



**Town of Griswold**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 14, 2014**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Griswold Senior Center**  
**22 Soule Street, Jewett City**



**APPROVED MINUTES**

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

**Members Present:** Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman  
Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman  
Philip Anthony, Third Selectman

**Others Present:** Jaimee O'Neill, Acting Recording Secretary  
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director  
Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk  
Larry Laidley, Chair, Bicentennial Committee  
Liz Sibickey, Chair, Ethics Commission  
10 other interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **November 26, 2013 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **December 12, 2013 – Special Meeting Minutes (5:00 PM)**
- c. **December 12, 2013 – Special Meeting Minutes (5:30 PM)**
- d. **December 12, 2013 – Special Meeting Minutes (6:00 PM)**
- e. **December 17, 2013 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- f. **December 19, 2013 – Special Joint Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the minutes from November 26, 2013 – Regular Meeting, December 12, 2013 – Special Meeting (5:00 PM), December 12, 2013 – Special Meeting (5:30 PM), December 12, 2013 – Special Meeting (6:00 PM), December 17, 2013 – Special Meeting, and December 19, 2013 – Special Joint Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Old Business** – The Board of Selectman agreed to present items 5a and 5b on the agenda before Correspondence.

- a. **Discussion and possible action on update by Larry Laidley, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, tabled from the 12/12/2013 special BOS meeting**

see attached addendum

- b. **Discussion of 2014 Ethics update by Liz Sibickey, tabled from the 12/12/2013 special BOS meeting** – The Ethics Commission reviewed the Code of Ethics in 2013. The Code of Ethics will be distributed electronically to Town employees, etc. A power point presentation was created that highlights the important topics covered in the Code. The Code of Ethics also needs to be distributed to all vendors that do business with the Town.

### 3. Correspondence

- a. **Copy of payment of delinquent personal property taxes on Ames Dept. store** – No Discussion
- b. **Resignation of Erika M. Bevis from Space Needs Committee** – No Discussion
- c. **Resignation of John Wolkowski from Space Needs Committee** – No Discussion

### 4. New Business

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the tax refund as presented by the Tax Collector, Rich Grabowski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on reappointment of Clarence G. Merrill as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands, Watercourses & Conservation Commission for a two year term of 2/1/2014 to 1/31/2016**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve as stated. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Mark S. Sulik as an alternate member of the Ethics Committee for a one year term of 1/15/2014 – 1/14/2015.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Gail Rooke-Norman as a member of the Commission on Aging to fill the unexpired portion of a term that expires 1/9/2019**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Erika Bevis as an alternate member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a one year term of 1/14/2014 – 1/13/2015**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Kristin Goodwin as an alternate member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a one year term of 1/14/2014 – 1/13/2015**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

- g. **Discussion and possible action on correction of term date for Philip Flowers membership term on Public Health & Safety Committee**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to correct existing term date.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

- h. **Update on moving forward with posting internally first for vacant positions before advertising publicly** K. Skulczyck stated that the Assistant Town Clerk, Senior Bus Driver, and Assistant Assessor positions will be posted internally, and if the positions aren't filled internally, then they will be advertised to the public. No further discussion.

- i. **Discussion and possible action on setting of upcoming budget meeting dates** S. Mikutel stated that he prefers to meet after 3:00 PM; P. Anthony stated that he would need to meet after 5:00 PM. K. Skulczyck will bring a calendar to the next meeting, so dates can be set.

- j. **Discussion and possible action on appointing Tina Luft from an alternate member of the Recreation Commission to a regular member to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 5/16/2010 – 5/15/2014.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Old Business (continued)**

- c. Discussion and possible action on revised proposed ordinance for town-based businesses** – S. Mikutel stated that he is waiting on Town’s Attorney to provide him with a revised ordinance.
- d. Discussion and possible action on appointment of a member of the Board of Selectmen as representative to serve on the Space Needs Committee** – P. Anthony stated that he will check his calendar and let the Board know at the next meeting.

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

- a. MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring onto the agenda for discussion information on stolen catch basins.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck stated approximately 30 catch basins, valued at about \$6000.00, have been stolen throughout the Town. He is currently working with Todd Babbitt, Director of Public Works, and the State Police on investigating this matter.

- b. Discussion on emergency approval of funding to replace bursting pipes at Senior Center.**

Due to the current location of the pipes, they freeze during the cold weather. This causes them to burst, which has already occurred on five occasions this winter season. One estimate of \$4,360 was received, after reaching out to several plumbing companies who rejected the job; only one other company was interested in quoting the job and will be doing so. P. Anthony feels more quotes are needed and he will reach out to T. Babbitt to recommend one to two other companies.

- c. MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring onto the agenda for discussion an update on Change Wind Corporation.  
**Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck wanted to update everyone on the status of a potential new business in Town, which we were at the risk of losing. They may be eligible for a loan from the State for 1.3 million dollars. The loan is for the establishment of business and creation of 150 jobs, all or part of the loan would then be forgiven if the job criteria were met.

## 7. Public Forum

**Ransom Young** – R. Young stated that his aunt's property taxes for the past three years have increased by 5,000%. He also stated that there may be an alternative to the Senior Center plumbing issue, by installing a re-circulator, as opposed to re-plumbing. Lastly, he has a list of Veteran's Programs that he would be happy to pass along to the Town.

**Dave Vieaux** – D. Vieaux would like to know what is being done when there is unethical conduct among Town employees. He was told on a previous issue he had, that nothing could be done. He's wondering why bother having a Code of Ethics, if it's not enforceable.

**J.R. Norman Sylvestre** – J.R. Sylvestre expressed his frustration over concerns with ongoing blight and zoning issues.

**Joel Francouer** – J. Francouer attempted to bring up a pending legal issue. K. Skulczyk noted that this was not the proper forum for that matter, and recommended ceasing the discussion.

**Norm Higgins** – N. Higgins suggested the Bicentennial Committee request to be put on the Board of Education's agenda in an effort to get the schools involved in their efforts.

**Betty Knox** – B. Knox was inquiring on the status of negotiations between American Legion Ambulance (a.k.a. Griswold Ambulance) and the Town.

**Ed Burdick** – E. Burdick asked the Selectman to ask the Board of Finance to appropriate \$50,000-\$60,000 to the Bicentennial Committee. He also suggested ways to involve the Town in the Bicentennial Committee's fundraising efforts.

**Philip Flowers** – P. Flowers inquired as to how Public Works plans on securing the Catch Basins to prevent further theft. He also asked if local plumbers were being contacted for the Senior Center project. In regards to recusing oneself during a public meeting, is making a member leave the room enforceable. Liz Sibickey stated that no one can be forced to leave the room, it is a personal ethical decision that individual must make.

## 8. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jaimee O'Neill,  
Acting Recording Secretary**

**ADDENDUM TO THE  
January 14, 2014  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
APPROVED MINUTES**

**5a. Discussion and possible action on update by Larry Laidley, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, tabled from 12/12/2013 special BOS meeting** - Larry Laidley, chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, addressed the Board to give them an update on planning stages for the Bicentennial Celebration. He commented they are in the process of finalizing the calendar of events for 2015, but are not sure at this time what the budget will be. Some ideas were historic house tours, walking weekend, shuttling people to places and events, parade, historic lecture series (possibly hosted by Slater Library) and a historical period costume ball to close it out. The committee is trying to become a 501c(3) to be able to raise funds and keep the costs to taxpayers at a minimum. That would allow corporate sponsorship and depending on the availability of funding, perhaps fireworks. They would also like to invite the Coast Guard band, Navy marching band and UCONN band. If there is a new venue in the park, which is a possibility, we may be able to get the Eugene O'Neill Players here to do a play in the park. This year's goal is to obtain the 501c(3), set the events and fundraise. L. Laidley suggested more members be appointed to the committee and chairpersons for different events. He commented the photo contest is almost up and running and the logo contest has been out there since October, but there have been no submissions. S. Mikutel concurred with adding more people to the board. L. Laidley commented they are trying to draw community organizations that wish to hold events and kind of let them volunteer and host it and have the committee back it. S. Mikutel urged the First Selectman to contact the Superintendent of Schools to support the logo contest and get it rolling. L. Laidley commented for S. Mikutel there is around 7500-10,000 put aside in the budget, none has been used to date.

S. Mikutel commented the BOS will support the Bicentennial Committee if needing to go to the BOF for an appropriation. S. Mikutel noted his support for the closing of the ceremonies with some sort of dance as a culmination of the celebration. S. Mikutel commented he feels it very important for the schools and the children to be involved with this bicentennial event. He also suggested the schools have a great music department and we could involve that department with quite a few events. K. Skulczck noted he also spoke to Ray Churchill about putting together a historical play, but has not yet committed to it. He also noted he has a meeting scheduled with the Superintendent next week, to further discuss event participation with the schools. S. Mikutel also strongly recommended the Coast Guard band. L. Laidley did comment the bigger groups such as the Coast Guard band and the re-enactors are booked way in advance and he is trying to secure some dates with them.

S. Mikutel suggested a family day event planned through the Recreation department. L. Laidley commented that activity has been in the planning with Ryan Aubin for the last couple years. S. Mikutel commented fireworks would be great for the event and a cost needs to be obtained on them. L. Laidley also noted they are looking into a veteran's event, possibly tied to the parade, a fire muster, a community time capsule and a 5K run for a fundraiser. P. Anthony commented he is on the committee with Larry and it is an excellent committee. He noted the events are forming and suggested he make a formal request for an appropriation in the upcoming budget. He also noted he is disappointed in the lack of interest in the logo contest and suggested maybe making it a class project. K. Skulczyck suggested L. Laidley stop in the office next week to meet and go over the timeline.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant**