



# Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

April 28, 2015

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 Mikutel, Second Selectman  
Philip Anthony, Third Selectman

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk  
Richard Grabowski, Tax Collector  
Ryan Aubin, Director of Parks & Recreation/Youth Center  
Thomas Giard, EDC Chairman  
1 member of the press  
14 interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **March 24, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **April 2, 2015 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- c. **April 10, 2015 – Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015 regular meeting, April 2, 2015 special meeting and the April 10, 2015 special meeting, as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - None**

4. **New Business**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to skip to agenda item 4b. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action authorizing a resolution allowing the First Selectman to sign a contract for the Connecticut State Library Historic Documents Preservation** – S. Mikutel noted that Town Council and Board of Alderman had to be removed from the proposed resolution.

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

- c. Presentation by Jason Vincent of NCDC on establishing a revolving loan fund** – Jason Vincent & Bob Mills of NCDC, Donald LaPointe of CT Economic and Community Development and Thomas Giard, EDC Chairman, all spoke on the aspects of the revolving loan program. J. Vincent and B. Mills explained they are a 501(C)3 and are non-profit. They spoke about their lease rebate program, their code correction program and their revolving loan program. The most popular program is the lease rebate, then code correction and then revolving loan. The revolving loan program was set up as a town bond. They did note they spent money setting up the program and did have one loan that defaulted. A façade improvement, sign or marketing program may have been better utilized with grants in Norwich, than the revolving loan. The underwriting for the revolving loan is done through Eastern Savings Bank. You want to outsource the administration of the loan. The key to making the revolving loan work is to know your market. In the case of Norwich, they would have put that money into something else. They did suggest checking out your market, don't limit to just downtown. Each of the programs offered by NCDC has a variable committee of three made up from a pool of business owner volunteers. D. LaPointe noted their agency loans are strictly for business and may be for working capital or equipment costs for example. He suggests limiting the amount of money a person can get through the revolving loan and specify what it may be used for. The CT ECD can provide loans to that same applicant as a partner to help meet the needs of the business. Their loans are for small business only, under 100 employees, and must show job creation. Money acquired from the town could be used to apply with the state for the matching grant program. J. Vincent suggested holding a town forum before starting the program to find out what the uses of money for potential customers may be. A revolving loan fund is self-sustaining, but will make no money. The principal would come back to your fund and the interest would go to the bank for administering the loan. An RFP was done by NCDC to find the bank willing to administer the loan and a copy of that RFP was requested.

- a. 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 accept the tax refunds as submitted by Tax Collector, Rich Grabowski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. Discussion and possible action on proposed ordinance submitted by the Recreation Commission** – R. Aubin noted the idea is to make all parks under the

jurisdiction of the Recreation Department to be smoke free. The proposed ordinance does allow for a specified area to be marked during public events held at the park, as they do not want to exclude everyone from enjoying the town events. R. Aubin noted the Eagle Scouts are currently working on a project at Veteran's Memorial Park that would accommodate nicely, but each park would be a different location which would be suitable. There would also have to be signage put up indicating no smoking park and smoking areas.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to send the ordinance to town attorney for review alongside similar ordinances from other towns. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action on request by Philip and Sandra Belisle to purchase a parcel of land at 1559 Voluntown Road**
- f. **Discussion and possible action on potential sale of property located at 74 Richardson Hill Road**

Richard Grabowski, Tax Collector, commented that both parcels mentioned in item e and f are properties the town has foreclosed on for back taxes. Residents of properties adjoining to those foreclosed upon, have come forward and made reasonable offers to purchase the properties. He noted he considers these properties to be pretty much unbuildable. R. Grabowski recommends the BOS move forward to town meeting for approval of sale. K. Skulczyck noted the 1559 property had gas tanks on that property that were removed and the interested buyer has made his offer to purchase the property in said condition and will hold the town harmless should there be any environmental issues.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, on item 4e to host sale of town owned land to Philip and Sandra Belisle for said address of 1559 Voluntown Road (Rt. 138) on one condition that a waiver of all liability, to hold the town harmless, should be executed on or before the sale and be a notarized document at point of execution of said deed. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, on item 4f to approve the town sale of town owned land located at 74 Richardson Hill Road to Daryl and Pamela Schlender on the condition that they are buying said 74 Richardson Hill Road property in as is condition and the buyer is willing to sign an affidavit and/or notarized statement prepared by town's attorney that the Town is held harmless for anything found or any problems that occur after said sale. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck noted both above are contingent upon approval at town meeting.

- g. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of James Barnie as an alternate member of the Senior Center Building Committee**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to appoint James Barnie as an alternate member of the Senior Center Building Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- h. Discussion and possible action on request by Alan Geer, Borough Warden, for recommendation of support for a seat on the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Government** – K. Skulczyck noted that the town of Groton and the City of Groton both have a seat at SCCOG as well as Stonington and the Borough of Stonington. If the Borough of Jewett City were able to get a seat on SCCOG it gives the Town of Griswold as a whole additional opportunities for funding based on qualifications of the Borough. Both P. Anthony and S. Mikutel noted their support.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, that the BOS support having a representative from the Borough of Jewett City on the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck noted he will present a letter of support to the SCCOG and then it will need to be voted upon.

**5. Old Business – None**

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring onto the agenda for discussion, an update on the Main Street Project. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck noted he spoke with Paul Brycki and Jason Knight and has a good feeling about the STEAP grant. He also mentioned he brought in Jewett City Electric to speak with them about maintaining the lights. The application in for consideration is for \$384,000 and would be enough to finish the project. He did note the switch boxes have been removed from the plan as the lights will be directly wired into Jewett City Electric. K. Skulczyck noted getting a meeting with Ken Sullivan to trim some expenses. P. Anthony noted he would like to be included in that meeting.

**7. Public Forum**

**Ransom Young** – R. Young spoke briefly on the earlier presentation by NCDC.

**David Vieaux** – D. Vieaux commended the desire of town officials to bring business into town, but has a grave concern regarding changing the balance of the town's rural, nature and small downtown atmosphere. He also noted his concern for a recent change of zone that took place at a meeting of the Planning & Zoning Commission before the public had an opportunity to be heard at a public hearing three meetings later. K. Skulczyck commented he would pull the Planning & Zoning minutes and check into that.

**Norm Higgins** – N. Higgins wanted to commend Ryan Aubin on bringing forward the proposed No Smoking ordinance for town parks. However, he does not see how the proposed \$50 fine can be imposed without having a town police force. He suggested possible language allowing the First Selectman or another appointee having the authority to issue the ticket or a summons. He also noted that properly placed signage would greatly eliminate people from smoking in non-designated areas.

**Ed Berdick** – E. Burdick commented the caveat in the motion for selling the town owned properties is a good idea but does not exclude environmental regulators or the government from coming after the town.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant