



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
July 26, 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 6:30 PM.

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

Also Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Frank Everett, School Building Committee – Chair
John Faulise, School Building Committee
Paul Freeman, Superintendent of Schools
24 interested citizens

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **July 12, 2011 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2011 as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence – None**

4. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on tax refunds as presented by Rich Grabowski, Tax Collector, two for Joseph Turner in the amounts of \$223.26 and \$25.13**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the amounts of \$223.26 and \$25.13. Motion was seconded by T. Madonna, with a request that in the future the Tax Collector indicate the reason for the refund on the form. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Discussion and possible action on Change Order in the amount of \$166,992 for the GES site improvement** – P. Anthony commented the agenda description should show the amount of \$428,526 which is the actual amount of the change order, but the Town will be responsible for the amount of \$166,992. F. Everett gave a brief history of the area being discussed which is the soccer fields between the Middle School and the Elementary school where a geothermal field was put in under the soccer field. The existing stairs to that field are damaged and while researching repair costs it was determined that the stairs are not handicap accessible. The Committee denied improvements that came to the table that were too costly such as the original conceptual drawing, as well as turf and putting sod I, or increasing the size of the fields. The Committee did put a downgraded underground drainage system and an irrigation system into the plan. In order to get the project approved and reimbursable the project had to be put together as a Phase project. The handicap accessible project, as well as the fields, has to be restored prior to construction. The state okayed the project because of the handicap access and said the whole project, other than the crosswalk which connects the Elementary School and the Middle School would be reimbursable. The crosswalk was not in any previous plans and not inside the imaginary line which would encompass either project. The cost to the Town for the crosswalk is \$2500. The lowest bidder for the project was the contractor who is already on site. The cost of the project is reduced by the return of a deleted item and a release of the contingency fund. The Town's cost, after reimbursement is \$117,101. F. Everett confirmed for P. Anthony if we don't make the field handicap accessible now, the State would eventually mandate that it be done and there would be no reimbursement.

T. Madonna commented her only concern is the irrigation system which goes above and beyond the original fields that were there. F. Everett commented he feels this is the only extra they added to the project. P. Freeman commented the other fields have an irrigation system that was obtained by either booster clubs or other fund raising. Also, with the reconfiguration of the schools, that field will have increased use from recess, PE courses, after school athletic use, community use on the weekends and evenings as it will be sort of a town green and the irrigation along with the drainage will help to maintain the fields properly and relieve future maintenance costs due to reseeding or replacing sod. F. Everett commented they did choose to not irrigate the practice soccer field. P. Anthony commented the irrigation would be cost effective as it will keep the man hours down that would be necessary to water the field.

S. Mikutel asked what are some of the alternatives that were considered. J. Faulise commented the sub-committee looked at more extravagant drainage systems, series of under drains, but primarily what would give the most bang for the buck and what was going to provide that field in a manner that it is going to be utilized and easily maintained without essentially over taxing it. We also looked at a time factor as to when the field could be used and this option gets us on the field a little sooner than originally contracted. We will get a better growth by seeding it rather than sodding and other factors including the stairway, fencing and grading were considered. J. Faulise pointed out that, by doing this improvement project, we are essentially getting all the improvements for less than what it would cost to repair the stairway at a later time. F. Everett pointed out that at one point the project was at an anticipated cost of over \$700,000 and the Building Committee would not consider it and has worked to get the project to a reasonable cost. J. Faulise commented the state agrees this is the right project for the campus. S. Mikutel asked if the Building Committee vote was unanimous on this project. J. Faulise commented it was. F. Everett commented it was 5 to 2. J. Faulise commented there was some back up work that was

requested and that was done.

P. Anthony inquired to the over half a million dollars in the contingency fund. F. Everett commented there is \$625,000 in FIP contingency fund, they are releasing \$225,000 back to us and keeping \$400,000 at this point for the remaining foundation and steel work that has to be done. When that foundation is done, he expects a change order for at least half of the remaining money to come back to the Town. T. Madonna asked for clarification, this change order increases the guaranteed maximum price of by \$166,992 but as the project nears completion and more contingency funds are released the guaranteed maximum price should come down to where we were at before if not less. F. Everett confirmed.

***Chairman Anthony granted a five minute recess requested by S. Mikutel at 6:53 PM. The recess ended at 6:56 PM.**

S. Mikutel asked when the project would be completed. F. Everett commented the project would be started immediately and it is expected the field would be available for use in the fall of 2012. S. Mikutel commented that a good case has been made in understanding why the field was disfigured in the first place, due to the geothermal, and the fact that the state would reimburse the project.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel to approve the change order in the amount of \$428,526 as presented by the School Building Committee, of which the Town's share of the cost is incorporated at \$166,992. Motion was seconded by P. Anthony. **Motion carried. P. Anthony and S. Mikutel in favor, T. Madonna abstained.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on the temporary re-hire of Midge Cyr for the time period of August 1, 2011 to January 27, 2012** – P. Anthony commented Ms. Cyr has agreed to come back and help out once again on a part-time basis. The Tax Assessor is overwhelmed at this point with revaluation. The union has agreed to this action as long as Ms. Cyr agrees to pay union dues. S. Mikutel has no problem with it. T. Madonna agrees we need someone in that position and thanks Ms. Cyr for willing to come back and help out once again.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to approve the temporary re-hire of Midge Cyr for the time period of August 1, 2011 to January 27, 2012. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of a new member to Griswold Water Pollution Control Authority for the remaining portion of a six year term which will expire 12/31/2012** – P. Anthony commented a letter of interest was received from Mario Tristany, former town planner. Mr. Tristany is extremely qualified for the position. An advertisement was placed for the vacancy and the only other applicant resided in the Borough and was not eligible. S. Mikutel commented he has known Mr. Tristany for a number of years and is an ideal candidate. T. Madonna concurred with Mr. Mikutel.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to appoint Mario Tristany as a member of the Griswold Water Pollution Control Authority for the remainder of a term that will expire 12/31/2012. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. **Discussion and possible action authorizing the First Selectman to sign an agreement with Paraco Gas for recycling of propane tanks** – P. Anthony commented this service

would allow the town to receive \$1 for each 20 lb propane tank that is picked up by Paraco Gas, smaller or larger tanks will be picked up at no cost to the town. Previously, the town paid for the tanks to be picked up. S. Mikutel commented it would be good to make a little money on it is a standard contract which has been reviewed by SCRRA attorneys. T. Madonna commented that two places in the contract it indicates that money would flow from the town to the contractor and what conditions would that happen under. She noticed that one place is in the 30 day termination clause and one is where it just states any compensation due the contractor. P. Anthony confirmed there is no situation where the Town would owe the contractor money but he offered to have those sections stricken from the contract. T. Madonna commented it was not necessary. She is okay with the language as long as that is P. Anthony's interpretation of the contract also.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to authorize the First Selectman to sign an agreement with Paraco Gas for recycling of propane tanks.
Motion carried unanimously.

5. Old Business

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to add onto the agenda under Old Business, the continued discussion and possible action on writing an RFP for legal services. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on writing an RFP for legal services** – T. Madonna commented that other than a couple of minor changes, she liked the sample which was done by the Town of Griswold for 2008. S. Mikutel commented if Theresa is okay with the 2008 Griswold RFP with a few minor changes, then he is too. P. Anthony commented he likes Colchester as well as Griswold.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to table discussion and possible action on writing an RFP for legal services until the next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting.. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board - None

7. Public Forum

Norm Higgins – Commented he feels Kaestle Boos had an oversight in not knowing the field was going to have to brought up to code for handicap access. Wants the neon children crossing signs put up that the Road Supervisor already has. Also, commented his wife thought she saw the Road Superintendent speaking with the property owner regarding the sight line issue on Pleasant view and wanted to know if there was an update. P. Anthony commented he did speak to the property owner and discussed what needed to be done to improve the sight line and did inform them that the Road Superintendent would be stopping by to speak with them, but has not received an update at this time. Mr. Higgins also commented that he observed people run the red light because they use a good part of the green light to edge out to see if anything is coming.

Kathleen Moretti – commented her property borders Griswold Veterans Park property and she is having a problem with trees on the property that overhang her garage. The town did come out and do some trimming last summer. Every time there is a storm the branches are deposited onto the roof of her garage. The branches are way out of control and she replaced her roof a couple of years ago. She would like the town to consider coming out and taking the tree down or cutting it back off

of her property. If the Town is not willing to do that, can we get permission for us to do that? P. Anthony commented if it is on the power line, the power company will have to come out first and trim it back to a safe clearing. He will also ask Todd Babbitt and the Tree Warden to come out and assess the condition of the tree.

Ransom Young – Asked if taxpayers, whether they lived in town or not, are allowed to speak at Selectmen’s meeting. P. Anthony commented as long as they are a taxpayer they can speak during the public portion of any public meeting.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant