



Town of Griswold

28 Main Street
Griswold, CT 06351
Board of Selectman

Regular Meeting
Downstairs Meeting Room
Tuesday, September 28, 2010
6:30 pm
APPROVED MINUTES



1. Call to Order: P. Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

Members Present: Philip Anthony, First Selectman

Steve Mikutel (arrived at 7:09 PM), Second Selectman, Theresa Madonna, Third Selectwoman

Also Present:

Lisa Wood, Executive Assistant

Ryan Aubin, Recreation Director

Todd Babbitt, Superintendent of Public Works

5 interested citizens, 1 member of the press

2. Approval of Minutes

a. September 14, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 14, 2010 as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Correspondence

- a.** Letter from Jean Phelps was read into the record by Philip Anthony. The letter supported her desire for some form of tax break for those who choose to send their children to private schools. Mr. Anthony did respond that he contacted Mrs. Phelps and urged her to contact her state legislators.

4. New Business

- a. Discussion and possible appointment of a Town Engineer** – P. Anthony commented he felt the Board of Selectmen should discuss this further before appointing a Town Engineer and should take conservative action at this point. T. Madonna commented she felt this possible appointment was for the limited purpose of providing services to the public works department and would not dismiss the third party requirements by P&Z or the Town Planner. The Town could have multiple engineers. At the previous meeting the presentation made indicated that there were

public works projects that are being held in abeyance until appointment of a Town Engineer. Do not see why we could not take action for the limited purpose of provided engineering services for the town specifically for the public works department under the direction and authority of the First Selectman. P. Anthony commented that he sees the appointing of a Town Engineer as a separate item from the continuation of design services for the roads. Perhaps an RFP would be the correct to address this. T. Madonna commented that at the last meeting the three projects requiring continuation of design service in agenda item 5b, had remaining price tags that would require going out to bid. The appointment of a town engineer would allow the projects to be continued. P. Anthony again commented that he sees them as separate projects, one that is already in progress and should be addressed as such, and more of a permanent solution would be the possible appointment of a town engineer for future work. T. Madonna suggested putting out an RFP on appointment of a Town Engineer. It was agreed to discuss a possible RFP under Any Other Business later on the agenda.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to table the possible appointment of a Town Engineer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Approval for Ryan Aubin to submit grant to Putnam Bank Foundation and Southeastern Regional Action Committee**
- **Putnam Bank Foundation: Youth Center Homework Resource Center**
 - **Southeastern Regional Action Committee: Skate Park Sweep/Youth Drinking Prevention Event & Speaker**

Ryan Aubin, Director of Griswold Youth and Family Services briefly stated he is simply looking for the Board to approve his applying for the two Grants. The Putnam Bank Foundation \$5800, would provide updated computers and services for the students who are already coming in and using the existing computers. The Southeastern Regional Action Committee \$2400, would provide for police monitoring of the Skate Park and also a Should Tap system to warn businesses who may be serving alcohol to minors.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to approve Ryan Aubin to submit his application for Putnam Bank Foundation Grant and the Southeastern Regional Action Committee Grant. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. Discussion on proposed agreement with American Legion Community Ambulance Inc. d/b/a Griswold Ambulance** – P. Anthony commented that Town Attorney Johnson spoke with Attorney Bloom, attorney for Griswold Ambulance, and she stated it is premature to have this contract out there at this point for discussion or anything else. P. Anthony commented it behooves the Board to decide if the Board wants to entertain a contract. T. Madonna commented that according to the bidding ordinance, if a contract is proposed it has to go out to bid. P. Anthony agreed but emphasized whether the Board would like a contract. T. Madonna commented that she would reverse it and say if Griswold Ambulance is requesting a contract, then we must put it out to bids, if the bids are not satisfactory then we can decide if we don't want a contract. P. Anthony suggested making that determination before we encounter any legal fees or RFP fees. T. Madonna has no preference one

way or the other and has no problem with the status quo. P. Anthony commented it has gone to the Town Attorney for a basic review only.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to table further discussion on proposed agreement with American Legion Community Ambulance Inc., d/b/a Griswold Ambulance. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. Discussion and possible action authorizing the First Selectman to execute a contract with Day Kimball Hospital for Nursing Services** – P. Anthony requested this item be tabled. The contract is basically the same as the existing contract, but there have been some questions from different sources as to what we are being billed for. As soon as that is answered and we are sure we are not being billed for duplicate services we may move forward. P. Anthony confirmed for T. Madonna that the price in item C is the amount in the budget, \$15,000.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to table discussion and possible action authorizing the First Selectman to execute a contract with Day Kimball Hospital Nursing Services. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- e. Discussion on request by Housing Authority to utilize \$7,000 from the energy fund grant for electrical code compliances** – P. Anthony commented we have yet to discern whether the request for the usage, which is primarily the rehab work that is being done at the Housing Authority falls under the guide lines of the grant. He has put two phone calls in to OPM and is still waiting for an answer.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by P. Anthony, to table discussion on request by Housing Authority to utilize \$7,000 from the energy fund grant for electrical code compliances. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Old Business

- a. Disposition of excess town property at the intersection of Lily Pond road and Route 12 – John Faulise, tables from 9/14/10** – P. Anthony commented he received a call from Mr. Geer who requested he did not to continue with the request and would like to withdraw it from consideration at this time.
- b. Discussion and possible action on continuation of design services (Colonel Brown Road, Sheldon Road, Geer Road and Popple Bridge Road), tabled from 9/14/10 meeting** – P. Anthony commented this is work that is in conjunction with FEMA and based on a time frame. Mr. Faulise has started work on the projects and at the last meeting he gave a summary of the work to be completed. P. Anthony feels Mr. Faulise (Boundaries) should continue on these specific design services. T. Madonna commented, that at the last meeting, she felt the project had to be bid according to the cost of the work to be done, and still feels the same way. T. Madonna suggested getting a legal opinion. P. Anthony commented that in the past, the then Town Attorney Mike Fritz, felt that if it was professional services, emergencies or something that had a time limit, you could move forward.

MOTION: Motion was made by P. Anthony, second by T. Madonna, to table discussion and possible action on continuation of design services (Colonel Brown Road, Sheldon Road, Geer Road and Popple Bridge Road), tabled from 9/14/10 meeting . **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- a. P. Anthony commented that he spoke to Mr. Moffitt who is a consultant for bridge services. Mr. Moffitt stated there is nothing he can do to expedite the closed bridge, but did feel strongly that he can do something on the other two bridges. P. Anthony commented he is not thrilled with the progress of the inherited company currently doing the bridge work. The DOT does keep him updated weekly on the status of the three bridge projects, started in 2001, which are fully funded. It would be counterproductive at this point to pull the contract from MacFarland Johnson for the work on the bridge that should be replaced this spring.
- b. P. Anthony commented he spoke to Gorman Brothers about the chip and sealing project for the town and Mr. Shay has a list of the roads for the work to be done for the chip and seal project. He is reviewing it now and can provide a proposal back if the town would like one.

Steve Mikutel arrived at this point and P. Anthony re-iterated the previous bridge item under 6a and also the chip and seal update with Gorman Brothers.

Steve Mikutel commented that he also has not been happy with MacFarland Johnson for quite some time and would be in support of getting someone else who would be a better advocate for the town. T. Madonna is in agreement with the feeling regarding bridge work being currently done by MacFarland Johnson. S. Mikutel commented perhaps formally entertaining putting a proposal out to bid on the remaining work and send MacFarland Johnson a notice to finish only work on closed bridge. P. Anthony commented he will discuss with the Town Attorney the best way to dismiss MacFarland Johnson based on the facts. S. Mikutel commented he is not sure there is a contract and asked P. Anthony to investigate it. Discussion ensued regarding the RFP process and how it would be bid regarding consulting services and engineers. It was agreed to get a legal opinion but the consensus was the engineering part would be separate from the consultant part and bid as such, with the possibility of the consultant portion not having to be bid because it would not be over the required bid ordinance amount of \$7500.

- c. **MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to bring onto the agenda for discussion, the ongoing condition of the sidewalk at Rite Aid Pharmacy on Main Street. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel commented the condition of the sidewalk cannot go on any longer, someone is going to get hurt. P. Anthony commented that Mr. Zvingilas contacted Right Aid and they said they would take care of it and has asked Mr. Zvingilas to get a letter out notifying Rite Aid if it is not repaired the town will repair it and lien the property for expenses. He is not aware of Mr. Zvingilas having done that yet.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to direct town personnel to get a letter to Rite Aid they have 21 days to improve the condition of their sidewalk, if work is not done at that time, the town will repair the sidewalk and lien the property for expenses. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to bring back onto the agenda previous item 4a, discussion and possible appointment of a Town Engineer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

P. Anthony commented that he feels the appointment of a Town Engineer at this point, may be premature and perhaps should go out to bid and did not see it tied in with the continued work of Mr. Faulise on Geer Rd., Popple Bridge Rd., Sheldon Rd. and Colonel Brown Rd. T. Madonna commented that she feels the appointment of a Town Engineer to specifically do work in conjunction with public works falls within the routine professional services exception to the bidding ordinance and no RFP would be needed for that specific and limited purpose. P. Anthony felt that appointing a Town Engineer did not just limit the service to the existing road design service but would go beyond to consultation or drafting plans and recommends taking the issue to Town Attorney for opinion. S. Mikutel would like to review what other town's do as far as handling town engineers and does not want to take any action on this at this time or consult a town engineer until such information is gathered from other towns.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony, to table discussion and possible appointment of a Town Engineer. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Public Forum

Norm Sylvestre – Commented he is glad to see the letter is being sent to Rite Aid regarding the sidewalk. He has spoke to corporate twice and they assured him over several months that they are working on it. P. Anthony commented on Mr. Sylvestre regarding Blighted Buildings that are gone, stating that the building on 201 was bought by Mr. Lombardi who would like to build some offices there and understands a deal was struck with Haz Pro to take it down. The fired building on North Main Street has now been cleaned up by the land owner after the town informed them they would take it down and lien the property if necessary. Mr. Sylvestre commented he has forwarded another blighted building project and junk yard. The blighted building which is bad and regardless of whether or not the American Legion is going to buy it, it needs to be addressed, it is dangerous.

Norm Higgins – Commented the sidewalk at the gas station next to Rite Aid also needs to be addressed. Mr. Higgins feels that checking with other towns regarding how there engineers are handled is a good idea by Mr. Mikutel. Mr. Higgins also commented that regarding Pleasant View, there will be lines painted in the intersection and the DOT has confirmed that also will slow down the traffic. Regarding the Board of Finance and the Assistant Assessor position, Mr. Anthony and Mr. Mikutel made a good argument for the

position to be full time. Unfortunately, the Assessor was at an all day meeting she goes to once a year. Mr. Higgins found out the Assessor is overloaded and has a lot of CO's that she just needs to go out and sign off on in order to be able to add them to the tax roll. Also, the Board of Finance is cross examining everyone and if they have a problem with what people are bringing before the board, they should ask the Finance Director to present it to them. Mr. Higgins commented that when the \$100,000 comes before the Board of Finance for Pleasant View and the 10% the Board has to come up with, he believes Gail Rooke-Norman needs to excuse herself as she lives on that road.

Bill Czmyr, President of American Legion Ambulance – Mr. Czmyr stated you cannot go out to bid on ambulance service; it comes forth from the Department of Health. He suggested that both attorneys should be able to work something out that both parties could be happy with. He is just asking for an arrangement so that they can operate without having to beg for money every year. We would not be operating without the donation money coming in. There seems to be a question on the donation money that comes in but it is all for a purpose. P. Anthony commented that a new space and building are needed. Mr. Czmyr confirmed they have already been cited by OSHA. Certain things we need to do now, we can't because our site is too small. P. Anthony brought S. Mikutel up to date about earlier discussion regarding the ambulance contract. Mr. Czmyr sincerely would like to work something out in a reasonable manner. P. Anthony commented his issue is just simply does the town want a contract for ambulance service. P. Anthony commented regarding the information requested by the Board of Finance, he understands Mr. Czmyr can provide that information. S. Mikutel commented they have the last fiscal year audit that should be all the Board of Finance needs, does not need to go back five years.

Ransom Young – I spoke with someone this weekend that used to write proposals to receive federal money. His response to my statement that the State of Connecticut received very little stimulus money was “you need to use the word new” in your proposal. Mr. Young suggested placing the word new in there when going after funds for roads and such.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: S. Mikutel made a motion that was seconded by T. Madonna to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa M. Wood,
Recording Secretary*