



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
July 22, 2014
6:30 PM
Senior Center, 22 Soule St., Griswold



APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman

Members Present: Kevin Skulczyck, First Selectman
Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman (left at 7:25 PM)
Philip Anthony, Third Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Todd Babbitt, Road Superintendent
Ryan Aubin, Director of Parks & Recreation/Youth Services
Alan Geer, Borough Warden
11 others present

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **July 8, 2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **July 9, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- c. **July 10, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**
- d. **July 15, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the July 8, 2014 regular meeting minutes, July 9, 2014 special meeting minutes, July 10, 2014 special meeting minutes and the July 15, 2014 special meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - Letter from Ethics Commission and moment of silence** – K. Skulczyck noted a letter from the Ethics Commission that member Joe Foye had passed away and asked for a moment of silence in his memory. Senator Maynard is recently suffering from injuries due to a fall and S. Mikutel said a little prayer for his speedy recovery.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony to move item 5a discussion and possible action on an ordinance to consider preference for town based businesses, before item 4a. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on an ordinance to consider preference for town based businesses** – S. Mikutel commented the ordinance for bid preference for town based businesses has been in the works for a while and the appropriate changes have been made and at this time is ready to move forward on A and B. P. Anthony agreed.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to set a town meeting to adopt the proposed bid preference ordinance for town based businesses for August 12, 2014 at 6 PM and to have the town attorney review one last time.

Motion carried unanimously.

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 discussion regarding safety and security of the Little League field**– Chris Kempesta representing Jewett City Little League gave a brief description of some of the vandalism problems that have been occurring at the property. He mentioned he spoke to one of the resident troopers who did say to call them anytime there is a problem there. He suggested maybe adding a few more cameras, since having a security guard is not likely. K. Skulczyck noted the president of the Jacques Cartier Club is willing to host some fund raising events to put cameras on their building facing the Little League property. K. Skulczyck noted that cameras are good but only catch things after the fact. He also noted they took down the wall by the skate park that allowed hiding, so the area is now more open and the skate park has seen an improvement. John Connelly, Borough member, noted they had wanted to close the skate board park but it has to remain open until 2019. R. Aubin noted it is not certain if it is kids from the skate board park that are vandalizing the ball field or even if it may be adults. K. Skulczyck noted we do not know for sure who it is. J. McCarthy, resident state trooper, noted they do the best to get down there to check out the ball field. Better cameras that could actually make identification would be a help. P. Anthony confirmed the skate park cannot be closed until 2019, but has never been a supporter of closing it. R. Aubin confirmed for P. Anthony, that there are two cameras hooked up and space for two more to be added. The pictures provided by the cameras are not clear enough and adding light to the area was not favorable to those living in the neighborhood and the kids tended to hang out longer with the lighting. J. McCarthy confirmed for P. Anthony that random spot checks are done down at the ball field on an on-going basis. It is difficult to catch anyone down there because it is hard to appear unnoticed. Bike patrol may be a better option. P. Anthony commented if they could catch one person and word got out it would help. C. Kempesta noted that taking the privacy screens down on the dugouts would be a help. Brief suggestions of where to place additional cameras was discussed. Sergeant Saruty of the Connecticut State Police suggested looking at the lighting and finding a delicate balance so the neighbors would be satisfied. Phil Flowers suggested a night lighting setting and K. Skulczyck noted

Todd Babbitt would look into different lighting options. R. Aubin noted the firehouse may be interested in helping with the lighting as they also have been experiencing some problems. K. Skulczyck asked about posting signage. It was agreed to work together with the Borough to come up with some design and verbiage for signing at trouble locations. K. Skulczyck noted cameras are only going to do so much and someone needs to monitor them on a live feed. You need boots on the ground and a community to work together to solve the problem. It was noted better cameras may provide an identifiable enough picture to be able to pursue the person. K. Skulczyck noted cameras are being sought through a grant by the Public Safety Committee. He also noted he would like to see some bike control. It was then decided to hold a group meeting on-site to take a better look at lighting options and sign placement.

c. Appointment of Mark Sulik from an alternate member of the Ethics Commission to a regular member of the Ethics Commission to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 3/6/2013 – 3/5/2016

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to appoint Mark Sulik as a regular member of the Ethics Commission to fill the unexpired portion of a term of 3/6/2013 – 3/5/2016. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring onto the agenda Road Superintendent, Todd Babbitt for discussion of the route 165 bridge. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel noted he had several complaints over the past few months about the date of completion of the project. T. Babbitt commented they have a three year contract for completion and that date brings them to November 30, 2015. S. Mikutel asked if they are putting the resources into the project to finish it ahead of time. T. Babbitt commented there are a lot of restrictions due to work times in regards to certain wildlife species, which limits the amount of work they can do during certain times. They have also encountered problems with unexpected timbers at the bottom which had to be removed. It is possible the DOT may have to do a redesign plan due to the unexpected problems. It is possible they may not finish before the contract deadline. There has also been a problem with the core test of the cement being used. T. Babbitt noted for K. Skulczyck that there will be no request by the contractor to do a drawdown of Pachaug, and last year the drawdown did not help because it filled back up after a recent storm. P. Anthony noted that Glasgo will be drawn down. S. Mikutel noted the area is narrow and dangerous for many who do not know the area or at night. T. Babbitt suggested we contact DOT and request some additional warning signage. S. Mikutel wants DOT to be notified of our concern that the project be completed as soon as possible. T. Babbitt mentioned that if the contractor cannot finish due to the plan of the DOT than their contract time stops.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to add to the agenda the ordinance change regarding ordinance change for Recusal as suggested by the Ethics Commission. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to set a town meeting date for August 12, 2014, and add to the agenda adoption of the recommended revision to the Meetings ordinance dealing with the issue of Recusal. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Public Forum

David Vieaux – D. Vieaux suggested closing the skate board park at sunset like other state parks. If they are still there they are trespassing and issuing warnings of increased severity for continued offenses.

- S. Mikutel left at this point.

Ransom Young – R. Young asked if K. Skulczyck was successful in reaching Mr. Wolinski, for Rixtown cemetery. K. Skulczyck said he has not at this point been successful, but a letter will be mailed out very soon in an effort to reach him. R. Young noted the cap stones are disappearing from the cemetery.

Norm Higgins – N. Higgins suggested getting a proposal from an alarm company for security at the ball field. He also noted the sight line at Pleasant View and Slater Ave., once again, needs trimming. K. Skulczyck noted they would assess the area.

Philip Flowers – P. Flowers asked if we have a no smoking ordinance regarding our parks. R. Aubin noted it was discussed at a Recreation Commission meeting a while back. It is a great idea, but is difficult to enforce. K. Skulczyck asked R. Aubin to look into developing that idea and suggested some proper signage.

James Barnie – J. Barnie wanted to know if we could acquire a PA system for when meetings are held at the Sr. Center. K. Skulczyck noted there is one, it just was not taken out tonight.

Chris Kempesta – C. Kempesta asked if the local business ordinance for the Meeting on the 12th of August was a draft or was actually going to be passed. K. Skulczyck noted it will be voted on, whether to pass it or not.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by K. Skulczyck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. **Motion carried P. Anthony and K. Skulczyck in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**