



Town of Griswold

28 Main Street
Griswold, CT 06351
Board of Selectman

Regular Meeting

Downstairs Meeting Room

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

6:30 pm

APPROVED MINUTES



1. **Call to Order:** P. Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Members Present: Philip Anthony, First Selectman

Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman, Theresa Madonna, Third Selectwoman

Also Present:

Lisa Wood, Executive Assistant

Ryan Aubin, Director of Youth Services

Peter Zvingilas, Zoning Enforcement Officer

9 interested citizens

4 staff members for Executive Session

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **December 14, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 14, 2010 as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence: Sent/Received – None**

- a. **December 17, 2010 letter to Mr. Wolinski from First Selectman** – P. Anthony commented that Mr. Wolinski just signed for receipt of the letter yesterday so we will allow him time to respond before discussion.

- b. **December 23, 2010 letter from Mr. Sylvestre regarding Aubin junk yard** – T. Madonna commented she requested aerial photos of the property from the ZEO

4. **New Business**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to move agenda item 4i for Executive Session to come before agenda item 4a. **Motion carried unanimously.**

i. Executive Session - Discussion of Step 2 Grievance

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to invite in to executive session Shannon, Webster, Debra Robinson, Barbara Richardson-Crouch and Dottie Faulise. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Executive Session began at 6:40 PM and ended at 7:25 PM.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, that the documentation of the verbal warning that was put in the employee's file be removed. **Motion carried unanimously.**

a. Reappointment of Todd Gudeahn to the Ethics Commission for term 3/6/2010-3/5/2013

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel to reappoint Todd Gudeahn to the Ethics Commission for term 3/6/2010-3/5/2013. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Patrick Chao as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission for term 1/12/11-1/11/2014

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to appoint Patrick Chao as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission for term 1/12/2011-1/11/2014. **Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Reappointment of Leo Bordeleau to the Griswold Housing Authority for term 2/1/2011-1/31/2016 – T. Madonna recommended tabling this item because the Housing Authority may have another candidate. P. Anthony commented the Housing Authority had ample time to submit another candidate and whereas Mr. Bordeleau has already been serving does not feel it is fair to him to have to wait. T. Madonna commented it has to do with their availability to get grants to seat people on the Authority that live at the Housing Authority gives them a leg up in securing in the grants. P. Anthony commented the quota of resident members is already present. S. Mikutel wished the issue was discussed a little bit previously, but sees no harm in allowing a little additional time.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to table action on reappointment of Leo Bordeleau to the Griswold Housing Authority. **Motion carried. T. Madonna and S. Mikutel in favor, P. Anthony opposed.**

d. Discussion and possible action on request by Griswold Youth and Family Services to hire Jacob A. Rhoades and Taylor N. Dixon as Youth Center Teen Supervisors, for the period January 14, 2011 through June 2011, funded by the State Department of Education's Enhancement Grant received in 2010, pending approval by BOF for transfer of \$5000 from Grant (motion for transfer of \$5000 was approved by BOS at last meeting) – Ryan Aubin, Youth Services Director, commented the BOF still has to officially make the transfer, but

the two individuals that he is seeking approval for are Griswold teens and have volunteered at the Youth Center over the past few years.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, that the request of the Youth Services Director to hire Jacob Rhoades and Taylor Dixon as Youth Center Teen Supervisors for the period January 14, 2011 through June 2011 is approved pending approval by the BOF for the transfer of \$5000. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Appointment of Jon Mikula to Griswold Recreation Commission to fill vacancy of Todd Clement for remainder of the term May 16, 2010 to May 15, 2013**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to appoint Jon Mikula to Griswold Recreation Commission for remainder of the term May 16, 2010 to May 15, 2013. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **Discussion and possible action on scheduling of Board of Selectmen meeting dates to discuss 2011/2012 departmental budgets** - It was suggested that Thursday afternoons would be good for the next two weeks.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, that the BOS meet on January 20, 2011 and January 27, 2011 at 2PM to discuss department budgets for FY 2011/2012. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- g. **Discussion and possible action on Scope of Services RFQ for Main Street Corridor and Streetscape Improvement Master Plan** – T. Madonna had a question on the time line given by the request and if the performance to begin date would be too tight. P. Anthony commented the dates could be adjusted if needed. S. Mikutel commented the BOS has to eventually approve the contract to be awarded. P. Anthony commented the committee will review all proposals and then forward three finalists to the BOS to interview. P. Anthony commented there may be bumps in the road that require the timeline to be adjusted but suggests putting the RFQ out as is.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, that the Scope of Services for RFQ for Main Street Corridor and Streetscape Improvement Master Plan be posted and distributed as proposed. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- h. **Discussion and possible action on proposed revision to the Ordinance Establishing a Public Health and Safety Committee** – BOS discussed the language regarding the terms. Brian Baker, Chairman of Public Health and Safety Committee, provided an explanation stating there is one position in Group A and Group B membership, which is currently vacant, they do not wish to fill those positions and cut the committee from 9 to 7. S. Mikutel asked if 7 was still too many and Mr. Baker commented they currently have 6 and do not want to eliminate anyone and would like to try a 7 committee member, if possible can reassess down the road.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna to send proposed revision to the Ordinance Establishing a Public Health and Safety Committee, to the town attorney for final review as is. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on proposed Town Sidewalk Ordinance – S.** Mikutel commented that it should read Road Superintendent instead of Public Works Director. P. Anthony commented he will check Mr. Babbitt's contract to make sure of correct title. S. Mikutel is in favor of billing someone for work that has to be done for clearing their sidewalk but does not want to fine them in addition. S. Mikutel commented to leave in the section which implies if the snow or ice cannot be removed it must be sanded. He also felt the section on sidewalk inspectors does not need to be part of the ordinance. It already mentions, under Snow and Ice Removal, who is to determine the condition of the sidewalk. S. Mikutel mentioned perhaps indicating a time period of 30 days for an appeal and taking out the part of the decision being reversed by 2/3 vote. T. Madonna commented that under the section Snow and Ice Removal, the word may order in the first sentence be changed to shall order so the Road Superintendent has to at least attempt to make contact with the property owner to ask them to do it themselves before going ahead and doing the work by the town causing them to be billed.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to put into final draft the Sidewalk Ordinance with proposed changes **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on possibility of entering into a contract with American Legion Community Ambulance d/b/a Griswold Ambulance – S.** Mikutel expressed his interest in the town entering into a contractual agreement with the Griswold Ambulance to help with financial issues they have to face each year. If the town goes that route he would like to see a member of the BOF participate in the negotiations. T. Madonna expressed her feeling that the Griswold Ambulance does a fantastic job in town but she is not sure we need a contract, it does not benefit the town in any way. P. Anthony commented he would speak, informally, to some of the members of the BOF, as to whether or not they would back a possible contract with the town and the Griswold Ambulance and recommends tabling this item until a general consensus can be determined.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to table the action on the American Legion Community Ambulance discussion of entering into a contract, until next regular meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to bring onto the agenda under any other business discussion of the Aubin Junk Yard property. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Sylvestre commented that aerial photos do not matter because if he was legal at the time of 1973 he would be a non-conforming use. It is non-licensed with the state. He feels he has been stonewalled on this issue for a matter of time. He cited minutes from the zoning board of August 10, 2009 which gave Mr. Aubin 90 days to clean up the site or a cease and desist would be issued. S. Mikutel asked if the town attorney had rendered a decision in this as he was supposed to in December. P. Anthony commented it is a borough property and a borough ordinance that has to be addressed. The town ZEO does enforce the regulations for the borough. It is up to the directors of the borough to pursue legal action and advise the ZEO with that legal action. Mr. Sylvestre commented the borough handed over the zoning responsibility to the Town. P. Anthony corrected to the Planning & Zoning Commission only, not the Town. It was deemed the ZEO works for both the borough and town but is paid only by the town. P. Anthony suggested getting a statement from the Borough Board as to how they perceive their jurisdiction and whose jurisdiction that specific property falls under.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring the issue of Veteran's Memorial Park, enforcement of park rules, onto the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel commented one of the rules is to not allow people in the park after a certain hour and it has been brought to his attention, the people over there sledding at night. He is not sure about how to enforce that issue and is bringing it up now because of the repairs to the fence and a safety issue. He also commented it is an issue of the park committee to find a way to address that. P. Anthony commented he sent the road superintendent out while they were plowing and he did see people sledding and some holes in the fence. T. Babbitt put a temporary fix on the fence that night. He asked R. Aubin to call the state to seek further repair and they went out and made some more permanent repairs. The state commented they feel they should be able to do an overhaul on the fence. I believe it is our fence but if the state is willing to repair it, so be it. There are some funds available in the park committee fund, which may be disbanding, and perhaps we could use that money for repairs also. Other than putting up signage and/or calling the resident trooper when someone is there after hours, there is no other enforcement. There is currently signage at the park with the rules.

7. Public Forum

Ransom Young – Read part of the bylaws of the Rixtown Cemetery that regarded establishment of the association. He also commented on residents shoveling sidewalks and displacing the snow onto the streets, that is wrong, and suggested the new ordinance have instruction as to what to do with the snow.

Peter Zvingilas – Commented whether the town was going to repeal the existing sidewalk ordinance if they are going to pass a new one. S. Mikutel commented moving forward with the new one and repealing the old one.

Norm Higgins – Expressed his concern for the town to enter into an agreement with the Griswold Ambulance. The Ambulance needs to be able to show that for financial security. We also need to ask the town people what they want.

Brian Baker – Wanted to personally thank the A.A. Young and Griswold Fire Departments in their efforts in the boot drive for the families of the four teens that lost their lives. Also agrees with Norm Higgins comment that the public should have a say in having a contract with the ambulance, perhaps a public hearing. Although he is very grateful for their service and is not against anything they are looking for, but are we setting a precedent for entering into contracts with a non-profit organization. It is every organizations responsibility that comes before the board or citizens to justify their means.

Norm Sylvestre – Commented that sight lines are addressed in the zoning regulations. Also commented that other businesses have been made to comply with the zoning regulations immediately (such as his barber) and that should apply to everyone.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa M. Wood,
Recording Secretary*