Snide asked about who was paying the proposed \$25,000 regarding the Ambulance building. K. Skulczyck commented that is a proposed buyout by the town to the American Legion. R. Snide also wanted to know if the proposed agreement with Plainfield for ACO services is a prelude to police service. K. Skulczyck commented that has been thought of as a possibility.

**Stephen Douglas** (356 Bitgood Rd.) – Thanked Kevin for the commentary in the Bulletin. Noted he is still 110% opposed to the gun range and also suggested any information regarding the website be put on the website for viewing. He also asked about the progress on a new Plan of Development since the current one is expiring. It was noted the new Plan of Development is being worked on. He also wanted to know if there was any proposal about handling the gypsy moths. K. Skulczyck noted there has been some talk, but nothing definite yet.

**Norm Higgins** (206 Pleasant View) – Wanted to compliment all the people involved for their efforts involved in opposing the gun range. Also noted in East Lyme the American Legion baseball program raises money to fund it. He is also in support of creating an Agricultural Commission.

**Ali Bakhshalizadeh** (91 Dawley Rd.) – Asked for details about the progress of the gun range. K. Skulczyck commented that the state has said there is no lease option, but noted they asked for a little more time to figure out numbers. The owner of the property has given a drop dead date, but that has not been shared yet. There is another party interested in dealing with the seller to purchase the property.

**Bill Czmyr** (45 Green Ave.) – Commented the Ambulance building was not built by the town and there is no town money into the building. Also, they do fundraise for the baseball program and the money received would also be used to fund scholarships at the high school.

**Judy Webster** (187 Sheldon Rd.) – Wanted to know if there was a timeframe for using the ambulance building to collect funds. K. Skulczyck commented the judgement has no timeframe and only states as long as they are collecting bills. She also commented that the Town has subsidized the American Legion ambulance for many years. She also wanted to know if the Griswold Ambulance still owns the property on Rt. 138.

**Ali Bakhshalizadeh** (91 Dawley Rd.) – Wanted to know if there was a town agency that oversees business in town. It was noted there is at the state level and would be consumer protection.

**Ransom Young** (Rixtown Rd.) - Commented the phone call regarding the accident and the damage at the Rixtown cemetery has to come from the town.

## **9. Adjournment**

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

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant**