



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
May 10, 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 Mikutel Sr., Second Selectman
Martin McKinney Jr., Third Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Mario Tristany, Town Planner
Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent
37 other interested citizens
1 member of the press

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Pledge of Allegiance was recited
3. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **April 26, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2016 regular meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Correspondence** - None

5. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Rich Grabowski, Tax Collector** – None
 - b. **Unveiling of the Bicentennial Charter as presented by the Bicentennial Committee** – K. Skulczyck and BOS members thanked the committee for a great job. Larry Laidley, Bicentennial Chairman, introduced Cecile Roberge to present information about the signing events that took place. C. Roberge gave thanks to all those involved and outlined the process of the signing. L. Laidley thanked everyone before the unveiling of the charter and proclamations. He also noted there will be a book forthcoming that highlights the events that took place and that book will be for sale.

- c. **Discussion and possible action on approval of Certified Resolution of the Griswold Board of Selectmen for the 2016 Main Street Investment Fund (MSIF) Grant Program** – M. Tristany, Town Planner, gave a brief explanation of the proposed resolution. This has been done in the past and was received in 2011 for the state of the Main Street Lighting. The intent of this MSIF grant application is to continue with some of the Main Street Master Plan specifically a façade improvement program and the creation of Eliza Alley.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to approve the resolution. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of James Barnie from an alternate member of the Senior Center Building Committee to a regular member**

MOTION: Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to appoint James Barnie from an alternate member of the Senior Center Building Committee to a regular member. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action on moving Douglas Joslyn to an alternate position member and Judith Merrill to a regular position member** – T. Babbitt, Sr. Center Building Committee Chair, commented that do to Mr. Joslyn’s travel schedule this would be beneficial to the committee. K. Skulczyck asked Todd to present a future update on the project.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney to appoint Douglas Joslyn to an alternate position member and Judith Merrill to a regular position member. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of Lisa Martell as an alternate member of the Senior Center Building Committee** – T. Babbitt spoke in favor of Lisa Martell based on her knowledge of the daily activity of the center.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to appoint Lisa Martell as an alternate member of the Senior Center Building Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- g. **Discussion and possible action on the BOS holding a town hall style meeting to get resident input on the possible gun range proposed by the state** – K. Skulczyck commented the purpose of this agenda item is to schedule a meeting. There is public forum where those who are present would like to speak will have to ability to do so. He noted that everything to this point has been controlled by DAS and the procurement process they utilize does not include municipalities. He suggests the BOS send a letter to the Commissioner that states we do not support the project moving forward without full disclosure of the project to the entire community. M. McKinney commented he would like to know what the town liabilities and responsibilities are as well as funding.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinnie to draft such letter to the Commissioner. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion ensued and it was agreed to add a time line for response within twenty days.

MOTION: Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant, to amend the motion for the letter to include a time line for response within twenty days. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on update of creating additional downtown parking space** – K. Skulczyck provided update regarding costs of \$15,000 – 20,000 associated with necessary improvements to the Anthony, School St., property in order to be used for parking.

MOTION: Motion was made by M. McKinney, seconded by S. Merchant to deny the application due to the cost of the ADA compliance issues, amount of money to be spent and the short term of the lease. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, setting of the annual town meeting date. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to hold the annual town meeting on Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7 PM at the GHS cafeteria. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to bring contract negotiations onto the agenda for discussion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to enter into executive session at 7:05 PM to discuss contract negotiations. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to come out of executive session at 7:22 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. Public Forum

Ransom Young – R. Young complained about the condition of Rixtown Rd. He would like to see two teachers reduced from the BOE budget and money put into the roads. S. Merchant also denied his claims in regards to the inability to properly operate of a fire truck at the recent Pine Rd. fire.

David Vieaux – D. Vieaux had heard all four sites were still available as possible shooting range sites and also was informed that they plan on holding large quantities of ammunition and powder there and has concerns over safety if there were an explosion there.

Steve Douglas – S. Douglas is totally against gun range and recommends the letter being sent to the Commissioner simply states Griswold is not interested. He is also concerned about the proximity to the reservoir.

Tom Gaudreau – T. Gaudreau commented that Congressman Courtney points out that there are so many other possibilities at the National Guard facility location. He agrees sending a letter stating Griswold does not want the gun range. Noted the tax base will get small due to revenue loss in property tax and suggests holding a town meeting as soon as possible. He presented maps showing radius of location.

Tina Falck – T. Falck supports original recommendation that more information be gathered and would like to hear both sides of the story.

Pam Patalano – P. Patalano noted this effects other neighboring towns as well and noted the town may want to consider that.

Betty Knox – B. Knox wanted to know about solar panel project going into her neighborhood. K. Skulczyck noted there is a solar farm in the process of securing a location on Rt. 138. The siting council has control on whether or not the project goes through. Our local wetlands department has made suggestions only. If it does pass the first phase would start the opposite side of Ms. Knox's property. K. Skulczyck the power would be sold to suppliers and there is no intended rebate for local residents but it will add to the tax base in the amount of \$470,000 in revenue.

Judy Webster – J. Webster asked for an update on Sheldon Road bridge and the dam. It was noted the dam will be completed and water back next spring and the bridge will be completed in approximately two years.

Norm Sylvestre – N. Sylvestre wanted to know about the condition of chip sealing on Taylor Hill Rd. T. Babbitt commented they will be back out there to clean up some of the stone debris but the road will still appear stone like.

Ladonna Cordin – L. Cordin noted she has not seen anything in the plans for the shooting range that addresses noise cancelling methods.

Dave Vieaux – D. Vieaux commented he spoke with the Major and confirmed there are no plans for noise cancelling berms or anything of that nature.

Karen Brycki – K. Brycki asked if there was any way to get someone from DEEP to provide a recommendation on the environmental and safety issues. She also noted she does not feel they will visit our local businesses whereas the campers and hikers that may not come now, do visit our businesses.

Steve Douglas – Mentioned when services are held in Fanning Park, ceremonies should pay attention to the schedule of the chimes from the church and wait a few minutes to start if need be.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by M. McKinney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**