



**Town of Griswold**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 28, 2014**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**  
**28 Main Street, Jewett City**



**APPROVED MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

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

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
Peter Zvingilas, Zoning Enforcement Officer  
7 other interested citizens  
1 member of the press

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **January 14, 2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by Steve Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the January 14, 2014 regular meeting minutes with the exception of 5a which does not adequately reflect the comments of the Board of Selectmen and ask that the permanent secretary review the tape and revise section 5a. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **January 23, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the January 23, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence**

- a. **Letter of resignation from Patrick Collins from the Recycling Committee**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to accept the resignation letter of Patrick Collins from the Recycling Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### 4. New Business

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

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

- b. **Discussion and possible action on reappointment of Erika Bevis as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term of 1/9/2013 to 1/8/2019**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel to reappoint Erika Bevis as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term of 1/9/2013 to 1/8/2019. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Kristin Goodwin from an alternate member of the Parks and Recreation Commission to a regular member to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 5/20/2013 to 5/19/2014**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony to appoint Kristin Goodwin from an alternate member of the Parks and Recreation Commission to a regular member to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 5/20/2013 to 5/19/2014.

- d. **Discussion and possible action on update by Peter Zvingilas, Zoning Enforcement Officer, regarding potential zoning and blight issues – P. Zvingilas discussed 177 Slater Avenue which is currently under foreclosure. It was suggested by the town attorney and agreed that the town should wait out the foreclosure process in anticipation of purchase by new owner which will cause existing liens by the town to be paid and potential clean up by the buyer.**

Patrylo's garage at 1560 Voluntown Road was discussed and it was noted the progress in removal of vehicles at that property. There is also \$102,000 in back taxes owed to the town on that property. It was discussed how large the property is and the possibility that it abuts the state forest on the back side of the property. It was briefly discussed there may be some environmental issues involved with cleanup of that property. No environmental studies have been done there, but the underground tanks have been removed. P. Anthony noted the costs that may fall onto the town if they take the property and need to remediate it. He also commented it is similar to the Triangle property and suggested if the value is over \$100,000 it may benefit the town to take the property and apply for Brownfield's Grants to remediate the property. K. Skulczyck noted he and Rich Grabowski have an appointment with the town attorney next week and will discuss this property as well as a couple others. S. Mikutel commented the town has to explore how to recover the back taxes owed on that property.

There was additional brief discussion that P. Zvingilas is the blight and zoning enforcement officer for the Borough as well, as per ordinance. It was noted that the Borough should follow through, at their expense, with their attorney regarding properties in the borough. P. Zvingilas noted the Borough has started some more formal enforcement issues with their new attorney. P. Zvingilas noted a complaint comes in; he then investigates it and forwards his findings to the Borough. The Borough then, if deemed required, sends a letter to the property owner to come in for a meeting and proceeds from there. P. Zvingilas noted the Borough used to have their own enforcement officer but those services were consolidated during receivership. K. Skulczyck asked if P. Zvingilas felt the process a hindrance to performing his job. P. Zvingilas noted the only real problem is when the same complaints are reported to him for years, when it is really the Borough that is handling them.

P. Anthony asked about Aubin Junk Yard. P. Zvingilas commented it is referred to as a junk yard, but is not a junk yard, more of a hobby. He noted the Borough has been working with the property owner who has been slowly removing vehicles from the property and the Borough seems to be satisfied with the progress.

P. Anthony noted two locations in town that have only a plastic temporary fence in place where, for safety reasons, a more permanent fence should be placed. Those locations are the old Keith's Appliance property on North Main Street and the other is on Rt. 138 on right hand side, by the storage facility, where most recently a convenience store was operating. K. Skulczyck commented that property is also under foreclosure but they will take a ride out there.

**5. Old Business – None**

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring onto the agenda for purposes of discussion, the new sewerage proposal update. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck noted the new proposal that has been agreed upon is \$20,000 gallons of sewerage a day to be made available as a stimulus in town, for those places where sewer is available. K. Skulczyck commented the hotel by Petro Max is still on as well as a small box store next to Tractor Supply. S. Mikutel commented that he and P. Anthony has worked on this with the old board and glad to see that there has been a step forward to help our economic development efforts. P. Anthony commented it is a wonderful positive and coupled with the tax ordinance that is already in place is good for the whole town. K. Skulczyck commented that Tom Giard will be on the agenda in the near future to update the Board. S. Mikutel and P. Anthony both agreed it would be great to have an update on a more regular basis to keep the lines of communication open and work together.

## 7. Public Forum

**Ransom Young** – R. Young expressed his concern that Change Wind was no longer coming to town and the loss of industry at Triangle and Wyre Wynd and that the EDC has not brought any other industry to town. K. Skulczyck commented that Wind Change is still working on coming to town.

**Dave Vieaux** – D. Vieaux commented he is pleased to learn of possible development at the Tractor Supply property but is concerned about the safety there where cars coming out are making left hand turns where they are not allowed.

**Norm Higgins** – N. Higgins commented he thought it would be a good idea if not only the EDC updated the BOS on a regular basis, but other boards and commissions as well. Residents would be able to come to those meetings where that scheduled update might interest them. He also mentioned at the Tractor Supply property, where it is a state road, there is availability for the state police to sit there and issue tickets which may minimize the amount of people turning left there. S. Mikutel commented the issue needs to be addressed more on a fundamental basis. P. Anthony noted new development there would be a good opportunity to address and correct the situation.

## 8. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant