



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Special Meeting

May 31, 2016

6:30 PM

Griswold High School Auditorium

267 Slater Avenue, Griswold, CT



MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** - Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Kevin Skulezyck.

Members Present:

Kevin Skulezyck, First Selectman
Steven Merchant, Sr., Second selectman
Martin McKinney, Third Selectman

Others Present:

Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton, Recording Secretary
Approximately 200 other interested citizens

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Discussion and possible action on a petition received by the Town Clerk, from Anthony Cardin, regarding the proposed Lee Road site for the State Police Firearms Training Facility, with guidance from the Town Attorney on the scope of the Town's authority and options for responding to the proposed State Police Firearms Training Facility**
K. Skulezyck invited Anthony Cardin to speak in regards to the petition he submitted to the Town. A. Cardin outlined the petition process for the public, to educate them on how the process works.

Town attorneys Mark Branse and Caleb Hamel of Branse & Willis, who have represented the Town in land use law for roughly 25 years, were in attendance to discuss the petition that was submitted by A. Cardin, and the Town's authority and options regarding the proposed Training Facility. These attorneys also represented the Town of Willington in their fight against the same facility. Attorney Branse stated that the petition, as presented, cannot go forward to a town meeting or referendum, due to the fact that it is not a legal petition. The petition question asks if the Town of Griswold should approve the site, the Town does not have the authority to approve this privately owned piece of property for any use. Both attorneys outlined the process the Town of Willington went through in an effort to prevent the State from building in their town. It was suggested that Griswold appropriate funds to cover legal fees and environmental studies. It was also recommended that residents should start doing some fundraising, as well as looking to tap local resident's expertise, such as legal opinions and environmental information, if possible in an effort to help offset costs to the Town. Attorney Branse recommended that the Town begin with appropriating \$100,000, but there are no guarantees that will be enough. This process could potentially cost upwards of \$800,000. Discussion followed.

RECEIVED
4:59 pm
JUN - 2 2016
Orwell-Eaton
TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF GRISWOLD

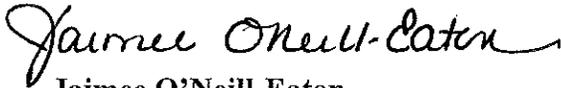
MOTION: S. Merchant made a motion, which was seconded by M. McKinney, to appropriate the funds needed to resolve this issue. Discussion followed. M. McKinney amended the original motion, to state that the Board of Selectmen moves to forward the question, SHALL THE TOWN OF GRISWOLD APPROPRIATE \$100,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND BALANCE TO CAPITAL PROJECTS, AS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMENT AND RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF HIRING LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS TO ASSIST THE TOWN OF GRISWOLD IN THE EVALUATION AND OPPOSITION OF THE STATE POLICE FIREARMS TRAINING FACILITY RELOCATION PROJECT IN GRISWOLD, CONNECTICUT, to the Board of Finance. Motion was seconded by S. Merchant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. Discussion and possible action on a creating a resolution regarding the State Police Firearms Training Facility – No Action Taken

5. Adjournment

MOTION: M. McKinney made a motion, seconded by S. Merchant, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jaimee O'Neill-Eaton
Recording Secretary