



# Town of Griswold

28 Main Street  
Griswold, CT 06351  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting

Downstairs Meeting Room, Griswold Town Hall  
Tuesday, May 10, 2011  
6:30 PM  
APPROVED MINUTES



**1. Call to Order:** P. Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

**Members Present:** Philip Anthony, First Selectman  
Steven Mikutel, Second Selectman  
Theresa Madonna, Third Selectwoman (arrived at 6:33 PM)

**Also Present:**

Lisa Wood, Executive Assistant  
7 interested citizens

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. **MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the April 12, regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- b. **MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the April 18, 2011 special meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- c. **MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the April 25, 2011 special meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**\*T. Madonna arrived at this point (6:33 PM)**

**3. Correspondence**

- a. **Documents submitted by Peter Zvingilas, ZEO, on status of blighted buildings and documents filed by Atty. Willis against Democles property at 411 Voluntown Rd.** - items were distributed and reviewed by the Board
- b. **Correspondence from Norm Sylvestre – status of blighted buildings** – item was distributed and reviewed by the Board – it was noted to ask Mr. Zvingilas to complete his work in typed format and send via e-mail

#### 4. New Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax rebates as presented by Rich Grabowski, Tax Collector – refund of \$48.89 for excess payment to Edward A. Garceau Jr.**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to approve the tax rebates of \$48.89 for excess payment to Edward A. Garceau Jr. as recommended by the Tax Collector. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on agreement with the Slater Library to place a sign on town property** – P. Anthony commented the library would like to place a sign adjacent to the library which belongs to the Town. The library has already paid for half the cost of the sign, not realizing it was proposed to be on property that belonged to the town. The sign would be for posting events at the library and would be approximately 5'x6'. P. Anthony proposed a basic agreement that would state the Town gives the library permission to place the sign on the town property with the understanding that at any time in the future the town requests the sign to be removed, it must be removed, and with the condition the library maintain the sign. It would be an anchored, but removable sign. The sign has been approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission and meets regulations. The library came to P. Anthony for approval and P. Anthony suggested bringing this before the Board of Selectmen. S. Mikutel commented it is quite a large sign and with the library being a historical building, would like to take a look at a picture of what the sign is going to look like and where it is actually going to be placed. T. Madonna agreed the library should be able to provide a drawing to the Board for review.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to table action on authorizing an agreement with the Slater Library to place a sign on town property. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Executive Session – Discussion and possible action on hiring a Finance Director as recommended by the Executive Level Search Committee**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to enter into executive session at 6:43 PM for the purpose of discussion and possible action on hiring a Finance Director. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Executive Session ended at 7:10 PM**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to table action on hiring a Finance Director until a completed background check has been received. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to sign an agreement between the State of Connecticut Department of Correction and the Town of Griswold for inmate workers to perform appropriate tasks within the Town** – P. Anthony commented this is a well supervised program that is held statewide to help with work in the Public Works Department. The program was cut

about a year and a half ago and they have started the program back up. P. Anthony commented he called and got a waiver from the state for fees on a year to year basis and the agreement can be cancelled at any time. The state will also provide all transportation. The crew would be supervised by the state of Connecticut employee with guidance from our road superintendent on what tasks need to be completed. S. Mikutel commented that all inmates must be scanned and evaluated for the safety of the public.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna to authorize the First Selectman to sign an agreement between the State of Connecticut Department of Correction and the Town of Griswold for inmate workers to perform appropriate supervised tasks within the Town of Griswold and the agreement must include the information on the request for offender work detail. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 5. Old Business – None

- a. **Discussion and possible action authorizing the First Selectman to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of Griswold with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of 2 (two) Resident State Troopers for the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013** – P. Anthony commented he has spoken to the Sergeant at Troop E and he is fine with providing written incident reports to the BOS when requested. T. Madonna stated the agreement for the borough to pay fees says it is an amendment to the agreement which expired 15 years ago. You cannot amend something that has expired and does not exist. She would be willing to move forward with the contract if a new letter of agreement were provided similar to the original one and perhaps include a clause that the agreement be renewable unless it is cancelled.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to authorize the First Selectman to execute, on behalf of the Town of Griswold, with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of 2 (two) Resident State Troopers for the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 on the condition that we concurrently execute a current agreement for reimbursement of expenses from the Borough of Jewett City to the Town of Griswold. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 6. Any Other Business that may come before the Board - None

## 7. Public Forum

- a. **Ransom Young** – requested final ruling on whether or not the town would compensate him for services performed at Rixtown Cemetery. P. Anthony commented compensation would not be granted as authorization for services performed was not provided.

- b. **Norm Higgins** – commented again on the sight line at Pleasant View, he did notice there has been some cutting of tree limbs across the street. The residence on the corner has planted three new bushes on their property that may interfere with the sight line in the summer. P. Anthony commented as they have discussed before, they can not address the issue of the flowers or bushes at this point, because at this point there is not a sight line issue. Mr. Higgins commented he can see the need for the inmate work crews in town. He also commented that regarding the position of Finance Director, perhaps consideration should be given to an employee working for the town already in the Finance Department to have the opportunity to go forward with schooling to be able to perform the position of Finance Director. He also commented that with the sign at the library, we should look at the size of the sign and the possibility of the town hall not being located in this building forever. The library has been able to do what they have been doing without a sign at this point. P. Anthony commented the BOS has already determined they will review the design of the sign and any agreement would not be binding to permanency.
- c. **Norm Sylvestre** – commented on his letter to the BOS discussed earlier and failure of enforcement of the violations. He stated he was called out to Tracy Ave. today to observe a blight situation consisting of a truck in the yard filled with garbage, a boat in the yard and a house across the street that is falling down. A complaint may not have been officially filed but the situation is obvious and reports and inspections should be performed on a routine basis. P. Anthony commented there has been some progress on enforcing the violations listed in Mr. Sylvestre's letter. T. Madonna asked that Mr. Zvingilas be requested to address the violations in Mr. Sylvestre's letter that have not been responded to. Mr. Sylvestre also had

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna to bring onto the agenda under Any Other Business, enforcement of zoning violations as noted in Mr. Sylvestre's letter to the Board of Selectmen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 6. Any Other Business that may come before the Board – (cont'd)

- a. **Discussion and possible action on report of outstanding zoning violations as mentioned in Mr. Sylvestre's letter to the Board of Selectmen**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, that the Board of Selectmen request a professionally submitted report from the Zoning Officer which deals with a status report on 120 N Main St. apartment house, 598 Voluntown Rd., 18 Mechanic St., soda warehouse corner of N. Main & Talcott Streets, former Stott Brothers property, the Aubin property, Dutch Uncle Route 12 property, Patrylo Garage at 1560 Voluntown Rd. and 60 Rt. 164 as indicated in Mr. Sylvestre's letter to the Board of Selectmen received April 29, 2011, and also the Tracy Ave. property mentioned tonight by Mr. Sylvestre, such report to be received by the Board of Selectmen before the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**7. Public Forum (cont'd)**

- d. Debra Robinson** – spoke of her personal experience with working with the inmate crews and voiced her support for having them perform work for the Town.

**8. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Lisa M. Wood,  
Recording Secretary*