



# Town of Griswold

## Board of Selectmen

### Regular Meeting

April 8, 2014

6:30 PM

Selectmen's Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Town Hall, 28 Main St., Griswold



## APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 6:31 by First Selectman, Kevin Skulczyck

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

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent  
Atty. James Tallberg  
8 interested citizens  
1 member of the press

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **March 25, 2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **March 31, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- c. **April 3, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the March 25, 2014 regular meeting minutes and the April 3, 2014 special meeting minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to approve the March 31, 2014 special meeting minutes. P. Anthony and K. Skulczyck in favor, S. Mikutel abstained. **Motion carried.**

3. **Correspondence**

- a. **Letter of Resignation of Jamie Caporaso from the Recreation Commission**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to accept the resignation of Jamie Caporaso from the Recreation Commission. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**b. Letter of Resignation of Ben Hull from the Planning & Zoning Commission**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to accept the resignation of Ben Hull. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**4. New Business**

**a. Executive Session – Discussion with town legal representation regarding pending litigation**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to enter into executive session (at 6:34 PM) to discuss the legal issue of Johanson vs. Town of Griswold and to invite in Attorney James Tallberg, representing the Town, and Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to come out of executive session at 7:26 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**b. Discussion and possible action regarding pending litigation**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to postpone any action on the plaintiff's proposed settlement in the matter of Norman Johanson, et al vs. Town of Griswold, Docket No. CV-12-6014370 as it has been deemed by the Board of Selectmen unacceptable as presented. We are recommending this be postponed in order to give all parties concerned, plaintiff and defendant, a chance to negotiate more acceptable terms, and then come back before the Board of Selectmen to reconsider anything that comes before the Board. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**d. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Jean Michaud as a member of the Recycling Committee to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 9/1/2011 – 8/31/2015**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to appoint Jean Michaud as a member of the Recycling Committee to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 9/1/2011 – 8/31/2015. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**e. Discussion and possible action on appointment of Thomas Szafranski from an alternate position on the Recreation Commission to a regular member position to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 5/16/2010 – 5/15/2016**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to table action on this item until a letter from Mr. Szafranski is received. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **Discussion and possible action on possible amendment to the Ethics Ordinance –** It was mentioned Liz Sibicky, chairwoman, was present, but must not have been able to stay.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to table action on this item till next regular meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- g. **Discussion and possible action authorizing a resolution allowing the First Selectman to sign a contract for the Connecticut State Library Historic Documents Preservation Grant**

**MOTION:** - Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to authorize the resolution allowing the First Selectman to sign a contract for the Connecticut State Library Historic Documents Preservation Grant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to go back to item 4f. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Liz Sibicky, Chairwoman of the Ethics Commission, explained proposed language to be added on the proper determination and procedure for recusal. She suggested the language be placed under Chapter 56 “Meetings” of the Code of Ordinances as it really has to do more with meeting procedures. She explained it is more the Ethics job to determine whether or not someone should recuse themselves rather than what the procedure is. The consensus was to send it forward to the town attorney to make sure there is no problem with the proposed language and to see what section of the ordinance he feels it should be added to.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve to send to the town attorney for review, the proposed language and his suggestion to place it in Chapter 56 or Chapter 35 of the Code of Ordinances, and then move forward to town meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**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 add to the agenda for discussion and possible action, under Any Other Business, the issue of Homeland Security Grant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Brief review was given noting the Grant allows for special equipment to be used by the town in case of emergency situations.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to authorize the First Selectman to execute all documents necessary for the FY 2013 State Homeland Security Grant Program and to adopt the attached resolution. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 7. Public Forum

**Norm Sylvestre** – Mr. Sylvestre noted lack of improvement in 16 blighted properties in town. K. Skulczyck noted this was discussed at the last meeting, when the ZEO gave a report. It was suggested to Mr. Sylvestre that he come into the office tomorrow to compare his list of properties with the recent report submitted by the ZEO.

**Norman Johanson** – N. Johanson wanted to know what happened with item 4a and 4b as he was not in the room when it was discussed. P. Anthony read aloud the motion that was made on item 4b. K. Skulczyck noted there could be no other comment as it is a pending legal matter.

**Agnes Vowels** – A. Vowels wanted to know what the development was going on at the end of Pleasant View. It was explained for her that it is a duplex housing development that was approved by the town years ago and the developer had not been able to, until now, to move forward with the project.

**Norm Higgins** – N. Higgins gave a brief overview to Mrs. Vowels of the Pleasant View property. He also noted he agreed with the Board of Selectmen that there has been a lot of progress on the blight issues that Mr. Sylvestre has brought forward. As far as maintaining property by cutting grass or growing flowers, the Town does not have a lot of control over that.

**Valerie Pudvah** – V. Pudvah, Town Clerk, wanted to know what happened with item 4g. It was noted it was approved.

**Ransom Young** – R. Young noted that today on the radio show, there was comment as to whether or not the city of Norwich, for example, could charge a tax to the municipal employees that work in the town, but do not live there. K. Skulczyck noted he also heard that on the radio, however it is a NY law that was designed for the Manhattan area and his personal opinion is that he would not feel comfortable with it as we want people to come here and work.

## 8. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant**