



**Town of Griswold**  
28 Main Street  
Griswold, CT 06351  
**Board of Selectman**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Downstairs Meeting Room**  
**Tuesday, September 14, 2010**  
**6:30 pm**  
**MINUTES**



**1. Call to Order:** P. Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM

**Members Present:** Philip Anthony, First Selectman

Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman, Theresa Madonna, Third Selectwoman

**Also Present:**

Lisa Wood, Executive Assistant

Barbara Richardson-Crouch, Finance Director

Carl Fontneau, Town Planner

Todd Babbitt, Superintendent of Public Works

2 interested citizens, 1 member of the press

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**a. August 24, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 24, 2010 as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Correspondence: Sent/Received - None**

**4. New Business**

**a. Disposition of excess town property at the intersection of Lily Pond Road and Route 12 – John Faulise** – John Faulise, representing John Geer, commented his client is gathering some title search work via his attorney and ask that this item be tabled.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to table agenda item, **Disposition of excess town property at the intersection of Lily Pond Road and Route 12.** Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Discussion of design services for town road improvements** – T. Babbitt, Public Works Superintendent commented that FEMA has approved funding in the approximate amount of \$40,000-\$50,000 for three damaged roads, Sheldon Road, Popple Bridge and Colonel Brown Road. Before new pavement is put down we need to do some drainage upgrades. We have been to Boundaries and they put some quick cost estimates together for us to provide to FEMA. We now need to move

forward with the design work. Boundaries has done work for us in the past and has historically come in lower than other company's bids or estimates. T. Babbitt commented that through the bid ordinance he felt that if the work was already started we could continue with them.

John Faulise of Boundaries addressed the Board. He noted his company has been doing ongoing work for the Town since 2002. Todd Babbitt came to Boundaries for some assistance in putting together information he needed to complete the FEMA application. This work took about three days to complete and was done at no cost to the town. Now the design work needs to be done and I would ask the board to look at the ordinance and determine if the board has the authority to award us the work. After briefing on several projects Boundaries has taken on for the town, Mr. Faulise referred to Section 24-2(a) of the bid ordinance which referred to routine professional services and felt that Boundaries may fall under that provision of the ordinance. John Faulise confirmed, as P. Anthony mentioned, that Boundaries has pretty much been acting as an on call basis for services. John Faulise commented that, for the future, appointing a town engineer may be something the town wants to consider. John Faulise confirmed as questioned by T. Madonna that there are some services he has been paid for by the town and some they have not. T. Madonna also commented that 24-2(a) is the only paragraph of the bidding ordinance that would allow us to use your services without going out to bid unless it was an ongoing project that had already gone out to bid. John Faulise commented that Boundaries currently has four ongoing projects with the town. T. Madonna commented that at another point on a future agenda we need to have an action item which allows us to entertain the appointment of a town engineer. P. Anthony agreed this is a good idea.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony to authorize Boundaries to continue the work already started on Sheldon Road, Geer Road, Colonel Brown Road and Popple Bridge.

T. Madonna asked if we should move each project separately to stay below the \$7500 required bid ordinance.

John Faulise gave the following costs for the roads.  
Colonel Brown Road - \$12,870    Sheldon Road - \$11,640  
Geer Road - \$11,735

The Sheldon Road work is directly related to the culvert replacement, the culvert replacement did not have to go out to bid.

T. Madonna asked if the work could wait until action is taken on Section 24-2(a), two weeks until the next meeting. Todd Babbitt commented that if the work is going to be done in house we need as much time as we can get, however, we can start without the design work. Colonel Brown Road would be started first because it has the most FEMA mitigation, then Popple Bridge, Sheldon Road then Geer Road.

**MOTION (cont'd):** P. Anthony rescinded his motion on the floor.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by T. Madonna, to table any action on design services for town road improvements and put on the agenda for the next meeting, possible appointment of a town engineer. P. Anthony and T. Madonna voted in favor.

**Selectmen Steve Mikutel was not present for discussion or action on the above agenda item 4b.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on road work bids received 8/31/2010** – T. Madonna commented the bid package requested that all processes be bid. There is only one bid that bids all three but does not provide a bid for one aspect of crack sealing. What does that mean? Todd Babbitt commented they would not bid less than 100 gallons. This will not be an issue. All three needed to be bid by the same company because the warranty is not valid if different stages are done by different entities. Todd Babbitt recommends the board approve the one bid.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to accept the bid from Gorman Brothers for road work. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. **Consider funding alternatives for demolition related actions as 226 East Main Street former Triangle parcel** - Additional information regarding the above agenda item 4d was passed out and S. Mikutel made a point for the record that he does not like receiving information last minute. Carl Fontneau commented this relates to the Municipal Development Plan enacted last month and the property of Triangle Wire and Cable. As of today, we have the signed EPA contract grant for the money to clean up the triangle property. We do not have money for the demolition work. We did not get the demolition grant from DECD. In absence of that, there are many loan programs, but loans eventually have to be paid and affect the finances of the time. The loan programs also take a lot of time to get. P. Anthony noted we do have money left over from the environmental study but we can't use that for demolition. It was discussed today about going to the bond commission and possibly broadening the scope and using remaining money for demolition. P. Anthony will discuss this with our bond attorney, Joe Fazzi, and get his opinion and expanding the use of the money. Carl Fontneau commented the total uncommitted money should be between \$80,000-\$100,000.

## 5. Old Business

- a. **Further consideration of a Possible Agreement between North Stonington and Griswold marker locations for a common boundary between the two towns tabled during the March 9, 2010 meeting** – Carl Fontneau presented a layout of the proposed boundary and commented that the boundary has been walked by Don Aubrey of Towne Engineering, and he has found colonial stone cans which had been laid out in a pretty straight line. It is also documented with GPS and some photographs. There is no precise boundary at this time, but a potential agreement could create one. Nick Mullane is willing to mark two corners and he has the markers for them. He would like to come and present to the Board of Selectmen and

make some sort of commitment to evolving this line and sharing some of the cost. There is some potential swap of small acreage that would go in N. Stonington's favor, but it is also largely untaxable. S. Mikutel wanted to know how we accomplish a more specific boundary without an A2 survey. Carl Fontneau recommended that we arrange a combined meeting with Nick Mullane and Don Aubrey to give a better presentation of the boundary and costs when the end markers are set. The town has not occurred any expense to date. P. Anthony confirmed that no action was being recommended this evening. C. Fontneau was directed to schedule a meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Mullane and Mr. Aubrey. T. Madonna wanted to know why an A2 survey is not possible. P. Anthony commented it would be very expensive because the line is so large, but we could discuss the cost and other possibilities at a joint meeting. S. Mikutel's concern was that without an A2 survey we have to live with some uncertainty. John Faulise commented an A2 survey could be done and with the information already gathered would cost somewhere around \$10,000. However, to get something you are comfortable with may not require an A2 survey depending on what the towns agree upon. You could establish accurate monuments along that line with certain grade GPS. You can then establish a mathematical line within 1/8 inch accuracy. You can achieve the accuracy you are looking for by other means than an A2 survey.

**MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna to table further consideration of a Possible Agreement between North Stonington and Griswold marker locations for a common boundary between the two towns. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Consideration of formal enactment by the Board of Selectmen of the discontinuance (voted in the Town Meeting of March 23, 2010) the following segments of unimproved road: 3,750 feet of Red Barn Road from its intersection with Rixtown Road to its intersection with Richardson Hill Road, 2,950 feet of Old Norwich Road from the hammerhead turnaround at last house to the intersection with Benton Hill Road near the Town of Preston/Town of Griswold common boundary, and 105 feet of Old Culver Road #2 from intersection with State Route 138** – S. Mikutel asked why the item is before the board? Carl Fontneau responded since the Town meeting acted to discontinue the three roads, it is now again before the Board of Selectmen for the formal discontinuance. Then it will be recorded in the land records along with maps associated with it.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, for the formal enactment of discontinuance of roads: 3,750 feet of Red Barn Road from its intersection with Rixtown Road to its intersection with Richardson Hill Road, 2,950 feet of Old Norwich Road from the hammerhead turnaround at last house to the intersection with Benton Hill Road near the Town of Preston/Town of Griswold common boundary, and 105 feet of Old Culver Road #2 from intersection with State Route 138. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna to bring the item of Assistant Assessor position onto the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Assistant Assessor Position** – P. Anthony commented that Midge Cyr was serving as Assistant Assessor for the past couple months. We had a full-time Assistant Assessor position in the budget that was cut by the Board of Finance. Ms. Cyr has resigned and we need to fill this position. I would like to forward a formal request to the Board of Finance to request the part-time position of Assistant Assessor be made full-time. S. Mikutel commented he never understood why the Board of Finance cut this position to part-time. T. Madonna agrees with S. Mikutel but commented that since the position was vacant at the time is why it happened.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to forward a memo to the Board of Finance requesting the position of part-time Assistant Assessor be made into a full-time Assistant Assessor. Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Public Forum**

Ransom Young – With the discontinuance of Red Barn Road, could we get a sign up that shows no entry, also would like to proceed with his two neighbors about putting up a gate. Last month he commented on extending a grant and tax exemption to forestry farmers and would like that looked into again. C. Fontneau commented he would look into grants for farmers including forestry, but it may take him a little while. P. Anthony commented the way exemptions to groups is determined is by getting a figure from the assessor as to what the amount would be if the exemption were passed and then making a decision.

Norm Higgins – Commented the DOT is going to look at the area with the flowers and trees and see if that is State property and if it is possible to do something with it. Also, concerned about the kids on bikes possibly getting hit while going from Pleasant View over to the hotel to go swimming. He did speak to Todd and learned about the town's pursuit of grants for sidewalks and is somewhat relieved that it is going to happen.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion that was seconded by T. Madonna to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Lisa M. Wood,  
Recording Secretary*