



# Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

July 14, 2015

6:30 PM

Griswold Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room  
28 Main St, Jewett City, CT 06351



## MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

**Members Present:** Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman  
Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman  
Philip E. Anthony, Third Selectman

**Others Present:** Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant  
John Connelly, Borough Warden  
Shea Cavacini, Asst. ACO  
27 other interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **June 18, 2015 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- b. **June 23, 2015 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the minutes of June 18, 2015 and June 23, 2015. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence**

- a. **Letter of resignation from Larry Proulx** – noted received for the record – P. Anthony expressed his thanks for the many years of service provided by Mr. Proulx.
- b. **Letter from Town Attorney regarding ongoing legal matter** – noted received for the record

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Richard Grabowski, Tax Collector**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the request by the tax collector for the tax refunds. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on update by First Selectman regarding the position of ACO** – K. Skulczyck commented Larry Proulx has retired. Shea Cavacini is present and is currently the backup ACO. Options are being explored such as continuing with the current backup ACO, outsourcing to NECCOG for a cost of \$35,000 also sharing with neighboring towns is a possibility. K. Skulczyck noted every call has been being answered by himself or Todd Babbitt. S. Mikutel commented on exploring the option with NECCOG. P. Anthony noted all options should be explored but noted S. Cavacini has been doing a great job.
- c. Discussion and possible action on update by First Selectman regarding ambulance service** – K. Skulczyck noted the hearing to approve or not approve assigning the PSA over to American Ambulance is July 21<sup>st</sup>. Griswold ambulance has closed because they were not able to secure worker's compensation insurance and did not make request to the town in the current budget for funding. He noted he also sent a letter to the Commission requesting the hearing for the PSA be waived due to the position the town is in. There has been no response or is one anticipated before the hearing date. American Ambulance is answering all calls and is operating out of the Jewett City fire house.
- d. Discussion and possible action on realtor contract** – K. Skulczyck noted the contract for review is from Byron Lazine of Sotheby's and offers a return to the town, for economic development, of the real estate agent's commission. P. Anthony commented a six month contract is a suggested minimum and is in favor of the contract. S. Mikutel also is in agreement with P. Anthony.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to accept the real estate contract presented by Byron Lazine of Sotheby's for a minimum of six months with the possibility of renewing. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## 5. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on setting a town meeting date for the sale of land located at 74 Richardson Hill Road to Daryl and Pamela Schlender – tabled from 6/23/15**
- b. Discussion and possible action on setting a town meeting date for the sale of land located at 1559 Voluntown Rd. to Philip and Sandra Belisle – tabled from 6/23/15**
- c. Discussion and possible action on setting a town meeting date on proposed ordinance submitted by the Recreation Commission – tabled from 6/23/15**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to set a town meeting date sale of land located at 74 Richardson Hill Rd. to Daryl and Pamela Schlender, sale of land located at 1559 Voluntown Rd. to Philip and Sandra Belisle, and adoption of proposed no smoking ordinance for town recreational property for 6 PM July 28, 2015. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by K. Skulczyck, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring onto the agenda discussion on American Industries and possible considering a joint meeting with the Planning & Zoning Commission. **Motion carried unanimously.**

K. Skulczyck noted the Planning and Zoning Meeting for last night was rescheduled due to an overwhelming amount of attendees. K. Skulczyck supports the suggestion of the P&Z Chairman of holding a joint meeting with the BOS so that everyone hears all the information presented. He also noted we will be hearing from the residents soon and they will be voicing their concerns and encouraging that the BOS take American Industries back to court. S. Mikutel commented it has been the advice of the town attorney for the BOS to not interject themselves into the matters of the PZC. S. Mikutel noted he feels that all parties are currently trying to work something out. He also noted he wants a resolution for all the people that live in the area. K. Skulczyck noted the possibility of bringing American Industries back to court regarding the stipulated agreement and that decision and action is taken by the BOS. P. Anthony also is concerned with the quality of life of the area residents but cautions about holding a joint meeting with P&Z and suggested the BOS have a special meeting with Atty. Branse. K. Skulczyck updated the BOS of the meeting held a few weeks ago with American Industries, representatives from DEEP and the Chairs of both the Planning & Zoning and Wetlands Commissions. Some issues are strictly under enforcement of DEEP such as smell. Those issues are being dealt with and the issue now is really the hours of operation according to the stipulated agreement.

## **7. Public Forum**

**Ben Hull** – B. Hull commented on the storage container behind the fire house and requested the mess behind it be cleaned up in order to comply with zoning regulations.

**Shaun Krzeminski** – S. Krzeminski suggested sending a letter to Larry recognizing his years of service as ACO. He also felt we should continue ACO services with S. Cavacini. He also questioned where the black benches on Main Street have gone. K. Skulczyck commented they have been removed at the request of business owners and will be returning soon.

**David Vieaux** – D. Vieaux noted the only thing on the P&Z agenda last night was a noise ordinance so he couldn't understand why everyone was there. The town attorney commented the noise ordinance has to be undertaken by the BOS and there already is a state ordinance on noise the issue is enforcing it. He also felt there was confusion on American Industries part about the Johnson Cove residents wanting to shut them down.

**Beverlee Cholewa** – B. Cholewa commenting they have been battling with the increasing e issues with American Industries for 21 years. They are not trying to shut them down. The quality of life has just drastically declined. The sound was measured at 98 decibels on the cell phone.

**Ransom Young** – R. Young noted he sprayed Rixtown cemetery this week and there is still vandalism occurring at the cemetery. He suggested some signs be posted.

**Kim Mikolajczak** – K Mikolajczak commented she has been to several P&Z meetings and has heard it is the BOS that has to take American Industries to court regarding the 1997 stipulated judgement. She noted it is the duty of those elected in to make sure the residents are able to enjoy a health happy living areas and businesses are held accountable. She noted throwing it back at the attorney is not serving a purpose. S. Mikutel noted his concern is if the BOS does not follow the advice of the town attorney they could jeopardize a solution to the problem and cannot further comment on the way it could detriment the town.

**Andrew Lavallee** – A. Lavallee noted there is an issue with cats on Aspinook Street and a gentleman has been feeding them. There was an issue over the weekend where the police had to be called. He has since posted no trespassing signs. A. Lavallee noted he did speak to the borough about it this afternoon. S. Cavacini, Asst. ACO noted she did go out there this afternoon and the feeding stations had been removed. She reported this to Trooper Chittick. She also noted she is trying to work with the gentleman who placed the feeding stations. P. Anthony commented there is also a problem downtown and it does create for an unsafe environment.

**Geoffrey Rhoades** – G. Rhoades commented he rents from Mr. Lavallee and the cat gentleman was there yesterday and today and yesterday was swearing and has quite a temper. He left before the police arrived. He was instructed by Mr. Connelly to continue to contact the resident troopers if the problem continues.

**Steve Webster** – S. Webster commented who set the 7 to 7 hours of operation for American Industries and who is here to enforce it. K. Skulczyck commented it was P. Brycki and the Chairman of P&Z at the time who signed the stipulation for the hours and it is the BOS responsibility to act on it.

**Glen Webster** – G. Webster inquired does American Industries have permission to run outside of the hours. K. Skulczyck commented he is allowed to run a certain number of hours but has to request it in writing to the First Selectman and that has not been done to this point. K. Skulczyck also noted it has been the recommendation of the town attorney to not act on the judgement.

**Steve Webster** – S. Webster noted there are other outfits that can take bid and run at night.

**Nancy Richardson** – N. Richardson commented they did raise the stack higher and supposedly put some chemical in to make it smell better, but she sees no improvement in the smell and is also concerned about health issues for residents down the road. K. Skulczyck noted the smoke odor and or control is not under the town's jurisdiction.

**John Connelly** – J. Connelly suggested the BOS start each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. K. Skulczyck noted it has been discussed.

**Kathryn Londe** – K. Londe noted the residents have been trying to work with the Town as well as with Mr. Camputaro for several years and have not threatened American Industries with anything. Residents through that last night's P&Z meeting was used by the employees

of American Industries as a scare tactic and did not appreciate them taking pictures of them. K. Skulczyck noted if anyone feels threatened they need to contact the police immediately and would pass the concerns on to Mr. Camputaro. K. Londe noted they do still want to work together and do not want to shut them down. K. Skulczyck also noted the next P&Z meeting will be held at the school with non-residents in one section and residents in the other.

**Kristine Woodrich** – K. Woodrich noted she, as well as others in her neighborhood, cannot sell their house. Noted she is willing to sell her house to American Industries. She also commented they are not trying to take jobs away.

**David Vieaux** – D. Vieaux noted a lot of those at the P&Z meeting were not residents and are glad to see they will be separated at the next meeting and wanted to know if they would be allowed to speak. K. Skulczyck noted it is up to P&Z to decide how they wish to run their meeting.

**Kim Mikolajczak** – K. Mikolajczak asked if the BOS was advised by the town attorney to not pursue the following of the judgment. K. Skulczyck noted the recommendation was to get the remedy to issues that were being addressed, get a new sound study and then move forward.

**Glen Webster** – G. Webster noted the conditions with American Industries was not so bad years ago, but he has taken the berms out by using the product.

**Beverlee Cholewa** – B. Cholewa was confused by a previous meeting as to when S. Mikutel knew about the issues. S. Mikutel commented he has known of the issues for quite some time, but only a couple years about the stipulation. B. Cholewa commented they submitted an FOI request for documents so the residents could be informed.

**Judy Webster** – J. Webster asked if it is feasible to move a meeting to another area on the same evening. It was noted you can post a notice at the posted meeting location of the new location, but you need to have a space available.

**Ransom Young** – R. Young commented on the responsibility and removal of bamboo.

**Jeff Ryan** – J. Ryan commented it was advice of the town attorney to not move forward, but it is the BOS decision to do so. J. Ryan also noted there has been no letter received by the town that requests extra work hours. P. Anthony made note that when he received a complaint he would approach American Industries and when checking back with residents it was noted by the resident the issue had gotten much better. P. Anthony noted he may consider recusing himself from votes on this issue and also noted for the record that the letter referred to in the petition submitted by the residents, and referred to previously, does not exist.

**Beverlee Cholewa** – B. Cholewa noted the petition by the residents was written by everyone not just her. P. Anthony commented she may have misunderstood him and the letter does not exist. B. Cholewa agreed it probably does not.

**James Barnie** – J. Barnie complimented K. Skulczyck and T. Babbitt on the job they have been doing filling in as dog warden.

**Shea Cavacini** – S. Cavacini also complimented K. Skulczyck and T. Babbitt on the job they have been doing filling in as dog warden. P. Anthony also complimented the job being done by K. Skulczyck and T. Babbitt.

**Ben Hull** – B. Hull wanted to know how long it would be before American Industries would come in for another permit. K. Skulczyck noted there is no further permit expected at this time.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Wood,  
Executive Assistant