



# Town of Griswold

28 Main Street  
Griswold, CT 06351  
Board of Selectman

Regular Meeting  
Downstairs Meeting Room  
Tuesday, November 23, 2010  
6:30 pm

**APPROVED MINUTES**



**1. Call to Order:** P. Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

**Members Present:** Philip Anthony, First Selectman  
Steve Mikutel, Second Selectman, Theresa Madonna, Third Selectwoman

**Also Present:**

Lisa Wood, Executive Assistant  
Peter Zvingilas, Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Todd Babbitt, Superintendent of Public Works  
Frank Everett, School Building Committee Chairman  
11 interested citizens

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**a. November 8, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to approve the special meeting minutes of November 8, 2010 as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**b. November 9, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to approve the special meeting minutes of November 9, 2010 as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**c. November 9, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Madonna, seconded by S. Mikutel, to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 9, 2010 as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**d. November 17, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to approve the special meeting minutes of November 17, 2010 as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

### **4. New Business**

- a. Discussion and possible action on Middle School Project Change Order No. 7 for a decrease in the amount of \$98,654.35** – Frank Everett, Chairman of the School Building Committee, commented this is the last Change Order for the Middle School Project and closes out the books on it. The Middle School Project came in \$1,448,565 under budget. FIP is still working with the committee. Next week they will do a walk through with us to check on items coming up on our one year warranty and if there are any problems they will address them. They will also do this again with the items that reach their warranty in the summer and there is no charge for this.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to approve the Middle School Project proposed Change Order No. 7 in the decrease of \$98,654.35. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on appointing a hearing officer for appeals to enforcement of the Blight Ordinance** – P. Anthony commented letters were received from both Ben Hull and Steven Way and he would support either candidate. S. Mikutel spoke of his experience in working with Mr. Way and commented he is very knowledgeable and diligent and feels he would do an outstanding job. T. Madonna commented the ad asked that qualifications be listed as part of the letter of interest. Mr. Hull's letter notes Mr. Anthony as having those qualifications. T. Madonna asked if P. Anthony could speak to Mr. Hull's qualifications he mentions in his letter. P. Anthony commented he knows the individual and he has served on multiple and like committees. He is a good man and has devoted hours and time for the betterment of the town, but does not know his specific qualifications.

**MOTION:** Motion was made by S. Mikutel, seconded by T. Madonna, to appoint Steven Way as Hearing Officer for appeals to enforcement of the Blight Ordinance. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **5. Old Business**

- a. Discussion and possible action on proposed sidewalk ordinance** – T. Madonna commented she would like to address sightlines and brush as part of the ordinance, but would like a couple of more weeks to review. P. Anthony commented he agreed with the sightline issue and feels, but would like to see some progress on it soon as possible as winter is fast approaching. S. Mikutel commented the Board should make a decision at the next regular meeting and would like the secretary to obtain sidewalk ordinances from Montville, Stonington, Preston and Killingly for comparison. P. Anthony would also like some sample of ordinances obtained from CCM.

**MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to table discussion and possible action on proposed sidewalk ordinance until the next regular Board of Selectmen meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- a. **MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to bring onto the agenda, the letter from Mr. Parrette requesting re-appointment to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission. **Motion carried unanimously.**

P. Zvingilas, Zoning Enforcement Officer, verified for S. Mikutel the term is for a four year period. P. Anthony commented he has heard no negative feedback on the record of Mr. Parrette. T. Madonna commented Mr. Parrette does attend IWWCC meetings regularly and is very knowledgeable.

**MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to appoint Mr. Robert Parrette to serve another term of four years to the IWWCC. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to bring onto the agenda correspondence received from the Griswold Ambulance. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The letters submitted were a copy of Attorney General's Opinion 83-105 and a copy of the PSA license. Atty. Bloom, representing Griswold Ambulance, gave her interpretation of AG 83-105 that if a bid were put out by the town for emergency services, in the case where a PSA responder already exists, anyone responding to the bid would be in violation. P. Anthony questioned if there is an avenue the town can take if it is not satisfied, to seek another provider. Atty. Bloom commented that if in the event there existed an emergency which jeopardized the health and safety of the citizens, then the chief elected official could petition the commissioner to assign a new primary service area responder. Then there would be a hearing and the commissioner would appoint a new primary service area responder. T. Madonna noted for the record that she does not have an issue with the service being provided by our current service, however she does not agree with Atty. Bloom's interpretation of AG 83-105. T. Madonna agrees that the R2 responder designation has to be approved by the Commission of Health and the local municipality does not have the authority to name the R2 responder. The AG 83-105 opinion for the bidding specifically in the E. Hartford is a criminal activity because the way the bids went out, the town of E. Hartford wanted the R2 responder that got the bid to pay the municipality for the opportunity to have the contract. T. Madonna does agree the town would have to show some inadequacy in the responder we currently have in order to change providers.

- c. **MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to bring onto the agenda for discussion, permission to advertise for a temporary full-time position for public works. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt, Director of Public Works, commented there is an employee out who needs to have back surgery, which at this point has not been scheduled. He will likely be out for at least three months following the surgery. There is also an employee who plans to be retire in February. This means the PW department could be down two guys for a good part of the winter. If we can't bring someone in for help, then we are looking at additionally use the private contractor for the Borough, which would cost more money. T. Babbitt has checked with the finance department and since we are not paying the employee who is out on workers compensation, there is money in that line item to pay a temporary full-time employee, 40 hours per week, month to month, with a maximum deadline of April 30th. The position would be a heavy truck driver position. S. Mikutel commented he would like the proposal all in writing. T. Babbitt confirmed for S. Mikutel that the employee would be paid in accordance with the driver rate of the union contract. He also confirmed for T. Madonna, that the union contract does allow for temporary seasonal without benefits as long as the person is hired that way.

## **7. Public Forum**

Betty Knox – B. Knox expressed her concern for opening up Holly Drive and John Drive for safety issues, so save time in responding to emergencies and being able to follow the directions given by GPS systems. P. Anthony was supposed to be looking into this with the town attorney and fire marshal. P. Anthony commented he spoke to Fred Marzec, Fire Marshal and his opinion was the two roads have never been open before. The Road Superintendent, T. Babbitt, also commented it is a private road and it is really up to the residents. B. Knox commented they are not asking that it be opened up for public access and in the past a previous fire marshal forced the residents of James Avenue to open the road for emergency vehicles. P. Anthony commented the town attorney pointed out that maybe the majority of the residents do not want it open for other personal reasons. B. Knox commented she did not know whether or not the previous fire marshal, Steve Merchant Jr., was authorized to demand the residents to open James Road. She also commented she would work on gathering a list of residents who are interested in opening the road to see if there is a majority. P. Anthony commented it should be determined if it was appropriate or legal, or if Mr. Merchant had the authority to demand that James Avenue be opened. S. Mikutel commented that Mr. Merchant was probably was not acting in compliance with the state statute because the Board of Selectmen have complete authority over the roads.

Ransom Young – R. Young briefed the issue of costs occurred in his care of Rixtown cemetery. R. Young submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen for request of a stipend for the care and work of Rixtown cemetery. P. Anthony commented the letter submitted by R. Young will be on the next meeting agenda for discussion and possible action.

Norm Sylvestre – N. Sylvestre commented there also needs to be an appointment of a hearing officer for enforcement of the Junkyard Ordinance. N. Sylvestre commented he is working on seeking whether or not four members of the Ethics Committee would like to be reappointed due to their terms coming to an end soon. He will submit the findings when he has it. There is also a vacant position on the Ethics Committee but we will hold off on

any advertising for such vacancy until information is gathered concerning the re-appointing of the positions about to expire.

Norm Higgins – Wanted to know where to donate a box of brand new toys his wife has been given from people in the Town of Lisbon. P. Anthony commented the Griswold Youth Center does collect toys and distribute them to families in need.

Brian Ayers – B. Ayers, Griswold Ambulance, wanted to know if CCM had provided monetary bids that were going to be asked for. P. Anthony commented CCM would take about three weeks to get that information. The first time the information was provided for volunteer services which was not relevant, so now we are asking for comparison of paid services.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** S. Mikutel made a motion, seconded by T. Madonna, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Lisa M. Wood,  
Recording Secretary*