



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

September 23, 2014

6:30 PM

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



UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6:34 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
Thomas Giard, EDC Chairman
17 other interested persons
1 member of the press

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **September 9, 2014 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **September 10, 2014 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the September 9, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes and September 10, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Correspondence - Letter from Meg Czmyr, Slater Library, regarding interest in the Bicentennial Celebration** – it was mentioned to bring this on under Any Other Business

4. **New Business**

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

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the tax refunds as presented by Rich Grabowski, and also the additional one of Fields Lee S & Koziol-Fields Sharon, as well. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business

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

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to add to the agenda the letter from Meg Czmyr regarding her interest to help with the Bicentennial celebration. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to forward the name of Meg Czmyr to the Bicentennial Committee with the recommendation from the Selectmen that they consider her for any of the working sub-committees. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring onto the agenda the EDC Chairman, to discuss the creation of a low interest Small Business Revolving Loan Fund. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Thomas Giard, EDC Chairman, reported that research done does not uncover any other municipalities that run this program, but did find out Norwich's NCDC does have the program up and running. They have met with the people from Norwich NCDC and discussed the parameters that they use. Norwich tries to encourage business to come in, here in our town; we may be able to help businesses that already exist, many other towns that have such a fund. The idea is to have a workshop meeting. P. Anthony asked where Norwich gets their money from and T. Giard responded he believes it comes from the tax base.

- c. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring onto the agenda, Thomas Giard, EDC Chairman to support the use of a realty group to market town owned commercial property. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Giard commented that the EDC would be looking for seed money to initiate a revolving loan fund. By selling some vacant town owned commercial properties some of that money could be used for that fund. The idea is to get an experienced commercial realty group that could market the properties. K. Skulczyck noted it as a marvel idea as a way to market the town and inspire economic development. P. Anthony noted he has no problem with the idea and willing to discuss it in more extensive detail. He also noted when it comes to brokers to not pick one but to negotiate one and offered his expertise in assisting with that if the time comes.

- d. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to bring onto the agenda Thomas Giard, EDC Chairman, and the board's recommendation to use the next STEAP application for completion of the lighting project. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Giard commented the EDC is in support that the next round of STEAP money, around November be geared at completion of the Main Street lighting project. He also noted the amount needed has been trimmed down to slightly under \$400,000 to finish off construction and lighting.

- e. **MOTION**: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to add to the agenda the Public Safety Committee's support for the concept of emergency fuel for home generators. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Giard commented he presented the idea to the Public Health & Safety committee last week. He suggested the town, in an emergency situation, would provide fuel for generators to residents during a substantial power outage. This would help reduce the number of residents storing surplus gasoline at their residence. T. Babbitt did speak to a contact provider that would be able to have a truck at the garage in order to pump the fuel from, since the town only has a 1500 gallon tank. The idea is to be able to help your neighbors out by extending the power. There would be a pre-registration list people would have to sign up on and the residents would be billed for the fuel. K. Skulczyck noted an idea may be a contract for residents to sign. P. Anthony noted he likes the concept but there are a lot of details that would have to be addressed at another venue.

7. Public Forum

Ransom Young – R. Young noted that Norwich NCDC is criticized a lot on the local radio. He also noted that many programs are created that cause more loss than gain in the community.

Thomas Bruner – T. Bruner inquired as to the status of the ambulance service, come October 17th. K. Skulczyck commented the BOS has agreed to enter into an MOU with American Ambulance service to provide the Town of Griswold with 24 hour seven days a week ambulance service with a paramedic on board, until we sign a contract with a new provider. S. Mikutel clarified this is only an arrangement between when the Griswold Ambulance ceases ambulance service and the Town contracts with a new provider, which arrangement has been worked out with the state. The state has final say over the PSA provider.

Betty Knox – B. Knox asked if we knew how much the ambulance service was going to cost us. K. Skulczyck noted there will be no cost to the Town of Griswold. P. Anthony noted the generosity of American Ambulance.

Philip Flowers – P. Flowers commented that hopefully someone from the Public Health & Safety Committee will be present at the meeting when they discuss the emergency gas. P. Flowers asked where the ambulance would be stationed. K. Skulczyck commented arrangements have been made to place the ambulance at the Jewett City Fire Department, Griswold Fire Department or possibly the town garage.

Norm Higgins – N. Higgins commented that the residents have to give the people that run the town the opportunity to provide us with answers to public safety issues. N. Higgins agreed the Fire Stations are good places to place the ambulance to keep a reasonable response time and suggested maybe a little practice with a new agency to find the roads and work out the GPS issues. K. Skulczyck commented that American Ambulance already responds to calls in town and has staff that is from town. K. Skulczyck also noted that American Ambulance has offered to hold a job fair for the employees of the Griswold Ambulance.

Robert Hanson – R. Hanson, JCFD Chief, commented that both Jewett City and Griswold Fire Departments respond with an EMT within minutes, any time the ambulance is called out. K. Skulczyck did comment he is not happy with any of what is going on but the decisions are made on a public safety first and a business model that is going to function and thanked B. Czmyr for the service they have provided.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**