



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
June 28, 2011
6:30 PM
Griswold Senior Center
Soule Street, Jewett City, CT



APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** First Selectman, P. Anthony, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Members Present: P. Anthony, First Selectman
Steven Mikutel, Second Selectman
Theresa Madonna, Third Selectwoman

Also Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director
2 members of the press
8 interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **June 14, 2011 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

T. Madonna suggested correcting the last sentence of section 4d to not read “it was agreed”.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2011 with the above noted correction. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **June 24, 2011 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of June 24, 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 – None**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on request by Borough Board of Warden and Burgesses for additional use of office space -** John Connelly, Borough Warden, stated the Borough would like use of space in the former Probate Office to meet with residents of the borough. They would like the space the hours of 1-4 PM on Tuesdays, 9-12 AM on Wednesdays and 3:15 – 6:15 PM on Thursdays. Tim Sharkey, Borough Burgess commented it would be nice if the existing Borough office space could be moved to the former Probate office to provide more space. Al Geer, Borough Burgess, expressed the willingness to work with the town and if the town needs the former Probate Court

Conference room at any time the Borough is scheduled to use it, then they would give up their time and reschedule for another time.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to allow the Borough to use the Probate Court Conference Room on Tuesdays 1-4 PM, Wednesdays 9-12 AM and Thursdays 3:15 – 6:15 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action authorizing the First Selectman to sign letter requesting a Targeted Brownfield Development Loan (TBDL) of up to \$250,000, for the demolition and environmental remediation of 226 East Main Street** - P. Anthony commented this is an application for a revolving loan fund which would pay for clean-up costs at the 226 East Main Street, Plastic Wire & Cable site. The town has applied for grants for this project in the past and has not been able to secure one. S. Mikutel commented he cannot support this loan at this time. It is not the time to be taking out a financial obligation of this amount. T. Madonna commented she also felt the same way, since we do not have a budget in place at this time and even if we did, there is no allocation for repayment of loan money.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to not proceed at this time with the loan from the DECD for the demolition and remediation of 226 East Main Street. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to change health insurance carriers from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to CIGNA** - P. Anthony commented that an agreement was reached this morning with the Public Works Department to accept the CIGNA health plan, so that brings all unions and town employees on board with the change to CIGNA.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel to authorize the First Selectman to change health insurance carriers from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to CIGNA. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel commented he was glad we were able to negotiate an agreement which saves the town essentially \$500,000, which is already in the budget we are trying to pass. P. Anthony concurred and pointed out that it is equal or better coverage. T. Madonna wanted to thank the Board of Education as \$400,000 of the savings was on their side and they did take the lead in putting the health insurance policies out to bid.

- e. **Executive Session - Personnel Matter**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to enter into Executive Session at 6:50 PM to discuss a personnel matter. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to come out of Executive Session at 6:59 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on sight line at Pleasant View St./Rte. 138/Rte. 164 and Connecticut General Statutes sections of Chapter 238 as provided and requested by Norm Higgins** – N. Higgins commented in Chapter 238 of the CGS it basically states the

town has a legal responsibility to maintain the intersection, whether the town does the work or requires the property owner to do the work. He suggested the Town take some kind of action with the Road Superintendent to make the intersection safe. S. Mikutel commented the Board will take guidance from the Road Superintendent. The Road Superintendent also mentioned at the last meeting that a traffic light is there which is what the state recommended. S. Mikutel commented he will request that the First Selectman meet with the Road Superintendent again and discuss the intersection and make a report back to the Board. There should be a recommendation to resolve it or declare it is not an issue. P. Anthony commented he has spoke with the Road Superintendent and the light in itself is a safety feature. We have yet to determine if there is a sight line issue. He will discuss this further with the Road Superintendent and provide Mr. Higgins with a copy of the outcome. It was mentioned that eight years ago, the property owner with the flowers was made to put the roses on the inside part of their fence. Last year, the state cleaned up the tree on private property that was blocking the sign showing there is a light ahead. The state also commented the flowers are on town property, but a letter from the state saying that is not available.

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

Board members received, at the meeting, a copy of the Town Hall Union contract which is proposed to be signed. Board members will review the contract and place on agenda for the next meeting, for authorization to sign.

7. Public Forum

Irma Emperato – spoke on behalf of the Pachaug Pond Association, commented she has tried to reach Mr. Babbitt by certified mail and phone calls regarding a storm drain at the end of Latham Drive which has exposed rebar and needs repair, and has not received a return phone call or contact of any kind. She passed out a picture of the storm drain. It is on a beach right-of-way which residents use for swimming and she is concerned a child will be hurt. T. Madonna commented the storm drain is owned by the Town and the Town has repaired it before. P. Anthony commented he would contact Mr. Babbitt in the morning and have him address the situation.

Norm Sylvestre – wanted to know what the progress on the old mill on Main Street is. P. Anthony commented that we have grant money to do the remediation, but we do not have money to do the demolition. This evening the Board of Selectmen chose unanimously, not to apply for a loan for the demolition. The building is secure at this time. Mr. Sylvestre commented that one of the doors facing the roadside is falling apart and asked that someone look into fixing that. Mr. Sylvestre asked if there has been any inquiry for demolition of the Pleasant View property that he brought up at last meeting that needed to be secured. Al Geer, from the audience confirmed the building was demolished over the weekend. Mr. Sylvestre also stressed again that someone needs to check out the Aubin property. The list that was provided by the property owner to the Assessor, shows there is some kind of business going on there. He has also spoken to the new Borough Warden who is in favor of enforcing these violations. Mr. Sylvestre then pointed out the soda warehouse pictures that he presented to the Board tonight.

Norm Higgins – commented it was good that the Board chose not to proceed tonight with the loan for the demolition of 226 East Main Street. Towns, especially Griswold, are in dangerous financial times right now. P. Anthony wanted to point out there are eleven new small businesses in town in the past year and a half. Mr. Higgins was glad to see the Pleasant View property has been liquidated and wanted to know where we stand on the property that is outside the school property. P. Anthony replied that property is still in court.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant