



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
June 14, 2011
6:30 PM

Downstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall
28 Main Street, Jewett City, CT



APPROVED MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** First Selectman, P. Anthony, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Members Present: P. Anthony, First Selectman
Steven Mikutel, Second Selectman (arrived at 6:34 PM)
Theresa Madonna, Third Selectwoman

Also Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent
Paul Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director
6 interested citizens

- 2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. May 10, 2011 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. May 19, 2011 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. May 25, 2011 – Special Meeting Minutes – tabled until arrival of S. Mikutel**

- d. May 26, 2011 – Special Meeting Minutes – tabled until arrival of S. Mikutel**

- e. June 6, 2011 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 3. Correspondence – None**

4. New Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Rich Grabowski, Tax Collector** – the members of the Board were handed one request for tax rebate received earlier today in the amount of \$34.09 for Josie Dorr for excess payment.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the tax rebate as presented by Rich Grabowski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to sign a STEAP Grant application as prepared by Town Planner Carl Fontneau, for Demolition Funds at 226 East Main Street** - It was discussed that this is the Triangle Property and is a first priority for clean-up of the property. The town is listing this as their first choice for grant approval but if not approved, then a second grant choice is supplied. It was also discussed that STEAP grant as well as two other sources could be available for funding of a Space Needs Center down the road. * It was agreed this application should move forward as it is continuation of an ongoing project.

* S. Mikutel arrived at this point. (6:34 PM)

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the STEAP Grant application as prepared by Carl Fontneau for Demolition Funds at 226 East Main Street. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to sign a STEAP Grant application as prepared by Town Planner Carl Fontneau, for Start-Up Funding for Façade Improvement Program Revolving Loan Fund** - P. Anthony commented the Borough currently has a small Revolving Loan Fund. S. Mikutel commented this again is a follow up and is the next step of what we are trying to do in downtown, thus supports the application, however, we need the buy in from the merchants to make it work. P. Anthony commented there was little show by downtown merchants and property owners at a Main Street meeting last week held by Kent and Frost. Kent and Frost commented however, they are going to get proactive and go door to door. T. Madonna asked Phil to inquire if other businesses around Main Street were invited because her business did not receive an invite and she is 200 feet off Main Street.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to authorize the First Selectman to sign a STEAP Grant application as prepared by Town Planner, Carl Fontneau, for Start-Up Funding for Façade Improvement Program Revolving Loan Fund. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Approval of Minutes (cont'd)

- c. **May 25, 2011 – Special Meeting Minutes and**
d. **May 26, 2011 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2011 and May 26, 2011. **Motion carried. T. Madonna abstained.**

4. New Business (cont'd)

- d. Discussion and possible action on proposed Agreement By and Between the Town of Griswold and American Legion Community Ambulance, Inc. d/b/a Griswold Ambulance** - T. Madonna commented, in regards to Atty. Bloom's letter, that the Board did listen to the concerns but did not see the need for the Town to enter into a contract for ambulance services. S. Mikutel commented he, as earlier, has no problem with entering into a contract with the ambulance and wants to find a way to avoid the constant annual battle between the ambulance and the Board of Finance. He also commented that stable funding needs to be found for the ambulance to ensure continued services be provided. P. Anthony confirmed that the members of the Board have had a chance to read all material submitted. He then commented the town has an obligation to provide the Worker's Compensation coverage for the ambulance. He agrees with both sides his colleagues have presented and suggested establishing a means to sit down, with no commitment, and discuss how to fund the ambulance and the idea of a possible contract. S. Mikutel suggested just getting some guidance from the town attorney and then there is the issue of getting the BOF to fund an agreement if there is one reached. Phil commented he would meet with members from the ambulance if so desired and would have strictly informal, fact finding discussion, then would bring any relevant information found back to the Board of Selectmen.
- e. Discussion and possible action on sight line at Pleasant View, Rt. 138 and Rt. 164 intersection** – Norm Higgins reviewed several photos he provided to the Board of Selectmen. The photos showed the intersection from several views. Mr. Higgins went over each view and expressed his concern with the sight line from each view. T. Babbitt, Road Superintendent, commented he had been in touch with Rick in the Traffic Division at the State. He was supposed to go out and look at it late last week and he has not heard back from him at this point. T. Babbitt commented most of that land is in a state right-of-way and some on private property. The Town tries to limit involvement on private property. Town is usually responsible for our right-of-way where a town road comes out to a state road. He commented that most of the land at that intersection is a state right-of-way. He did mention signs are often on the corner to the right when you pull out of Pleasant View and do hinder the site. What the State does in a problem intersection is put up a signal light, which is what they have done. N. Higgins commented last year when he got the DOT involved they insist the problem at that sightline is on town property which is the tree and the flowers. The DOT previously made the homeowner with the fence and the flowers push the fence back onto town property. They also insisted they have no rights on town property. They did come and trim back the fir tree one property up and he will call them and ask them to come back. The lot which is for sale does have a fir tree which was trimmed last year. The trimming was done by a resident and not by the town employees. It was agreed to revisit this issue when T. Babbitt hears back from the State Traffic Division. N. Higgins commented he is concerned about kids riding their bikes through that intersection come July and August.
- f. Discussion and possible action on setting a Special Town Budget Meeting Date of June 21, 2011 to present the revised budget of June 9, 2011 as presented by the Board of Finance and possible referendum date of June 28, 2011**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to set a Special Town Budget Meeting Date of June 21, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Griswold Middle School Cafeteria to consider and take action on the proposed FY 2012 budgets for both the General

Government and the Board of Education which were both revised at a special Board of Finance Meeting on June 9, 2011; and to consider and take action on setting a referendum date of Tuesday, June 28, 2011 to vote on the revised FY 2012 budgets, from 6 AM to 8 PM at Pachaug Town Hall and Griswold Town Hall voting places. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business - None

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

S. Mikutel requested that T. Babbitt be asked to return to provide update on road status.

7. Public Forum

Ransom Young – Commented on his landlord not wanting to renew his lease after 16 years and suggested it having to do with the truthful information he gave to the revaluation staff. He also commented on whether or not he would be given something in writing to spray the cemeteries as a volunteer this year and not being held liable by the state DEP for any possible violations. P. Anthony stated no written authorization would be given, but does not discourage residents from maintaining family grave sites at their own will.

6. Any Other Business (cont'd)

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to go back to the subject of Any Other Business on the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel asked T. Babbitt for an update on the status of Colonel Brown Road and Popple Bridge Road. T. Babbitt commented that there is one more catch basin to put in on the FEMA damaged area of Colonel Brown Road. Pat Camputaro went out there and should have an estimate tomorrow morning for several roads. We were dealing with a gentleman for a possible drainage easement for Popple Bride Road. Unfortunately, he passed away this past week. We will try to contact the family in a couple of weeks or so and see if they wish to proceed. S. Mikutel commented about four weeks ago a request was made to the Board of Finance to make a transfer from FEMA Fund to the Road fund in the amount of approximately \$102,000 for what work? T. Babbitt commented that money was for paving damaged areas on Sheldon, Popple Bridge and Colonel Brown roads and the money needs to be expended by November 10th or has to be returned. The only exception is Sheldon Road. We have requested a waiver and an extension in case the waiver is not granted. We are requesting a waiver from the Army Corp. of Engineers because we have over 1 acre of watershed (we are at 1.04 acres) which requires a class II permit. S. Mikutel commented we need to make sure we encumber the money by July 1st. T. Babbitt commented it would be requested to be encumbered with a list of roads that they plan on repairing. T. Babbitt commented all the plans have been submitted at 70% completion for the Stone Hill Intersection Improvement Grant and they have just gotten the okay to go to 100%.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to go back to item 7 Public Forum. T. Madonna and P. Anthony in favor, S. Mikutel was absent from the room. **Motion carried.**

7. Public Forum (cont'd)

Mr. Clarke, - (co-counsel on the ambulance contract) – Wanted to know if there was some way the Board of Selectmen could respectfully request the Board of Finance to not reduce the \$30,000 that has been established in the budget for the Worker's Comp. P. Anthony commented, at this point the budget has to go to public meeting as proposed and at that time, citizens may address their concerns to the Board of Finance. T. Madonna confirmed there is public hearing portion at the meeting on June 21, 2011 and that is when comment will be heard. There were no further cuts to the ambulance at the June 9, 2011 Board of Finance meeting. They can only vote to decrease the budget at the town meeting, not increase.

Norm Sylvestre –Commented that our town ordinances are valid throughout the town, including the Borough. Therefore the Zoning Enforcement Officer needs to enforce the ordinances throughout the town. He then made reference to a picture of a blighted building on Pleasant Street. He commented the blighted building is not secure, as the picture shows, and people are going in there. P. Anthony confirmed that Mr. Sylvestre has notified Mr. Zvingilas about the blighted building but has not shown him the picture. Mr. Sylvestre also commented he has not forgotten about the Aubin property. The list provided to the Board tonight shows the list of vehicles he has present there. The property owner gave that list to the Assessor. Mr. Sylvestre suggests someone look into what he is doing there is he selling stuff, or collecting taxes? He should also be urged to clean up any other materials, such as metal that he has hanging around the property.

Norm Higgins - Commented he was extremely concerned the way the Board of Finance “raked” the town budget. He also commented that we perhaps look at the ethics of the fact that it was suggested that we go to zero budget on all of these items such as fire trucks, which the BOF was supposedly looking at but didn't do anything to it anyway. He also commented he had a problem with the library budget not receiving any cuts. On the Board of Finance there are two major players, one with the fire trucks and one with the library and they should have recused themselves.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant