



Town of Griswold

Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

November 12, 2013

6:30 PM

Downstairs Meeting Room, Town Hall
28 Main Street, Jewett City



APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Philip E. Anthony, First Selectman

Members Present: Philip E. Anthony, First Selectman
Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman
Donald Hill, Third Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Ryan Aubin, Director of Parks & Recreation/Youth Center
Joy Smith, Children First Griswold
13 other interested citizens
1 member of the press

2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **October 8, 2013 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- b. **October 23, 2013 – Special Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by D. Hill, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve both the October 8, 2013 regular meetings and the October 23, 2013 special meeting minutes 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**

MOTION: Motion was made by D. Hill, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the tax refunds as presented by the Tax Collector, Rich Grabowski. **Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Discussion and possible action on reappointment of Gary Serdechny as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Conservation Committee for a two year term of 12/1/2013 – 11/30/2015

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by D. Hill, to reappoint Gary Serdechny as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Conservation Committee for a two year term of 12/1/2013 – 11/20/2015. **Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Discussion and action on setting a referendum date for possible approval of funding up to \$3 million to cover costs of replacement of the high school roof –
S. Mikutel noted all the required meetings were held and the Board of Selectmen are now able to set a date for this referendum.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by D. Hill, to set the date for the referendum to authorize the replacement of the high school roof for December 3, 2013 between the hours of 6 AM to 8 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

d. Discussion and possible action authorizing the First Selectman to sign a two year lease agreement with Day Kimball Homecare for the building located at 68 Ashland Street - P. Anthony noted that there was a request to switch item 4d with item 4g on the agenda. D. Hill suggested tabling this item to the new Board takes effect.

MOTION: Motion was made by D. Hill, seconded by S. Mikutel, to switch item 4d with item 4g on the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

g. Discussion regarding future use of the Youth Center as requested by Ryan Aubin, Director of Youth Services – Ryan Aubin, Parks and Recreation Director/Youth Services Director gave a visual and verbal presentation of the services offered by the youth center and the benefits of moving the youth center to 68 Ashland Street. R. Aubin noted the Space Needs Committee has, as a result of a needs study, determined the location to be suitable for the youth center. Some of the items noted were proximity to the parks for easier planning and supervision of events and maintenance of the property. The proximity would decrease the amount of time needed to transport or get back and forth to the park locations. They could hold on-site recreational leagues and activities for after school. The rent being paid for the current space would no longer be an expense. He outlined how the building layout would be used.

e. Informational discussion as requested by Joy Smith of Children First Griswold – Joy Smith provided the Board with a brief update of the progress of Children First Griswold. J. Smith outlined what they have been able to do with the money they have received from the town and the in-kind donation from the school. With that they were able to meet the \$25,000 match. They were invited to apply again this year for the \$25,000 match. They have developed a framework that shows a more comprehensive view of what could be accomplished and have been invited to use

their plan to apply for the match with the memorial fund. Their model is also being used as a model of best practice for community planning for early childhood development and education.

- f. Discussion and possible action on accepting proposed Board of Selectmen meeting dates for the 2014 calendar year** – D. Hill mentioned he thought this should be tabled to the new Board takes place. S. Mikutel commented it has been the same times for the past six years and would like to stick to it.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by P. Anthony to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting dates for the second and fourth Tuesday of each month of 2014 at 6:30 PM as noted on the sheet received. **Motion carried P. Anthony and S. Mikutel in favor. D. Hill abstained.**

- d. Discussion and possible action authorizing the First Selectman to sign a two year lease agreement with Day Kimball Homecare for the building located at 68 Ashland Street**

MOTION: Motion was made by D. Hill to table action on this item until the new Board is in place.

P. Anthony commented the Youth Center and Ryan Aubin are doing a great job. D. Hill noted he has heard complaints about the DKH homecare services. P. Anthony noted the services contract was signed in July and is a separate issue then the lease for the building on Ashland Street. P. Anthony had to state the facts that recently the opportunity was taken to secure a larger space at the Slater Mill. There was a money expended, grant or otherwise, to retrofit the new space. The town has agreed to a two year lease with Slater Mill and if that lease is breached within the first year, it is only a few months old, it would put the town at risk for a liability lawsuit for the balance of the lease. After a year with Slater Mill, if they can find a tenant for the new space, then the town may possibly be released from the lease. P. Anthony suggested avoiding any liabilities and continuing with the two year lease with DKH, which has an opt out after one year with a ninety day notice. S. Mikutel noted for the record that he has heard no complaints about the DKH homecare services. S. Mikutel also noted he would like to have DKH available at the meeting to ask some questions that have come to mind, specifically if not renewing the lease puts the service to our residents in jeopardy.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by D. Hill, to hold a special meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 3:30 PM and invite DKH personnel. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- h. Discussion and possible action on proposed amendment to Chapter 143 of the Code of Ordinance, FEES, to reinsert language allowing for waiving of fees for building permits** – P. Anthony noted this was brought to our attention by the Building Official. There was language in the previous ordinance that allowed the BOS to waive permit fees for certain publicly owned buildings such as town owned.

The town has traditionally not charged itself for building permits. All board members agreed that language should be re-inserted in the ordinance.

5. Old Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action on revised proposed ordinance for town-based businesses** – P. Anthony noted the last paragraph specifically was added to the previously reviewed proposed ordinance. This allows for a certain percentage of work to be completed by businesses or workforce within the town. D. Hill has no problem with it. S. Mikutel commented he is not opposed giving preference to local businesses or tradesmen but would like to have the language within this section reviewed by the town attorney. S. Mikutel commented some of the wording has to be more clearly defined as to what it means.

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

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by D. Hill, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, the issue of the skate board park. **Motion carried unanimously.**

S. Mikutel asked R. Aubin, if there is a problem at the skate park with drugs. R. Aubin commented most definitely and cited specific incidents. R. Aubin also noted it is a huge issue with the Resident Troopers. S. Mikutel commented the Board of Selectmen is going to become more actively involved in trying to resolve this problem. P. Anthony commented there are cameras as well as a neighborhood watch and they do work closely with the Resident Troopers. S. Mikutel commented we need to bring the Board of Burgesses in also as they have a direct responsibility to this issue. R. Aubin commented he has met with the Board of Burgesses and gave them some recommendations. P. Anthony suggested the Board of Selectmen send a letter to the Board of Burgesses asking them to address the recommendations.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by D. Hill, that the Board of Selectmen send a formal letter to the Board of Burgesses and ask them to address Ryan Aubin's recommendations. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Public Forum

Betty Knox – B. Knox commented it was her observation tonight that there was concern for the residents of Griswold if the visiting nurses have to travel from out of town. Yet, it seems ludicrous to her that this Board of Selectmen has tossed the Griswold Ambulance Service down the toilet and it is a disgrace what the Board of Selectmen has allowed to happen to Griswold Ambulance. S. Mikutel commented they did not throw Griswold Ambulance down the toilet, but offered them a three year, \$90,000 contract, which they refused.

Norm Higgins – N. Higgins pointed out that the state has regulations, also, for business meeting certain requirements, such as a three year status of a minority business in order to be eligible for that classification. N. Higgins then showed a photo to the board members of one

of the flower boxes in deteriorating shape and suggested maybe they should be painted green this year. S. Mikutel commented they are teak and can only be oiled. P. Anthony commented the Public Works department did clean them up this year and is sure we can have them done again this year.

Philip Flowers – P. Flowers wanted to know if there was another town building, other than 68 Ashland St., where we could put the nurses. Perhaps they would be willing to switch the leases around with Slater Mill.

Joel Francoeur – J. Francoeur publicly commended Mr. Hill for his time and effort on the Board of Selectmen.

S. Mikutel commented he also wanted to thank Don, along with Phil, for his service and they have sincerely enjoyed working with him and will miss him. D. Hill commented it was a pleasure serving on the Board and he has also enjoyed working with Phil and Steve and publicly thanked all those who regularly attend meetings for their dedication as well.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by D. Hill, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**