



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
February 25, 2014
6:30 PM
Downstairs Meeting Room
Town Hall, 28 Main St., Griswold



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 E. Anthony, Third Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Erik Christensen, Finance Director
9 other interested citizens
1 member of the press

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **February 11, 2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **February 12, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- c. **February 19, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**

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

3. **Correspondence** –K. Skulczyck noted that the correspondence of Griswold Ambulance Financial Statement was passed out for review

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 accept the tax refunds as presented by the Tax Collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Christopher M. Goodenough as a member of the Economic Development Commission to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 1/25/2011 to 1/24/2016 – P. Anthony commented he has worked with Mr. Goodenough and would be a benefit to the commission.**

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to appoint Christopher M. Goodenough as a member of the Economic Development Commission to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 1/25/2011 to 1/24/2016.
Motion carried unanimously.

- c. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton as Assistant Town Clerk to fill a term which began 1/6/2014 and will expire 1/8/2018** – K. Skulczyck commented, as advised by the town attorney, Jaimee is the applicant for the union position and the town should move forward as such. P. Anthony commented he has no problem with the appointment. He finds Jaimee to be very bright and to learn very quickly. S. Mikutel expressed this was advertised in-house first due to the contract and since it was bid on did not go out to the public.

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to appoint Jaimee O’Neill-Eaton as Assistant Town Clerk to fill a term which began 1/6/2014 and will expire 1/8/2018.

- d. **Discussion and possible action on approval of a supplemental appropriation for \$41,068 for liability, auto and property insurance and to forward to the Board of Finance for their approval** – E. Christensen, Finance Director, confirmed that the \$41,068 is the amount we will be over in the budget. E. Christensen confirmed for S. Mikutel that the increase was not foreseen by our brokers and was picked up the end of June after the current fiscal budget was passed. The large increase is due to (lap), liability, auto and property coverage. E. Christensen also commented it was sent out by the broker to different bidders to get the best price.

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the supplemental appropriation for \$41,068 and to forward to the Board of Finance for their approval. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action on setting a town meeting date for approval of**
i. **\$48,000 supplemental appropriation for the Bicentennial Committee for event planning as approved by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen**
ii. **\$41,068 supplemental appropriation for liability, auto and property insurance as approved by the Board of Selectmen**

- **P. Anthony recused himself from this item as he is a member of the Bicentennial Committee.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to set a town meeting date to handle the \$48,000 supplemental appropriation for the Bicentennial Committee and the \$41,068 supplemental appropriation for the liability, auto and property insurance. The date set for the meeting is March 11, 2014 at 6 PM.
Motion carried unanimously.

- **P. Anthony returned to the meeting.**

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 the item of snow removal on sidewalks, onto the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel commented he felt the progress on property owners removing snow from the sidewalks has been pretty good with the amount of snow we have had this winter. He only had only a few complaints and they were regarding Slater Avenue since that is a direct walking route to the school. P. Anthony commented he has had more than a few complaints. He sent one person to the Borough office, who had been incorrectly billed for removal of snow. P. Anthony also commented there were other complaints but with some of the properties being owned by the bank, it is difficult to get the bank to cooperate in getting someone out there to take care of it. He also noted that the Public Works department did a good job in bringing down the piles of snow on Main Street. K. Skulczyck commented there has been a storm meeting prior to each storm this year to have an action plan in place and it has worked rather well. He noted the removal of snow on Main Street was planned in advance of the storm. K. Skulczyck also commented a bill was sent out to several property owners that had snow removed from the sidewalks by the public works department. He also noted the Borough had 13 vehicles towed and did arrange for cars to park at the town property parcel down by the skate park. K. Skulczyck gave credit to the Borough as well as the resident troopers and school officials in working together to manage the snow events. He also noted town crews have been out repairing pot holes in the roads. P. Anthony commented the state roads also have a lot of pot holes and suggested calling the state. K. Skulczyck commented that T. Babbitt was reviewing the state roads today with personnel from the state department.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to bring onto the agenda for discussion the letter from Tom Giard. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck read the letter from Tom Giard, Chairman of the EDC that due to his schedule and inability to attend the regular BOS meetings expressed his concern for a special BOS meeting to discuss the next economic development initiative. A possible meeting date was selected for March 11, 2014 at 4:30 PM.

7. Public Forum

Norm Sylvestre – Noted that the microphones are not working tonight. He then asked if there was any progress on blighted properties. K. Skulczyck commented he has been going on inspections with P. Zvingilas and will have him at the March 25th meeting for an update.

Bill Czmyr – B. Czmyr commented it was asked by members of the public today, if he was coming to the meeting tonight to find out why the Bicentennial Committee is getting \$48,000 when the Ambulance needs money. K. Skulczyck noted it was the BOF that made the final decision on who gets the money and the BOS did put forward the request of \$70,000 for the ambulance. He also noted the BOF will review the Ambulance financials,

which were submitted today, at the meeting next Tuesday. B Czmyr also commented that the president has requested the hiring of veterans and 40% of the ambulance crew is veterans and they will lose their job if the ambulance closes. The Griswold ambulance is also one of the 10 veteran ambulance services in the state of Connecticut. S. Mikutel noted you can't begrudge the Bicentennial Committee because the BOF decided to award them money. B. Czmyr noted if the ambulance does not get support why should he support anything else.

Ransom Young –R. Young spoke in favor of programs to hire veterans. He also mentioned the big agencies that get the grants and what is being done for small business owners. K. Skulczyck commented that in April the town will be hosting a small business summit hosted by SECTR and SECCOG.

Betty Knox – B. Knox wanted clarification on the upcoming meeting regarding the ambulance. K. Skulczyck listed for her who would be attending.

James Barrie – J. Barrie spoke about the ESGR, Employment Support of the Guard and Reserve, which he is part of. They are volunteers with the department of defense. Through this group they run a program called Hero to Hire. The website is herotohire.org. It was asked that J. Barrie bring the information before the BOS for review.

Phil Flowers – P. Flowers asked if anything has been heard from the other boards regarding public forum. K. Skulczyck commented unofficially the BOF has approved the public forum. He noted we are waiting to hear back from other town boards as well.

Norm Higgins – N. Higgins noted he is in support of what the ambulance is trying to do. He also commented that he was shocked by the consideration of the BOE of the possibility of spending \$170,000 to purchase the house adjacent to the school, when there is no money for the ambulance. There was one lady on the BOE who was strongly against pursuing purchase of the house. We as a town need to be able to give the authority to the Finance Director to be able to invest money we have been able to put aside. He also commented that the Bicentennial should make money from sales of merchandise and put that money back into the town fund. The ambulance needs the money. He also noted that there are 170 homes in town being foreclosed on. P. Anthony commented that any money raised by fundraising for the Bicentennial will be spend first before any money in the town account is expended. N. Higgins noted it is not documented that any profit raised from the event will go back to the taxpayers. K. Skulczyck noted that the motion from the BOF for the appropriation stated that any money raised or donated would go back to the town. S. Mikutel commented the reality is that some of that money will be expended.

David Vieaux – D. Vieaux complimented the road crew. He added that in talking with residents he has discovered that many residents are not aware of what they are supposed to be doing for responsibility in maintaining their property. K. Skulczyck noted we will be doing a newsletter that will be put on the website as well as distributed and a flyer to address some of the issues will be put in the tax bills when they go out this summer.

Joel Francoeur – J. Francoeur noted that he has not yet received a written response from the Town Planner regarding the inquiry as to the establishment of boundaries. K. Skulczyck

noted he would check with the Town Planner first thing in the morning as he has requested that response from him already. J. Francoeur noted that whenever he asks anything or requests anything from the town he is told he has to put it in writing. K. Skulczyck commented if you have an actual request, it should be in writing.

Norm Sylvestre – N. Sylvestre noted there was no agenda or notice of meeting on the website and perhaps the town should check the website to see if it is working properly. K. Skulczyck noted the town is in drastic need of computer updates and will address it.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**