



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

June 10, 2014

6:30 PM

Downstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall
28 Main Street, Griswold



APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – 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
Peter Zvingilas, ZEO/Building Official
11 other interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **May 28, 2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes** – S. Mikutel noted he would like an addition made to the minutes in regards to the situation of picking up trash at the park. To be specific, he wanted it noted that the BOS must pinpoint accountability for picking up the trash and holding that person(s) accountable. P. Anthony wanted an addition noted in regards to the 501(3)c of the Bicentennial. More specifically, that accountant Lionel LaSalle is the accountant donating his time and effort to secure the status.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to accept the minutes of May 28, 2014 regular meeting minutes as amended to include the two additions (as noted above). **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - Update on moving forward with ordinance for “Bid Preference for Town-Based Businesses”** – K. Skulczyck noted this has been an ongoing process. S. Mikutel noted he did have concerns quite a while ago and needs to refresh those concerns in his mind, but will be in support of it at some point. It was mentioned to bring this onto the agenda under Any Other Business, for further discussion.

4. **New Business**

- 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 item 4a tax refunds as presented by Rich Grabowski and to include the one received today for Ford Credit. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on setting a special town meeting date as requested by the Board of Finance** – K. Skulczyck noted that June 17th is the date which has been recommended. S. Mikutel noted it is the BOS that picks the date and confirmed that date with Valerie Pudvah, Town Clerk. He also had it verified that no date for the special meeting has been sent to the paper yet. P. Anthony noted for the record, since it is not noted in the agenda that the special town meeting is for the budget. K. Skulczyck noted the special town meeting is for the revised proposed school budget only.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony to set the special town meeting date for June 17th at 6:30 PM at the Griswold Middle School cafeteria. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. Discussion and possible action on update by Peter Zvingilas, ZEO** – P. Zvingilas provided the BOS with an update on pending zoning violations around town. He did note most the information presented is from the previous two months, since he has been away on vacation for three weeks. K. Skulczyck asked for an update on 175 Bethel Rd. P. Zvingilas noted the site was visited in may and there was confusion because there was a tenant there. Since then, the owner has been contacted and the boundary lines of the property need to be measured out to determine who the land actually belongs to. P. Zvingilas noted the land should be easily measured by the meets and bounds presented in the deed by starting and measuring from the existing stone wall. P. Zvingilas commented he should be able to accomplish determining the boundaries by measuring and by aerial photos that Mario has. S. Mikutel asked what the town ordinance allows us to fine a person for being out of compliance. P. Zvingilas suggested there is a daily fee, but in order to impose that he needs to go to court and needs to have the proof of whose property the tires are on. P. Anthony agreed to distinguish the boundaries first and hire a surveyor only if need be. S. Mikutel wanted it noted for the record, that as soon as it is determined who has responsibility for disposing of the trash or whatever it is, that person is notified they have so many days to dispose of it, or the town will impose a daily fine. P. Zvingilas commented there is a procedure for an appeal to a hearing officer, who is Steven Way.

K. Skulczyck asked about 12 Maple St. P. Zvingilas noted the property has been cleaned and the cars have been removed. He did however; just get another complaint, for some other trash at the property.

K. Skulczyck asked about 61 Leah Ave. P. Zvingilas noted he has not had a chance to get out there since his return from vacation. He has heard the activity is ongoing and plans to get out there this week. K. Skulczyck noted if so, then we will need to pursue a fine for that violation.

P. Anthony noted the vacant lot on North Main Street, has been brought up several times in the past. There still remains only an orange survey fence there that gives no protection to someone going down the banking and causes a town liability. P. Zvingilas and K. Skulczyck noted they would take a ride over there tomorrow.

P. Anthony also, noted the mini mart on Rt.1 38 where there is a similar fence with a ditch behind it. P. Zvingilas noted he believes that situation has been rectified with a barrier, but would confirm.

- d. Discussion and possible action on release of 1987 welfare lien on the property of Helen Bushnell** – K. Skulczyck noted he has spoke to town attorney Ray Baribeault and has provided the BOS with a written opinion from him. P. Anthony asked what efforts have been made to research the status of the lien and the dollar amount. K. Skulczyck noted it goes back to before when there was a flood and documents were lost. This has been verified by the Town Clerk, town attorney, his own research as well as Atty. Stuart Norman. Atty. Norman who represents the estate of Helen Bushnell, noted someone wants to buy this property that has been vacant for a number of years and renovate it. In the past, the welfare liens were submitted for an amount and paid as part of the transfer. However, there is no information available. P. Anthony noted there is nothing to lose if we don't know how much it is and having a property owner who is going to improve it would generate revenue. K. Skulczyck agreed. S. Mikutel had no objections.

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve item 4d and release the 1987 welfare lien on the estate of Helen Bush for 20-22 Pulaski Street. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business -None

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

- a. MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, the item of the stolen town property and the status of that court case. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel commented that according to the letter from the State's Attorney, there is a June 25th court date in the State of RI. S. Mikutel noted we need to have our voice heard by at a minimum, sending a letter to whomever is handling the prosecution, stating the town wants to be heard on this issue and does not want a plea agreement reached without consulting the town. We then need to decide if anyone from the town wants to attend and he noted he would be willing to attend if he is available and welcomes anyone to go with him. He also wanted to know if CT is prosecuting anything. K. Skulczyck noted CT is prosecuting and the next court date is June 21st in Norwich Superior Court. A letter was sent to the prosecutor's office in Norwich letting them know we do wish to prosecute. The forms were also filled out for the RI court letting them know we wish to participate. He has called the prosecutor's office in RI but has not got a call back at this point. S. Mikutel noted he would like a letter addressed to the prosecuting attorney and a copy to whoever oversees the court jurisdiction. He wants the BOS to be kept in the loop in both the RI and CT cases. P. Anthony asked if there was a dollar amount associated with the crime. K. Skulczyck noted the amount is around \$9,000. P. Anthony noted that any letter sent to the Attorney General should also be directed to the Victim Service's advocate since she is basically working for the town. S. Mikutel commented Victim Service's advocate don't generally look at the Town as a person or a victim. K. Skulczyck noted a form was sent back to Ana, the Victim Service's advocate and a phone call was made to the prosecutor's office and the Attorney General will be copied on the letter as well.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to authorize the First Selectman to draft a letter to the Attorney General for the State of RI, requesting that the Town be kept in the loop as to the status of the case and that the Town would like to have a say in any plea agreement and that the Town is asking that the case be prosecuted because the Town and the taxpayers of the town were victimized in the amount of at least \$9000 and is seeking compensation. A copy of the letter goes to the Attorney General, the prosecutor handling the case and the Victim Service's Advocate, Ana Giron. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, the status of union negotiations. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck commented the end of May was the first union negotiation and we went through a few pages, which took a couple hours to do so. The biggest hurdle will be job descriptions. There is another meeting next week and will provide updates after that meeting. P. Anthony noted that before any tentative agreement is consummated; please forward to the BOS for review.

- c. **MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, the contract for town based businesses. **Motion carried unanimously.**

P. Anthony read section (D)(2) and asked that the last sentence referring to fines and penalties be clarified. He also noted that in multiple areas it refers to the First Selectman who has authority or final decision. In order to avoid allegations of discrimination, by one person, he suggests replacing First Selectman with Board of Selectmen so there is a majority vote. S. Mikutel agreed with P. Anthony and did affirm that at some point he is going to support this. He also commented he is not sure what the dollar threshold level should be and will see what other towns are using as a threshold. K. Skulczyck noted Board of Selectmen should be used everywhere first selectman is.

- d. **MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action the time of draft RFP for ambulance services. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck noted he has passed out to the board a sample RFP for ambulance services that are in align with the proposed contract on file. There are statute changes coming out in October that are not reflected in this contract and we will need to reflect them in this RFP.

7. Public Forum

Lyle Gabor – L. Gabor expressed his concern for having signs up two to three days before there is a special meeting or a vote taking place. He would like to see them at different ends of the town because people do not necessarily come to town or get the newspaper. The BOS noted they will look into the possibility of acquiring a couple of signs to be used.

Norm Sylvestre – N. Sylvestre noted the speakers were not working. The speakers are working and they need to speak into the microphones. N. Sylvestre commented he did receive a report on the status of zoning violations but is not completely satisfied.

Norm Higgins – N. Higgins wanted to compliment P. Zvingilas on his presentation of updates which noted progress on some outstanding zoning violations. He also noted he prefers the square flower pots out front town hall rather than the round ones. K. Skulczyck did confirm N. Higgins comment that the idea of a town message board out front has been discussed. N. Higgins also noted he was the last one to speak at the BOE meeting last night. He was saddened by what some of the students had to say. However, he did try to impress on the people at the meeting that in three years it will change because, you, the BOS, are really trying to make things change and bring in development. N. Higgins also agreed he is aware of people that missed the vote because they were not aware of it. He suggested using the Day paper to advertise. It was noted by the library sign is on town property and can be used.

Ransom Young – R. Young noted that he has not been charged by the Town to dispose of items that have been dumped on his property and should consider that for the person on Bethel rode if those tires were dumped on his property. R. Young noted there has to be accessible notification of a meeting and vote, but feels that sometimes residents may find it repulsive if they do not agree with the issue.

Joe Foye – J. Foye asked if there would be any vote at the meeting on June 17th. K. Skulczyck noted there will be a vote from the floor to send it to referendum. J. Foye asked if when noticing the meeting you can mention there will be a vote.

Lyle Gabor – If everyone votes note at the June 17th meeting on the school budget what will happen then. K. Skulczyck commented you are only voting to go to referendum then at referendum you will vote on the actual budget.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**