



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
July 12, 2011
6:30 PM

Downstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall
28 Main St., 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
6 interested citizens

- 2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. June 28, 2011 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

S. Mikutel noted that under section 4b of the minutes, the vote passed and was unanimous and that needed to be added to the minutes. T. Madonna noted correction of spelling the last name of Imperato to Emperato.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2011 with the above noted correction. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. July 8, 2011 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 8, 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 authorizing application for the Griswold Youth Services Bureau 58 to apply for the State Department of Education's Grant of \$14,000 to assist in funding the drop-in, at-risk youth/teen center – R. Aubin commented it is an annual grant and it is a cash match. We have been using this grant for about ten years. Board members were familiar with the grant and had no questions.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to authorize the application of the Griswold Youth Services Bureau to apply for the State Department of Education's Grant of \$14,000 to assist in funding the drop-in, at-risk youth/teen center. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing application for the Griswold Youth Services Bureau 58 to apply for the State Department of Education's Enhancement Grant of \$5,000 to hire two additional staff** – R. Aubin commented this grant comes up when it is available and is a competitive grant. The town has received three out of the five years he has applied for it. It is used to hire two seasonal at-risk youth that live in Griswold and have basically no support system, and have typically relied on the youth center in the past. Their positions would run from September through May. Part of their job will be to create a Now Hiring Database which would be used to help students or residents in the area who turn sixteen and are looking for a job. We also want to create an identification system to assign identification numbers to youths signing in and out. The state will then be able to use these identification numbers to gather information for statistics. R. Aubin confirmed for T. Madonna there is no matching necessary by the town. He also commented this grant can be used for any program approved by the state but by applying for funding of jobs, usually gives you a better chance to secure the grant.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to authorize application for the Griswold Youth Service Bureau 58 to apply for the State Department of Education's Enhancement Grant of \$5,000 to hire two additional staff. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to sign final Town Hall Union Contract**

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to authorize the First Selectman to sign the final Town Hall Union contract. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on sight line at Pleasant View St./Rte. 138/Rte. 164 and written report from Road Superintendent** – T. Babbitt met with the State DOT at the sight this morning and outlined the written report received by the Board of Selectmen. After looking at the intersection from every direction. It was the consensus that the sight line was fine at the two directions where a right turn on red is allowed. The two that do not allow a right turn on red are to depend on the light. They did set the time back one second on the red light coming out of Pleasant View. It is now set back as far as that mechanism will allow the timing to go. Regarding coming from the highway toward the light, the State received permission from the property owner to cut back the cedar tree to give more visibility to the light signal. The fence on that side is on State property and has been for about 15 years. The flowers behind the fence are on private property. The weeping cherry tree is on private property. The State can cut what hangs over the state right of way, but with weeping cherries that just hang, you would have to cut out a big chunk. The tree if anything causes the problem, not the fence. The state can distinguish the boundary but we would be responsible for cutting according to state statute. However, since there is a no turn on red coming out of Pleasant View the sight line is really not an issue. Fir tree on the corner of 138 and 164 is on private property and we would have to get permission if we want to do something. If the State was in total control of the intersection, and there were

stop signs, then the sight lines would not be acceptable, however, because there is a light there, the State would leave it as is. The State will not require the landowners to do anything with the property in their right of way unless directed to do so by the Town. There were some advertisement signs at the corner on Pleasant View that the State removed and will keep an eye on keeping them off the corner. T. Madonna asked if there were any consideration given to making the entire intersection no turn on red. T. Babbitt commented the State did not feel that was necessary. It was discussed moving the no turn on red sign to above next to the light when coming up Slater Ave. Norm Higgins was allowed to comment and noted they changed the time back one second on the red light from Pleasant View because he had done a study over the weekend and also a resident was stopped there over the weekend for running the red light. On the Pleasant View St. side and the Rte. 164 side there is a mechanism in the road that runs the light and sometimes the second car coming through, because of timing, will get caught as the light changes. If problems continue with running the red light, Mr. Higgins suggests possibly requesting the state to change the light mechanism to a control that will allow for a red to be set for five seconds. Maybe on the Pleasant View Road side the Town could put up a sign warning people approaching the intersection to be careful. The flowers that line the fence are not a problem now, but will be in August. Mr. Higgins suggests the Town write a letter to the property owner and ask them if they could raise the branches on the cherry tree and perhaps next year, bringing their flowers back further from the fence so they will not hang over in August. T. Babbitt commented the owners of the cherry tree did not willing offer to allow the cherry tree to be cut. P. Anthony offered to go meet with the property owners of record to discuss the problems of the intersection and discuss their willingness to work with the town on the sight line issue. It was the feeling of the Board that Mr. Belisle, who owns the vacant lot with the fir tree on it would not have a problem with the Town cutting some branches off of that tree as it has been done in the past. The State did agree to keep the vegetation from growing under the fir tree where the branches would be cut off.

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

P. Anthony made a request to add to the agenda Sheldon Road Committee waiver of permitting fees for sign.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna to add onto the agenda under Any Other Business the Sheldon Road Committee request of waiver of Town permitting fee for a sign that is to be constructed. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to waive Town permitting fees for the Sheldon Road Field Committee scoreboard sign. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Madonna commented she would like to motion onto the agenda discussion on the posting or accessibility of new hours for the building hours. Are they posted somewhere for the public to know what those new hours are? P. Anthony commented posting is underway and will be put on the web. The hours have been broken down into what the actual hours are for both the secretary and the building inspector. T. Madonna asked if the employees involved were notified and if they were told the hours may be subject to change based on feedback from the citizens. P. Anthony commented both of the employees were not in when the notification of their new hours was presented, but it goes without saying, they may be subject to change. S. Mikutel noted the hours have been spread out to allow for the maximum amount of coverage for the office. P. Anthony commented there will be times when the building official leaves to do inspections and there would be no coverage during that time.

7. Public Forum

Mrs. Boule – inquired as to when the poison ivy would be removed from the tunnel on E. Main Street all the way up the building and around the corner to Mary Street. T. Babbitt commented he has ordered the stuff from Tractor Supply and is waiting for it to come in.

Norm Sylvestre – commented he has seen some clean up at the Soda Warehouse site. Tracy Ave. there is still a truck that has been parked in the driveway with garbage on it for over a year and now has an added bureau to the back of the truck. He requested the Board to give him some kind of action as to what they are going to do about the complaints he has made. Some progress has been made, albeit very little. Mr. Higgins then mentioned an issue with the sight line in front of his property. There is some sort of fast growing vines on the hill there on town property on the other side of his wall. T. Babbitt commented he would have the town crew spray with the same product they ordered from Tractor Supply.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant