



Town of Griswold

28 Main Street
Griswold, CT 06351



**Board of Selectman
Special Meeting
Selectmen's Meeting Room
Thursday, February 12, 2015
4:45 PM**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Meeting was called to order at 4:50 PM by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

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

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Erik Christensen, Finance Director
Mario Tristany Jr., Town Planner
Thomas Holowaty, Griswold Fire Chief
Bob Hanson, AA Young Fire Chief
Brian Baker, CIP Committee Chair
Lou Demico Jr., AA Young Lieutenant
Steve Merchant III, Griswold Lieutenant
1 interested citizen

- 2. Discussion and possible action on tax abatement program for Change Wynd Corporation** – M. Tristany commented the application is from Mr. Bardia of Change Wynd Corporation for participation in the Business Incentive/Tax Abatement as according to the Town Ordinance. The application has received the endorsement of the EDC. It was noted verification of employment statistics would be done be quarterly reporting. The application is for the entire property as well as the Change Wynd business. You have to be the owner of the property, as well as the business, to apply. K. Skulczyck noted he just received some information from Mr. Bardia on his progress with the state and will distribute that soon. K. Skulczyck noted we are required to have a town meeting for approval of the application and that would have to be done by the end of February to receive credit for this year. The application he has in with the state is for a job creation loan in the amount of \$2.3 million with a \$1.3 million forgiveness for meeting the job creation requirements. The forgiveness by the state would be prorated depending on the number of jobs created. The abatement table for the town taxes was reviewed. It was also noted that new equipment or construction may also apply under the program. The BOS was happy with the proposed numbers for job creation. It was agreed that the support from the Town would look favorably on his state application. The BOS agreed to move forward with a town meeting.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, that the BOS approve the tax abatement proposal for Change Wynd Corporation and set a town meeting date to adopt it for 6 PM on February 24, 2015 at Town Hall. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by K. Skulczyck, seconded by P. Anthony, to take a five minute recess. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting continued at 5:20 PM.

3. **Discussion and possible action on request by Ryan Aubin to hire a JRB case manager** – K. Skulczyck noted this is a federally funded program for one year. S. Mikutel is familiar with the program and fully endorses the position. P. Anthony confirmed this is a one year position and is being paid for by a grant. E. Christensen confirmed the money has already been received.

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the request of Ryan Aubin, to hire a JRB case manager at described the hourly rate and as documented with the employment opportunity title sheet. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Discussion and possible action on 2015/2016 departmental budgets**

Capital Improvements – B. Baker presented the capital improvement budget. He reviewed the two mowers (one for BOE and one for DPW) are the same in case parts or repairs are needed. They were cut down from \$60,000 for one to \$32,000 for two; that are both water cooled engines. Kubota and SKAG items were discussed and it was noted that perhaps the allotment should be made for \$16,000 for each department to purchase two identical mowers. Maintenance garage for BOE was discussed with \$30,000 proposed added to the \$30,000 already put aside and the estimated cost at about \$150,000. Last year this item was taken out by the BOE. The BOE request total is \$91,934.

Human Services – Self-contained breathing apparatus for the fire department was discussed and both Fire Department would be completely converted with the proposed allotment. Rescue utility boat and tow for AA Young was discussed. Total safety budget was \$152,400.

Highway Department is proposed an allotment of \$60,000 for half the cost of a skid steer to share with Voluntown. The only thing the CIP was concerned about was how the insurance, repairs and maintenance would be handled. K. Skulczyck noted there is a possibility the state may cover 50% of the shared equipment cost, but there is no guarantee. Road construction plan is proposed at \$600,000. Norman Road and Carol Road Bridge are allotted at \$150,000. P. Anthony asked about the roadside mower. This would be a complete replacement of the existing one. The money proposed would be put aside for the next two budgets with purchase after that. The Highway Department total is \$1,135,334.

B. Baker explained the last \$159,632 payment of the 4 year lease agreement on several pieces of equipment is July this year. They are proposing because rates are low, that we sign a new four year lease agreement for possibly a new pumper for Griswold, one large dump truck and one excavator and continue with a debt service

payment for around the same amount as the current payment. This is would secure big ticket items that are needed.

Fire Marshal – E. Christensen noted the requested increase in wages is 2.5% but he also increased the amount of hours allowed due to the expected activity in the next year. Insurance was increased \$500 and a number has not yet been received for dispatch service. Ambulance has nothing allotted. Hydrants are going up because of Pleasant View by approximately \$3000.

Bob Hanson and Tom Holowaty– Fire Departments. The stipends and physicals went up. S. Mikutel asked why the stipends went up. It was noted it depends on how much training is needed, certifications, how many calls they go on. Also, Tom Holowaty noted that last year the FICA money was not figured into the stipend and he had to take it out of the general fund or lower the amount of the stipend. There are certain check points that have to be met for a volunteer to qualify for the stipend pay, which may be a higher percentage based on what they complete. B. Hanson noted that some of the training requirements for licensing are every other weekend in excess of 100 hours. K. Skulczyck suggested that they bill for those costs associated with accidents, for out of town residents. B. Hanson noted there are services that can be billed to insurance companies. He mentioned if a billing company does that they do the work and take a percentage of the claim. It was agreed this option should be explored and have further discussion. T. Holowaty noted the cost of electricity for Griswold is going up this year. B. Hanson also noted the equipment they have is requiring more frequent testing due to its age and regulations.

Animal Control – E. Christensen noted that Larry did not want to make any changes at all.

Donation Requests – E. Christensen gave a rundown of all donation requests received to date. He did note the library is looking for \$90,000.

Highway Update – E. Christensen noted Todd is looking for a 2.5% increase as well as an additional \$2000. His contract says no less than what the union gets and the \$2,000 is his request in addition to the percentage.

***The next meeting date was set for 2/18/15 at 4:45 PM.**

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**