

15 FEB 26 PM 1:00

J. O'Neill-Eaton, asst.



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

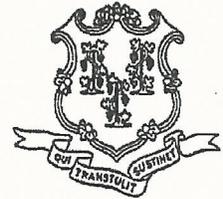
Regular Meeting

February 24, 2015

6:30 PM

Downstairs Meeting Room

Town Hall, 28 Main St., Griswold



MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by Kevin Skulczyck.

Members Present:

Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman (*arrived at 6:35pm*)

Philip Anthony, Third Selectman

Others Present:

Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Recording Secretary

Ryan Aubin, Dir. of Parks & Rec/Youth & Family Svcs.

32 other interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. February 5, 2015 – Special Meeting Minutes
- b. February 10, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. February 11, 2015 - Special Meeting Minutes
- d. February 12, 2015 - Special Meeting Minutes
- e. February 18, 2015 - Special Meeting Minutes

- f. **MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to approve the February 5, 2015 – Special Meeting Minutes, February 10, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes, February 11, 2015 - Special Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2015 - Special Meeting Minutes, and the February 18, 2015 - Special Meeting Minutes, as presented, with one change to the February 10, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes. In those minutes item 4d, should read, **It was agreed upon, by the Board, that the Senior Center Building committee should expand from six members to nine members. Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - None**

4. **New Business**

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

Tax Collector

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

- b. **Discussion and possible action on reappointment of Elizabeth R. Sibicky as a regular member of the Ethics Commission for a three year term of 1/14/15 to 1/13/18.**

MOTION: P. Anthony made a motion, seconded by S. Mikutel, to reappoint Elizabeth R. Sibicky as a regular member of the Ethics Commission for a three year term of 1/14/15 to 1/13/18. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on presentation by Duncan Cummings, Coordinator of 'GrOwn: Griswold's Own Community Garden' to revitalize the empty lot at 240 School Street to create a community garden.** K. Skulczyck asked Garden Coordinators, Duncan Cummings and Lauren Churchill to explain their plan to revitalize the Town owned empty lot on School Street. D. Cummings apologized that the address was wrong in the letter he submitted to the Board. It should have read 32 School Street, not 240 School Street. L. Churchill presented a Three-Phase Plan to the Board. It was noted that 4'x8' plots will be sold to Griswold residents, at the price of \$30 per year. This project will be done through donations, and will not be a tax burden. The Selectmen agreed that this will be a great benefit to the Town. K. Skulczyck stated that he would like to get some information from the Town's attorney and insurance company, and meet with GrOwn members to go over some things such as liabilities, alternate locations, in the event that the School Street property were to be sold, etc. and get this item back on the agenda in the next couple of weeks for a decision.

5. Old Business

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring the item of Special Town Meeting and Referendum dates for the expansion from a 3 to 5 member Board of Selectmen, onto the agenda.

S. Mikutel suggested moving the Special Town meeting and Referendum dates into March or April, to increase voter turnout. It's hard to get people out to vote with two feet of snow on the ground. Discussion followed.

MOTION: S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by P. Anthony, to cancel the previously scheduled March 16, 2015 Special Town Meeting and reschedule it for April 8, 2015 (same time and place) and that the Board of Selectmen set a referendum date on the question of whether or not the Board of Selectmen should be increased from a three member board to a five member board, for Monday, April 21, 2015, from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. The Selectmen hereby act to remove the question

from the call of the April 8th, 2015 Special Town Meeting, which is whether or not to increase the Board of Selectmen to a five member board, and send it to a referendum vote for April 21, 2015. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring an item of correspondence from Frank Everett onto the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

P. Anthony stated that Frank Everett has submitted a letter requesting to become a member of the Senior Center Building Committee. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to appoint Frank Everett as a member of the Senior Center Building Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to add the item of establishing a date to review Union Contracts onto the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck stated that Town's attorney had submitted a list of dates for when she is available to meet with the Board to discuss the new Union Contracts. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to hold a Special Board of Selectmen meeting, which will be executive session, to meet with Town attorney on Wednesday, March 4th at 4:30 pm, to go over Union negotiations. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring an item of relocating the Youth Center, and possibly the Resident Trooper's Office, to the vacated Nurse's Building on Ashland Street onto the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

P. Anthony invited R. Aubin to speak on behalf of relocating. R. Aubin stated that enrollment and opportunities for our youth would peak in this location. It was also mentioned that if the Resident Trooper's were to relocate, as well, it would eliminate the rent paid by the Borough. A number of Youth Center employees and Recreation Commission members spoke in favor of relocating the Youth Center to the Ashland Street facility. K. Skulczyck said that there are a few more issues that need to be discussed, but he would like to see this topic put on an agenda a few meetings from now, where the Board would be able to give a definitive answer on this.

7. Public Forum

Rob Parrette – Was wondering what the Board’s position would be on a new sign for out front, that identifies the Town Hall, and also has scrolling marquees on the top and bottom advertising meetings, events, etc.

Norm Higgins – Agrees with R. Parrette that there needs to be a better sign in front of the Town hall, and suggests finding private money to fund it. Also, relocating the Youth Center to the Former Nurse’s Building is an outstanding idea.

Mike Minarsky – On the topic of getting information out, there is now a radio station, 1690 AM, and website, mygriswold.com. The station will be moving three doors down from Dean’s Corner, and will have a 50” television in the window, which will have news, events, etc. on it.

Judith Merrill – Stated she was a little disappointed that the proposal to expand the Board of Selectmen from three members to five was not on this meeting’s agenda. It was also asked if this proposal is the first step towards a charter type form of government.

Dave Vieaux – Would like to know if there is any way that a synopsis of the referendum status could be posted on the Town’s website, and if there is any way to submit questions through the website.

Ed Berdick – Seeing as this is a Bicentennial year, is anything to be done to visually capture important things that transpire during the Town’s 200th year, for example, the process of trying to expand the Board of Selectmen.

Shawn Kryzminski – Stated that he supports relocating the Youth Center, and establishing a community garden. The sidewalks are atrocious and they prevent his children from getting to and from school safely.

Ransom Young – Focus on the core, which is the voter, resident, and taxpayer.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by P. Anthony, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
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