



# Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

April 12, 2016

6:30 PM

Griswold Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room  
28 Main St, Jewett City, CT 06351



## MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

**Members Present:** Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman  
Steve Merchant, Sr. – Second Selectman  
Martin McKinney, Jr. – Third Selectman

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
6 other interested citizens

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **March 22, 2016 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- b. **March 22, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- c. **April 5, 2016 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney to approve the March 22, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes, March 22, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 5, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Correspondence - None**

5. **New Business**

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to approve the one tax refund in the amount of \$595.80. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on possibility of creating additional downtown parking space** – Plan was presented by EDC member, James Barnie. He showed the lots on Soule St. as lots 9, 15 + 19. He has been speaking with Phil and Ron Anthony, owners of the property. The improvements would be made by the town and would include grade and install stone dust or gravel, install wooden posts and concrete berms along back of parking area, town would maintain the property and the

Town and Borough would grant tax relief for the use of the property. Cost to the town of abated taxes would be about \$2000 and around \$300 to the Borough. The town would provide liability insurance and hold the Anthony's harmless. The term would of the agreement would be for five years, but either party could withdraw from the agreement with a six month notice. S. Merchant asked how much the anticipated improvement costs would be. M. McKinney had a concern of the term being long enough and the investment if the Town makes the improvements and then turns around and gives a six month notice they want to get out. Then the town invested the money and did not get to receive the benefits for a long enough time. J. Barrie was not sure they would agree to anything more than a six month notification. K. Skulczyck commented he doesn't anticipate the improvement costs being more than \$2,000.

**6. Old Business - None**

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to bring onto the agenda discussion of a worksheet on debt service over the past ten years. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Merchant commented the debt service was being questioned at the meeting the other night. He felt the comments were out of line and made the BOS look bad. Most of the debt service belongs to the BOE. E. Christensen, Finance Director, provided a breakdown of debt service over the past ten years. K. Skulczyck commented this year's budget has around an 8.3% decrease in debt service. This general government reflects the debt service, good or bad. This year's budget came in at a decrease with the debt service. BOE members felt that the BOS is not transparent as they show a decrease including the debt service. E. Christensen did some research over the percentage increase over ten years, excluding debt service. Other than one year when the general government reinstated some full time positions, the increase on the general government side has been minimal. Over the past ten years, the overall increase without figuring in debt service, on the general government side was \$14,374 or 0.32 percent. The same ten year total for the BOE was \$3,452,294 or 15.19 percent. S. Merchant commented what really bothered him is that the BOS has really tried to work together and comments made that night were going in the wrong direction. M. McKinney commented if the debt service would have been shown towards the roads only, the BOE would even look worse on the numbers side. K. Skulczyck commented he does stand behind both budgets presented.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by K. Skulczyck, seconded by M. McKinney, to bring onto the agenda an update from the State budget proposals. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck commented the legislative proposal is about a \$100,000 cut to the ECS funding, which actually is very moderate compared to some other towns. The Governor's budget cut is proposing \$450,000 from ECS funding. The cut amounts being proposed follow no format. What he is being told is, it will probably fall somewhere in the middle.

## 8. Public Forum

**Ransom Young** – R. Young noted roads that still need patching or other repair. He also spoke briefly about the proposed parking for downtown. He also mentioned the BOE budget and salaries of the teachers as well as their retirement funding.

**Dave Vieaux** – D. Vieaux commented not to worry about what certain people said at the meeting about the general government budget as he feels residents are aware of the difference between the two budgets. D. Vieaux also commented on a letter regarding the Solar Farm moving in on Rt. 138. He was informed he can come to town hall and get a copy of any letter and there is a site walk next week. He was also looking for a copy of the stipulated judgement with American Industries.

**Ed Berdick** – E. Berdick expressed his opinion that people speaking at the meeting the meeting the other night were intellectually dishonest. The meeting was lightly attended, but some of those attending do take what is said as true. The leadership of that Board should have corrected them if they knew the figures being presented were wrong.

**James Barnie** – J. Barnie mentioned he agreed with what was said and the facts are out, but would like to see everyone move forward as a team.

## 9. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant